

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

NESPN/NSBA Code: IKF

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal. RSU 78 has adopted a system of learning consistent with Maine law, which means that the awarding of a diploma will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles and the Learning Results rather than simply an accumulation of credits.

To be awarded a high school diploma from the RSU 78 schools, students graduating in the classes of 2021 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in the content areas identified in Maine's system of Learning Results, meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, and fulfill all credit and other additional requirements set by the Board.

Students graduating in the classes of 2018-2020 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy. A student who would have graduated with the class of 2020 and would have been awarded a diploma at commencement but for his/her failure to earn sufficient credits or meet other requirements set forth by Board policy will have until December 31, 2020 to fulfill the graduation requirements applicable to the class of 2020.

The Superintendent, through the principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth-grade school year.

A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the student handbook. The Board has approved the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine. The Board is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

1. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASSES OF 2018, 2019 OR 2020.

- a. Students who anticipate graduating in the classes of 2018, 2019, or 2020, must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma. The student must successfully complete a minimum number of credits as follows:
 - i. English Language Arts: 4 credits
 - ii. Mathematics: 3 credits
 - iii. Science and Technology including at least one year of laboratory study: 3 credits
 - iv. Social Studies including one year of American history and government: 3 credits
 - v. Fine Arts (art, music, industrial arts, culinary arts, drama, etc.): 1 credit
 - vi. Health/Physical Education: 1.5 credits
 - vii. Life Skills: .5 credits
 - viii. Electives: 6 credits
 - ix. The student must successfully complete a total of 22 Credits

- b. The student must demonstrate computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy, proficiency and performance.
- c. Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of six full year learning experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their high school years.

2. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2021 AND BEYOND

In accordance with Maine law and RSU 78's system of learning, beginning with the school year of 2020- 2021, the awarding of a diploma from Rangeley Lakes High School will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of Maine's system of Learning Results and meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results. The student must also fulfill any other additional requirements specified in this policy. Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2021 and beyond must meet the following requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma:

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in meeting standards in the following content areas of the Learning Results. Meeting standards entails demonstrating proficiency for each reporting standard within the content area.
 - i. English Language Arts
 - ii. Mathematics
 - iii. Social Studies and History
 - iv. Science and Technology
 - v. Health and Physical Education
 - vi. Visual and Performing Arts
- b. Meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning results. (Starting in the year 2021 and beyond)
- c. A student graduating from Rangeley Lakes High School is expected to be a:
 - i. Clear and effective communicator;
 - ii. Self-directed and lifelong learner;
 - iii. Creative and analytical problem solver;
 - iv. Responsible and involved citizen;
 - v. and an Integrative and informed thinker.
- d. Successfully complete a minimum of 22 credits as follows:
 - i. English Language Arts: 4 credits
 - ii. Mathematics: Minimum 3 credits
 - iii. Science and Technology: Minimum 3 credits
 - iv. Social Studies and history: Minimum 3 credits
 - v. Fine Arts (art, music, industrial arts, culinary arts, drama, etc.): 1 credit
 - vi. Health and Physical Education: 1.5 credits
 - vii. Life Skills: 0.5 credits
 - viii. Electives: 6 credits

- e. The student must demonstrate computer skills according to the school unit's standards for Computer literacy, proficiency and performance.
- f. Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of six full year learning experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their high school years.

3. MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA

The RSU 78 high school curriculum is designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a sequence of learning experiences providing opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency in all of the content areas of the Learning Results and in the cross-content Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

Students may also opt to pursue a high school diploma by accessing multiple additional pathways including:

- a. Career and technical education
- b. Alternative education programs: Apprenticeships, internships, and/or field work Career academies Career academies
- c. Advanced placement courses
- d. Online courses
- e. Adult education
- f. Dual enrollment or early college
- g. Gifted and talented programs
- h. Independent study
- i. Exchange programs

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to RSU 78's own educational offerings.

In order to pursue one or more of the multiple pathways, a student must have a Personal Learning Plan detailing how the pathway will provide exposure to the content standards of the Learning Results and how the student will demonstrate proficiency in meeting the standards. The personal learning plan must be approved by the Guidance Counselor and Principal (or designee).

4. STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Students who achieve proficiency in the content standards of the Maine Learning Results and Guiding Principles, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be awarded diplomas.

5. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA

- a. Transfer Students
For students who transfer to Rangeley High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Maine Learning Results, the Rangeley High School principal or designee shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

- b. **Home-schooled Students**
For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Rangeley High School, the principal or designee shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation requirements. A homeschooled student must meet the Maine State requirements for graduation.
- c. **Delayed Awarding of Diplomas**
A student who leaves Rangeley High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education may upon satisfactory completion of the freshmen year be awarded a high school diploma.
- d. **Early Awarding of Diplomas**
A student who has met the State's and Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.
- e. **Extended Study**
Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma if they have not reached the age of 21 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other resources suitable to young learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- f. **Participation in Graduation Ceremony** A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.
- g. **Honors and Awards at Graduation** In order to be eligible for honors or awards based wholly or in part on academic achievement (e.g. valedictorian, salutatorian), a student must have been enrolled full time at Rangeley High School for a full year prior to graduation. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be "ranked" for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships.
(Note: "Honors" at graduation is a different issue than "honor roll" or "class rank," which may have different eligibility requirements and may be addressed in other board policies.)

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722 Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)
Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
IK – Student Achievement
IKFA - Early Graduation

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