

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: IKF Page 1
SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:	Oct. 1, 2009
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	2018
CANCELS POLICY CODE:	None
REVISION DATE:	Jan. 24, 2013
JURISDICTION:	RSU 73 Schools

POLICY:

With the implementation of Maine’s system of Learning Results, local assessment systems 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 Board recognizes the need to establish minimum standards for the awarding of a high school diploma that are consistent with State of Maine requirements and with community educational values and expectations.

This interim policy governs the graduating classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015 due to the consolidation of two separate districts, Jay School Department and RSU #36. Beginning with the graduating class of 2016, this policy will be replaced by an updated policy which reflects the vision and mission of RSU 73’s consolidated Spruce Mountain High School.

The RSU 73 Board of Directors supports the requirement that prior to entering high school, students know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements known to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. Additionally, all in-coming students enrolling at Spruce Mountain High School shall be provided with the same information. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students and enrolling students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

The RSU 73 Board of Directors requires the following schedule of minimum requirements for graduation:

I. For Students Graduating at the End of the 2013 School Year and Beyond

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: IKF Page: 2
SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements	

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year (the Class of 2013), diplomas will be awarded to students who have met all state and local credit requirements, as specified by the previous districts of the Jay School Department and RSU #36, in their respective Programs for Studies.

Students must meet the following minimum requirements:

- A. The student must successfully complete a total of 24 credits in the following subject areas. They are:
 - 1. English: Each student must complete and pass four (4) credits of English.
 - 2. Social Studies: Each student must complete and pass three (3) credits of Social Studies, including US History and Civics/American Government.
 - 3. Health: Each student must complete and pass one credit of Health, including ½ credit of Health I.
 - 4. Mathematics: Each student must complete and pass three (3) credits of Mathematics, including, but not limited to Algebra I.
 - 5. Science: Each student must complete and pass three (3) credits of Science, including one physical science and one lab science.
 - 6. Fine Arts: Each student must complete and pass one (1) credit of Fine Arts.
 - 7. Physical Education: Each student must take and pass one (1) credit of Physical Education.
 - 8. Demonstrated competency in Career Prep
 - 9. Demonstrated competency in computer literacy
 - 10. Electives: 8.5 credits
- B. Students must meet minimum proficiencies established by each course in order to be considered as having completed the credit.
- C. Students must meet the attendance requirements established by the RSU 73 Board of Directors. Reference Policy JE/JH/JHA/JHB.

II. Additional Considerations Applicable to the Awarding of Diplomas

SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements

- A. **Transfer Students:** For students who transfer to Spruce Mountain High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Spruce Mountain High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with applicable RSU 73 Board policies.
- B. **Students Receiving Special Education Services:** Students who meet the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be awarded diplomas in accordance with State rules/regulations.
- C. **Early Awarding of Diplomas:** A Student who has met the State's and the RSU 73 Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.
- D. **Delayed Awarding of Diplomas:** At the principal's discretion, a student who leaves Spruce Mountain High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of high education may, upon satisfactory completion of the freshman year, be awarded a high school diploma, although he/she may not have met all diploma requirements.

Students who wish to receive a high school diploma need to notify the high school principal well before graduation so that there is ample time for evaluation of the request and, if approved, for preparation of the diploma and planning for the student's participation in the graduation ceremony, if the student desires to do so. Participation in graduation will be governed by RSU 73 Board Policy IKFBA.

- 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 20 by their graduation date. 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.
- F. **Participation in Graduation Ceremony:** A student must complete all requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises in accordance with RSU 73 Board Policy IKFBA.
- 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, class speaker), a student must be enrolled full-time at Spruce Mountain High School prior to the spring semester of their junior year. Full-time is defined as carrying 6 credits per semester. Students who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be "ranked" for the purpose of determining eligibility for graduation honors, awards, or scholarships. Honors and AP courses are weighted for purposes of class ranking. The final rank determination for seniors will be run at

SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements

the conclusion of the first semester of the graduation year. The principal is the arbitrator of questions and concerns regarding honors or awards.

Legal Reference: 20-A.M.R.S.A. § 4722
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Adopted: January 24, 2013