Mt. Blue Regional School District Graduation Requirements

With the implementation of the Maine Learning Results, the phasing in of the proficiency-based diploma, 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 law and regulations and with community educational values and expectations.

Before entering high school, students and families/guardians need to be aware of the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

A. Communicating Graduation Requirements

To ensure that every student and family has the information and resources they need to plan and sequence the student’s educational decisions, educators, and staff will communicate—prior to entering high school and through the student’s educational career—the graduation standards and requirements to earn a high school diploma.

The Board has approved the following schedule of requirements for graduation, which encompasses graduation requirements specified by the state and described in relevant laws, rules, and regulations. The Board is aware that current law and regulations are subject to change.

B. Diploma Requirements for Graduation

Academic Requirements for the classes of 2019 and 2020

Academic Benchmarks by year

6  Credits at the end of the freshman year;
12  Credits at the end of the sophomore year; and,
18  Credits at the end of the junior year.

The student must successfully complete a total of 24 credits. 60 is a passing cumulative course score to earn credit.

Student grade-level status will be assessed at the end of each year. Students who have not met their credit benchmarks will meet with a school counselor to create a plan to meet the following year’s benchmarks.
Students entering their fourth year of high school should have attained eighteen credits. If students do not have eighteen credits by the end of their junior year, they must meet with their school counselor to be assisted in the creation of such a plan and submit it to the principal for approval.

Diplomas will be awarded to students who have met the credit requirements for courses aligned with the Maine Learning Results.

**Required courses for graduation are:**

1. **English:** Each student must complete and pass four (4) credits of English. Grades 9, 10, 11, one-half English elective at any time and during their senior year either British Literature or Senior Seminar.

2. **Social Studies:** Each student must complete and pass 3 1/2 credits of Social Studies to include 1 credit for each grade 9, grade 10, grade 11 (U.S. History), and ½ credit Economics, which includes career preparation.

3. **Health:** Each student must complete and pass one-half (1/2) credit of Health.

4. **Mathematics:** Each student must complete and pass three (3) credits of Mathematics.

5. **Science:** Each student must complete and pass three (3) credits of science (Earth Science, Biology and at least one-half credit each of Chemistry and Physics). Earth Science may be replaced with another full-year science class for students in the Chinese Dual-Diploma Program.

6. **Fine Arts:** Each student must complete and pass one (1) credit of Fine Arts.

7. **Computer Skills:** This requirement is considered fulfilled for students who attend a Maine middle school that participates in the MLTI Laptop Initiative or attend a school with 1:1 computer access. This requirement may also be fulfilled by taking courses that integrate computer use or by demonstrating the skills on the ISTE standards.

8. **Physical Education:** Each student must take and pass three (3) semesters of Physical Education. Students who participate at the Varsity sports level for one season or JV sports level for two seasons may have the third semester of physical education waived.
The remaining credits may be selected by the student based upon the student’s interests, abilities, and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.

**Academic Requirements for the class of 2021 and beyond**

Students must achieve a minimum cumulative course score of 60 and meets-partially meets on content standards.

Commencing with the class of 2021, students will demonstrate proficiency in the Maine Guiding Principles.

1. A clear and effective communicator.
3. A creative and practical problem solver.
4. A responsible and involved citizen.
5. An integrative and informed thinker.

**Multiple Pathways**

Students have the opportunity of meeting requirements through multiple pathways. These learning experiences can happen both in and outside of school.

Options may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Academic courses offered by the school
- Dual enrollment or early college courses.
- Career and Technical Education Programming.
- Online or blended learning options.
- Alternative programming.

**Required Learning Experiences for Graduation**

Commencing with the class of 2021, all students at Mt.Blue High School must enroll in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science learning experiences each year.

By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, students will also have engaged in educational experiences related to the other content areas of the Maine Learning Results: Career and Educational Development; World Languages; Visual and Performing Arts; and Health, Wellness, and Physical education.

The student must successfully complete a total of 24 credits.
**Required courses for graduation are:**

1. English (4) credits to include Grades 9, 10, 11, one-half English elective at any time and during their senior year either British Literature or Senior Seminar

2. Social Studies (3 ½) credits to include Grade 9, 10, 11 (U.S. History), and ½ credit economics.

3. Health (1/2) credit.

4. Mathematics (3) credits.

5. Science (3) credits of to include Earth Science, Biology and at least one-half credit each of Chemistry and Physics. Earth Science may be replaced with another full-year science class for students in the Chinese Dual-Diploma Program.

6. Visual and Performing Arts (1) credit.

7. Physical Education (1.5) credits.

8. Career and Education Development: Each student must complete and pass a minimum of one ½ year credit in Career and Education Development.

World Languages - will be an elective until the Class of 2025 when it will become a graduation requirement.

**Additional Information for Awarding Diplomas**

A. Transfer Students: For students who transfer to Mt. Blue High School from another state or from an educational program that is not required to meet the content standards of the *Maine Learning Results*, the Mt. Blue High School principal shall determine the value of the student’s prior educational experience towards achieving the standards in a manner consistent with applicable 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 Board’s diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma. (Reference IKFA Early Graduation)

D. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas: At the Superintendent’s discretion, a student who leaves Mt. Blue High School to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher 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 or Superintendent by May 1st 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.

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 at the start of the school year. Students eligible for extended years of study may include adult education or other resources. 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.

Top students will be recognized at graduation according to the guidelines and expectations noted in sections G, H and I.

G. Honors and Awards at Graduation:
In order to be eligible for honors or awards based on academic achievement, a student must have been enrolled full time at Mt. Blue High School for the full year preceding graduation. Except as stated in Section H.

H. Any student graduating early in January in the classes of 2019-2020, and whose class rank is in the top ten students will be recognized as such at graduation in the spring. Additionally, he/she will not displace any other student who is ranked in the top ten at the end of the third quarter.

I. Beginning with the Class of 2021, any student graduating in January who qualifies as a Top Student, will be recognized as such at graduation in the spring.

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

IKFA - Early Graduation
ILA - Testing and Assessment of Students (Local Assessment System)

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