

Graduation Requirements

Eligibility for Graduation from Medomak Valley High School

With the implementation of standards using Maine's Learning Results Parameters for Essential Instruction to measure student progress toward achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, the phasing in of standards-based diploma requirements, and heightened community expectations for student learning, the RSU 40 Board recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

The Superintendent/designee, shall make accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents/guardians at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in the Medomak Valley High School Student Handbook.

Nothing in this policy may be construed to prevent the Superintendent from moving annual dates to an earlier time if the Superintendent feels it appropriate.

Medomak Valley High School Graduation Requirements:

I. Students Graduating in the Classes of 2017-2020.

In order for members of the Classes of 2017-2020 to receive a Medomak Valley High School Diploma, students must meet the following requirements listed below:

- A. Completion of a course of study whereby the student has acquired a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits, which include successful completion of the following required courses (16.5 Credits):
 1. English - 4 Credits
 2. Social Studies - 3 Credits, US History (1 Credit), World History or Human Geography (1 Credit), Economics (1/2 Credit) and Government (1/2 Credit).
 3. Mathematics - 4 Credits, including Algebra I
 4. Science - 3 Credits, Freshmen Science (1 Credit), Life Science (1 Credit), Physical Science (1 Credit).
 5. Health - 1/2 Credit
 6. Physical Education - 1 Credit
 7. Fine Arts - 1 Credit

- B. The remaining seven and one half (7 1/2) credits may be selected by the student based upon the student's interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field the student plans to enter after graduation.
- C. The State also requires that students demonstrate computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.
- D. Alternate methods of earning credits. Students may, with prior approval and permission of the principal, use alternative means to earn credits through an approved Adult Education course, and approved summer school program, an approved correspondence course, approved tutoring, approved college courses. The principal on a case-by case basis will review credits earned through home schooling. In addition, with prior approval of the principal, students may be allowed to demonstrate proficiency and earn credits in a specific content area by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performances, exhibitions, and/or projects.

II. Students Graduating in the Class of 2021

The awarding of a diploma from Medomak Valley High School will be contingent on meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results and demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science and Technology.

III. Students Graduating In the Class of 2022

The awarding of a diploma from Medomak Valley High School will be contingent on meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results and demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science and Technology, and at least one (1) additional content area of the student's choice.

IV. Students Graduating In the Class of 2023

The awarding of a diploma from Medomak Valley High School will be contingent on meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results and demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science and Technology and at least two (2) additional content areas of the student's choice.

V. Students Graduating In the Class of 2024

The awarding of a diploma from Medomak Valley High School will be contingent on meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results and demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science and Technology and at least three (3) additional content areas of the student's choice.

VI. Students Graduating In the Class of 2025

The awarding of a diploma from Medomak Valley High School will be contingent on meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results and demonstration of proficiency in all eight (8) of the content areas.

Students shall engage in educational experiences relating to English language arts, mathematics and science and technology in each year of their secondary schooling.

Students must be allowed to gain proficiency through multiple pathways, as described in Title 20-A § 4703, and must be allowed to demonstrate proficiency by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performance, exhibitions, projects and community service.

Notwithstanding the above, a student may be awarded a diploma from Medomak Valley High School in the following circumstances.

- A. A student with a disability may meet the requirements of the above and become eligible for a diploma by demonstrating proficiency in state standards established in the system of Learning Results through performance tasks and accommodations that maintain the integrity of the standards as specified in the student's individualized education program by the student's individualized education program team.

- B. A student who has satisfactorily completed the freshman year in an accredited degree-granting institution of higher education is eligible to receive a high school diploma from the secondary school the student last attended.

- C. A student who has satisfactorily completed a state-approved career and technical education program of study and either met 3rd-party-verified national or state industry standards set forth in department rules or earned 6 credits in a dual enrollment career and technical education program from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and who has successfully demonstrated proficiency in meeting state standards in the content areas and the guiding principles, is eligible to receive a high school diploma from the secondary school the student last attended.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony: A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. A. § 4722, 6209-A

Department of Education Rules, Chapter 127-A.11,C.

This is a required policy.

Adopted: December 4, 1993

Revised: May 1, 2014
January 19, 2017