

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In RSU 13, we believe in and recognize that each student deserves a unique journey towards post-high school success. We are committed to meeting each student where they are at, acknowledging their individual strengths, interests, and aspirations, and providing a comprehensive and supportive framework to guide them toward their post-high school goals through meaningful relationships, meeting appropriate proficiencies, and creating individual pathways.

We recognize that true academic success is the acquisition of skills and knowledge that prepare students for the challenges of an ever-changing world. Through personalized learning experiences and a focus on our core values of being a creative and critical thinker, responsible citizen, and an effective communicator and collaborator (4 Cs) we can ensure that each student has the social, emotional and academic skills to find success in their post secondary goals through a variety of different pathways.

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

A. Communicating Graduation Requirements:

Prior to entering high school, students and their parents will be informed of the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan a personalized, sequential educational program to meet that goal.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for providing accurate information concerning diploma requirements to incoming students and their parents in the spring prior to their ninth grade school year, as well as to any student transferring into our school. An overview of graduation 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 website.

B. Multiple Pathways:

Oceanside High School offers multiple pathways to allow students to demonstrate proficiency of expected learning standards and requirements. Student pathways may include, but are not limited to:

- Oceanside High School Program of Studies Courses
- Independent Student Classes
- Personalized Learning Plans
- Dual Enrollment or Early College Courses
- Career and Technical Education
- Online Learning Programs
- Alternative or at-risk programming
- Apprenticeships, internships, field work or exchange programs

All alternative learning options must be documented and approved by the school administration.

C. Core Values and Vision of a Graduate

Students earning an Oceanside Diploma must show proficiency in the core values as measured by the vision of a graduate. These values are to be embedded into the curriculum and each class must work towards meeting the core values.

Critical and Creative Thinker

A student who engages in a process of analyzing, evaluating, and interpreting information and arguments in a systematic, objective, and rational manner. The student is able to identify underlying assumptions, evaluate evidence, consider alternative viewpoints, and draw well-reasoned conclusions.

Responsible Citizen

A student who develops a moral compass, becoming increasingly responsible, informed, principled, and engaged in the student’s own learning while considering their impact in their school community before launching into the world.

Effective Communicator and Collaborator

Communicator - A student who actively expresses and listens to thoughts and ideas, both

D. Academic Requirements:

The School Board has approved the following schedule of requirements for graduation, which are specified by the State of Maine. The Board is aware that current law and regulation are subject to change.

The School Board expects the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee to inform students and parents as soon as practical of any additional standards established by the State that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

1. College classes may be taken for dual credit with prior approval of the principal.
2. High school courses may be taken for credit through RSU 13 Adult Education, correspondence, or virtual high schools with prior approval by the principal. A syllabus will be required for approval, and a transcript will be required to award credit.
3. Students attending MidCoast School of Technology will receive the designated number of credits for the program upon satisfactory completion of the program.
4. Students shall be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credits at one time, with the exception of home schooling students and students with special arrangements approved by the principal.
5. All students must be engaged in educational learning experiences in the content areas of Humanities and STEM in each year of their secondary school program.

To Graduate in 2027 and following: Total Credits ~~24~~ 22

- English: 4 credits
- Mathematics: 3 credits
- Social Studies: 3 credits (including World History, US History, Government, and Economics)
- Science: 3 credits (including at least 1 credit in Life Science and 1 credit in Physical Science)
- Fine Arts: 1 credit
- Health: 1 credit
- Physical Education: 1 credit
- World Language: 1 credit

E. Demonstration of Proficiency:

Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the eight content areas of the Learning Results and the “4 C’s” – Communication and Collaboration, Citizenship, Critical Thinking, and Creativity and Problem Solving. The core values are aligned with the RSU 13 Vision of a Graduate and are embedded in each class.

F. Community Engagement Hours:

In order to demonstrate responsible citizenship and graduate from RSU 13 students must complete 50 hours of community engagement.

Community Service		
Internships		
Job Shadows		
Extended Learning Opportunities/Field Trips		
Peer Mentoring		
Volunteer Firefighter		
Military Trainings		
School Related Travel		
Athletics (10 hours per season)		
Clubs and Activities (10 hours per club or activity)		
College Visits		

G. TRANSFER AND DUAL CREDITS

Transfer Students: The high school principal will analyze transcripts to determine whether State and local graduation requirements have been met. Testing may be required by the principal to determine the learning results? from previous experiences.

Homeschooled Students: Home-schooled students who wish to earn a diploma from RSU 13 will present transcripts and course syllabi of all credits earned. The high school principal will analyze these materials to determine whether State and local graduation requirements have been met. Testing may be required by the principal to determine the learning attained? from previous experiences.

College Classes: College classes may be taken for dual credit with prior approval. Please refer to the student handbook for more information.

Midcoast School of Technology: Students attending the Midcoast School of Technology will receive the designated number of credits upon satisfactory completion of the program.

Personal Learning Plan: In order to pursue a personalized pathway to graduation a student may have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) detailing how the student will demonstrate competency when a pathway involves alternatives to core (i.e., classroom-based) academic experiences.

Each option must provide a quality learning experience that is rigorous and identifies applicable learning standards. Multiple pathway experiences will be detailed, assessed, and documented through a PLP with prior approval by the school principal.

H. Other Considerations:

Most students are expected to satisfy graduation requirements during a four-year experience; however, students may fulfill the requirements for a diploma in a time period that is accelerated or lengthened, based on their individual needs.

Early Graduation: A student who has met State and RSU 13 Board requirements for a high school diploma in fewer than four years of high school, and who has had a plan for early graduation approved by the principal one year in advance of the intended graduation date, may be awarded a diploma from RSU 13. Students who graduate early will remain eligible for all graduation honors.

Extended Study: Students are eligible for extended years of study to complete the requirements of a diploma as long as they have not reached the age of 20 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.

Personal Learning Plan: In order to pursue a personalized pathway to graduation a student may have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) detailing how the student will demonstrate competency when a pathway involves alternatives to core (i.e., classroom-based) academic experiences. Each option must provide a quality learning experience that is rigorous and identifies applicable learning standards. Multiple pathway experiences will be detailed, assessed, and documented through a PLP with prior approval by the school principal.

I. Credits required for each grade placement

- 16 credits are necessary for placement in 12th grade
- 11 credits are necessary for placement in 11th grade
- 5 credits are necessary for placement in 10th grade

J. Honor Graduates

Honor Graduates will be determined at the end of the first semester of their final year of high school. All students must be taking a minimum of 6 courses to be considered.

Students will graduate with Latin Honors by earning the following GPA:

98.00 - 100+	=	Summa Cum Laude
96.00 - 97.99	=	Magna Cum Laude
93.00 - 95.99	=	Cum Laude

K. The Board will recognize the top 15% of each class

Top 15% of each class will be recognized in a special celebration during the June Board meeting.

L. Differentiated Diplomas and Endorsements

Students will be given the opportunity to earn differentiated diplomas and endorsements by challenging themselves in pathway-specific coursework. Students may also be recognized for going above and beyond in different areas during their time at Oceanside High School.

Differentiated diploma and endorsement options will be listed in the school's Program of Studies.

M. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must have completed all requirements for an Oceanside High School or State diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Approved: 3/6/2024