



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.

I. 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 RSUB 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.

II. Students attending Sumner Memorial High School must meet the following graduation requirements:

Class of 2020, 2021 and 2022:

A. All students will demonstrate that they have achieved a proficiency level of 2.5 or above in the content-area graduation standards of the Maine Learning Results. Meeting the requirement entails demonstrating “Developing Proficiency” as described above in each of the following content areas prior to graduation:

1. English Language Arts (in addition, must engage in 4 experiences)
2. Mathematics (in addition, must engage in 4 experiences)
3. Social Studies (in addition, must engage in 3 experiences)
4. Science and Technology (in addition, must engage in 3 experiences)
5. Health & Physical Education
6. Visual/Performing Arts
7. And - engage in one experience in 1 out of the 2 remaining content areas (World Languages and/or Career & Education Development)

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.

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

Class of 2023 and Beyond:

A. All students will demonstrate that they have achieved a proficiency level of 2.8 or above in the content-area graduation standards of the Maine Learning Results. Meeting the requirement entails demonstrating “Proficiency” in each of the following content areas prior to graduation:

1. English Language Arts (in addition, must engage in 4 experiences)
2. Mathematics (in addition, must engage in 4 experiences)
3. Social Studies (in addition, must engage in 3 experiences)
4. Science and Technology (in addition, must engage in 3 experiences)

5. Health & Physical Education
6. Visual/Performing Arts
7. And - engage in one experience in 1 out of the 2 remaining content areas (World Languages and/or Career & Education Development)

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.

B. All students must also satisfactorily complete a total of 40 community service hours.

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. Students who wish to accelerate or extend their academic program are expected to develop a plan with assistance from counselors, teachers, and/or administrators that allows them to meet expected standards at the pace and with the support they need. Final approval of the student's accelerated or lengthened academic program plan rests with the Principal or a designee.

III. Multiple Pathways

Sumner Memorial High School offers all students multiple learning options that allow students to demonstrate proficiency on expected learning standards, 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 Experience (ILE), 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 Experience Form.

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

IV. 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 or a designee. The Superintendent will ultimately determine whether these students are eligible to receive a diploma.

V. Home-Schooled Students

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Sumner Memorial High School, the Principal or designee 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 or a designee.

VI. Students Receiving Special-Education Services

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

VII. 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.

VIII. 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 —High School 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
IKD: Academic Recognition
IKE: Progression of Student Proficiency
IKFF: Multiple Pathways

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