# Regional School Unit 24



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# Sumner Memorial High School Graduation Requirements

Awarding a high school diploma based on the accumulation of credits earned for passing courses has been a longstanding practice in American high schools, but this system has not ensured that students meet high academic standards and demonstrate proficiency. Consequently, many graduates leave high school unprepared to succeed in postsecondary education and modern careers.

To ensure that all students graduate from our schools with the knowledge, skills, and work habits they will need in adult life, the Regional School Unit No. 24 (RSU) Board (RSUB) has adopted a proficiency-based system of teaching, learning, promotion, and graduation. Beginning with Sumner Memorial High School Class of 2018, all students will need to demonstrate achievement of all cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards before receiving a high school diploma. These new graduation requirements will ensure that each student provides evidence that they have achieved expected learning standards, and acquired the knowledge, skills, and work habits that will prepare them for postsecondary education and modern careers.

The district's proficiency-based diploma system also requires our schools and educators to provide the interventions, support systems, and personalized-learning pathways that each student needs to meet the expected standards and graduate college and career ready.

#### A. Communicating Graduation Requirements

To ensure that every student and family has the information and resources they need to appropriately plan and sequence the student's educational decisions, our schools, educators, and staff will clearly and consistently communicate—prior to entering high school and throughout the student's educational career—the graduation standards and diploma requirements that must be met to earn a high school diploma.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information concerning all graduation standards and diploma requirements are (1) readily available to all incoming students and their families in the spring preceding the start of each school year, and (2) published on the district and high school websites. A detailed guide to graduation standards, academic expectations, and diploma

requirements will be disseminated to all incoming ninth-grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be referenced in each edition of the high school student handbook and on the district and high school websites.

As soon as it is practical and feasible, the RSUB expects the Superintendent or designee to inform all students and their families of any modifications made to the district's graduation requirements, which extends to all applicable changes in relevant state law, rules, or regulations.

The Board has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which encompasses minimum graduation requirements specified by the state and described in relevant laws, rules, and regulations. The RSUB is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change. Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722-A (as revised) Proficiency-Based Diploma Standards; Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule) (as revised)

# **B.** Academic Requirements for Graduation

For the Sumner Memorial High School classes of 2015–2017, the following graduation requirements remain in effect:

The student must successfully complete a total of 23 credits:

- 1. English/language arts 4 credits;
- 2. Mathematics 3 credits;
- 3. Social studies and history, including one year of American history and government 3 credits;
- 4. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study 3 credits;
- 5. Fine arts, which may include art, music, or drama -1 credit;
- 6. Health 1/2 credit (1 credit, classes of 2015 and 2016); and
- 7. Physical education 1 credit (2 credits, classes of 2015 and 2016).
- 8. Senior portfolio and oral presentation of portfolio

The student must demonstrate computer skills according to the school's standards for computer literacy, proficiency, and performance.

The remaining credits may be selected by the student based on his/her interest, satisfaction of course prerequisites, and requirements of the field that he/she plans to enter upon graduation.

The student must also satisfactorily complete a total of 20 community service hours.

# Commencing with the Class of 2018, all students attending Sumner Memorial High School must meet the following graduation requirements:

**B1.** All students will demonstrate that they have achieved proficiency in the content-area graduation standards of the Maine Learning Results. Meeting the standard entails demonstrating proficiency in each of the following content areas prior to graduation:

#### Class of 2018

- 1. English Language Arts
- 2. Mathematics
- 3. Social Studies
- 4. Science and Technology

And - engage in one experience in 1 out of the 4 following content areas:

Health & Physical Education

Visual/Performing Arts

World Languages

Career & Education Development

# Class of 2019

- 1. English Language Arts
- 2. Mathematics
- 3. Social Studies
- 4. Science and Technology
- 5. Health & Physical Education

And - engage in one experience each in 2 out of the 3 following content areas:

Visual/Performing Arts

World Languages

Career & Education Development

# Class of 2020

- 1. English Language Arts
- 2. Mathematics
- 3. Social Studies
- 4. Science and Technology
- 5. Health & Physical Education
- 6. Content Area of Student Choice (Visual/Performing Arts, World Languages, and/or Career & Education Development)

And - engage in one experience in 1 out of the 2 remaining content areas

Class of 2021 - 2024

- 1. English Language Arts
- 2. Mathematics
- 3. Social Studies
- 4. Science and Technology
- 5. Health & Physical Education
- 6. 2 Content Areas of Student Choice (Visual/Performing Arts, World Languages, and/or Career & Education Development)

Class of 2025 and Beyond

Proficiency in All Eight Content Areas

The Sumner Memorial High School administration, faculty, and staff have developed and are applying a set of graduation standards and performance indicators that align with the content-area standards of the Maine Learning Results.

