

MSAD 75 DRAFT POLICY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

M.S.A.D. No. 75 has adopted a proficiency-based system of learning consistent with Maine law, which means that after January 1, 2021, rather than the accumulation of credits, the awarding of a diploma will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the District Graduation Standards and all additional graduation requirements set by the Board. The District Graduation Standards include content area Learning Goals and the Maine Learning Results-Guiding Principles.

Students graduating in the Classes of 2017-2020 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy.

A student who anticipated graduating with the Class of 2020 but failed to earn sufficient credits or meet other requirements set by Board policy will have until December 31, 2020 to fulfill the graduation requirements applicable to that class.

The Superintendent, through the high school 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 high school 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.

I. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASSES OF 2017, 2018, 2019 OR 2020

Students who anticipate graduating in the Mt. Ararat High School Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020, must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma.

A. The student must successfully complete a total of 21.25 credits. They are:

English – 4 credits;

Mathematics – 3 credits;

Social Studies – 3 credits;

Science – 3 credits;
Fine Arts (which may include art, music, creative writing, or drama) – 1 credit;
Health – 1/2 credit;
Physical education – 1 credit; and
Advisory Program and the Capstone Project - 1.25 credits.

- B. The remaining 4.5 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.
- C. Students who attend Region Ten Technical High School prior to 11th grade are subject to modified graduation requirements.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EARNING CREDITS

A student who is deficient in these requirements or wishes to meet these requirements through alternative means may earn and apply credits in accordance with the provisions of this section.

A student who wishes to meet a credit requirement through an alternative method must have prior written approval as specified in this section.

A student who makes up deficiencies may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of all graduation requirements.

- A. A student may earn credits through the Merrymeeting Adult Education Program. The student must have prior written approval from the Director of Adult Education, School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal.
- B. A student may obtain credits through summer school in classes that he/she completed at Mt. Ararat High School but did not pass. The student must obtain prior written approval from the School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal.
- C. A student may earn credits through distance learning/virtual courses provided 1) the course is approved in advance by the School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal and 2) progress is monitored by a member of the High School's professional staff.
- D. Advanced courses or courses not available at Mt. Ararat High School may be taken at other secondary schools or at approved postsecondary institutions with the approval of the School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal.

- E. A student may earn credits through independent study approved by the School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal and monitored by the teacher(s) of the subject(s) to which the independent study is related.

STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

In order to be awarded a high school diploma, students entering the high school prior to 2017 with a projected date of graduation / program completion that extends beyond 2020, must meet the above-referenced requirements by the date in the post-secondary transition plan of the Individual Educational Plan.

II. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2021 AND BEYOND

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 the District Graduation Standards in each of the following content areas of the Learning Results:
 - English Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science and Technology
 - Social Studies
 - Health Education and Physical Education
 - Visual or Performing Arts
 - Career and Education Development
 - World Languages (required for the Class of 2024)

- B. Meet the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results. A student graduating from M.S.A.D. No. 75 schools is expected to be a:
 - Clear and effective communicator;
 - Self-directed and lifelong learner;
 - Creative and analytical problem solver;
 - Responsible and involved citizen; and an
 - Integrative and informed thinker.

- C. Engage in educational experiences relating to English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology in each year of the student's secondary schooling.

- D. Complete the requirements outlined in the Advisory program to include a capstone project or service learning project through which he/she will demonstrate in-depth research, presentation, and technology application skills and evidence of proficiency in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

Students must be allowed to gain proficiency through multiple pathways, as described below, 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.

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO THE AWARDING OF A PROFICIENCY-BASED DIPLOMA

M.S.A.D. No. 75's high school educational program is designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a sequence of educational experiences/courses providing opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency in all of the District's Graduation Standards.

Students must be enrolled in the equivalent of six educational experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their first three high school years and five in their fourth year or beyond. (plus advisory)

Students may also opt to pursue a high school diploma through multiple additional pathways including, but not limited to:

- Early college/dual enrollment courses
- Career and technical education (CTE) programming (see below)
- Online/virtual learning
- Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- Community service
- Exchange programs
- Independent study
- Alternative education/"At Risk" programming
- Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit's own educational experience (course) offerings.

Students who satisfactorily complete a CTE program; and:

- 1) Meet 3rd party-verified national or state industry standards OR earned 6 credits in a dual enrollment career and technical education program; and

2) Demonstrate proficiency in District Graduation Standards in these content areas:

Content Area	Required	Student Option (select 2)	Required educational experience each year
English Language Arts	X		X
Mathematics	X		X
Social Studies	X		
Health Education and Physical Education	X		
Science and Technology		X	X
World Language		X	
Career and Education Development		X	

3) Complete a capstone or service learning project which demonstrates in-depth research, presentation, and technology application skills and evidence of proficiency in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results,

are eligible to receive a diploma from the secondary school the student last attended.

In order to pursue one or more of the multiple/alternative pathways, a student must have a Personal Learning Plan detailing how the pathway will provide educational experiences aligned to the content area learning goals associated with the District Graduation Standards. The Plan will also identify the ways in which the student will demonstrate proficiency in the Standards. The Plan must be approved by the School Counselor, Department Chair, and Principal.

STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

A student who is a child with an identified disability may meet the requirements and become eligible for a diploma by demonstrating proficiency in the graduation standards 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 pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 301.

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDED OF A DIPLOMA FROM MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

- A. Transfer Students and Home-schooled Students - For students who transfer to Mt. Ararat High School from another educational program, the Mt. Ararat High School Principal shall determine which graduation requirements have been met, as well as any areas that require continued study.
- B. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas - A student who leaves Mt. Ararat 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, provided that the student has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.
- C. Early Awarding of Diplomas - A student who has met the graduation requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.
- D. 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 (July 1). 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.
- E. Certificate of Completion - **(still being discussed)** The Board may provide a certificate of completion to a student who leaves school having completed four years attendance as a full-time high school student and who has met some expectations but has not met the District Graduation Standards as required by law.
- F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony - A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma or certificate of completion **(still being discussed)** in order to participate in graduation exercises. A student who is deficient in the necessary requirements for graduation may meet them through the multiple pathways as stated above. The student may participate in the next regular graduation ceremony following successful completion of the requirements.
- G. Honors and Awards at Graduation - this section will be developed during the 2017-2018 school year.