To satisfy graduation requirements, all students must be engaged in proficiency-based educational experiences in all eight content-areas of the Maine Learning Results in order to demonstrate proficiency. Students must be engaged in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology in each year of their secondary school program. The standards of Career and Education Development may be embedded and addressed in other content-area learning experiences.

B2. All students must also satisfactorily complete a total of 20 community service hours.

**B3**. Commencing with the Class of 2021, all students will demonstrate that they have achieved proficiency in the cross-curricular Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

The Guiding Principles state that each Maine student must leave school as:

- 1. A clear and effective communicator
- 2. A self-directed and lifelong learner
- 3. A creative and practical problem solver
- 4. A responsible and involved citizen
- 5. An integrative and informed thinker

The Sumner Memorial High School administration, faculty, and staff have developed and are applying a set of graduation standards and performance indicators that align with the cross-curricular standards of the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

**B4**. While most students will satisfy graduation requirements over the course of a four-year academic program, students may also satisfy Sumner Memorial High School's graduation requirements during a period of time that is either accelerated or lengthened, based on their distinct learning needs. All students who wish to accelerate or extend their academic program are expected to develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) with assistance from counselors, teachers, and/or administrators that allows them to meet expected standards at the pace and with the support they need.

# C. Multiple Pathways

Sumner Memorial High School offers all students multiple learning options that allow students to demonstrate proficiency on expected learning standards, earn academic credit, and satisfy graduation requirements. Sumner Memorial High School also encourages its students to explore a broad range of learning experiences, including outside-of-school options.

All learning options must be approved, reviewed, certified, and documented by administrators, teachers, and staff at Sumner Memorial High School. Advisors, counselors, and/or teachers, working in collaboration with students will describe the learning experience(s) in an Individual Learning Plan (ILP), including how the experience satisfies both graduation requirements and expected cross-curricular and content-area standards. Advisors, counselors, and/or teachers, working in collaboration with all participating outside instructors or supervisors, will also certify that learning experiences culminate in the demonstration of proficiency on the graduation standards and performance indicators detailed in a student's approved Individual Learning Plan.

To satisfy Sumner Memorial High School graduation requirements, all learning options must (1) be approved in advance by the school and (2) be of an equal or higher rigor and quality as the school's academic courses. If questions arise about the rigor, quality, or standards of a learning option, the Principal or a designee will make the ultimate determination.

Students who successfully complete an approved learning option will have the experience, and the resulting grade or performance level, reported on the student's progress reports, report cards, and official Sumner Memorial High School transcript.

Learning experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Academic courses offered by the school
- 2. Early college or dual enrollment courses
- 3. Career and technical education programming
- 4. Online or virtual learning
- 5. Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- 6. Community service
- 7. Exchange programs
- 8. Independent study

- 9. Project based learning opportunities
- 10. Alternative education or "At Risk" programming
- 11. Adult education

#### **D.** Transfer Students

For students who transfer to Sumner Memorial High School from another state, country, school, program, or home-schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with Sumner Memorial High School's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, the Principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements. After enrolling in Sumner Memorial High School, these students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma.

#### E. Home-Schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Sumner Memorial High School, the Principal shall evaluate the value of the student's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the student has met the school's graduation requirements. After enrolling in Sumner Memorial High School, these students will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the Principal.

# F. Students Receiving Special-Education Services

Students who successfully meet Sumner Memorial High School's cross-curricular and contentarea graduation standards, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will be awarded diplomas.

# G. Extended Study

Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the school's graduation requirements through the school year in which they turn 20. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other programs and resources.

# H. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all RSUB requirements for a high school diploma to participate in graduation exercises.

# Legal Reference

20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722-A (as revised) Proficiency-Based Diploma Standards Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule) (as revised)

# **Cross References**

IK: Assessment of Student Learning (MSMA) IKA: Grading and Reporting System IKC: Transcripts IHCDA: Dual Enrollment and Early College (MSMA) IKD: Academic Recognition IKE: Progression of Student Proficiency IKFF: Multiple Pathways

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**Revised:**