

## **GRADUATION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS**

RSU #3 students must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy in order to receive a diploma and participate in graduation.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students. This policy will be included in every edition of the high school handbook, the program of studies and other appropriate means determined by the school administration. The Board has approved the following schedule of requirements for graduation, which includes minimum requirements specified by the State of Maine.

The Board expects the Superintendent/designee to inform students and parents as soon as practicable of any additional State-imposed standards that must be met before students may be awarded a high school diploma.

### **A Diploma Requirements for Students Graduating**

Students must meet the following requirements to receive a high school diploma:

- A. In order for a student to be considered a full-time student at Mt. View High School, s/he must be enrolled and actively participating in a minimum of 6 credits per semester. Students must successfully complete a total of 24 one-year course equivalents (credits) at the high school and achieve the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction required by State law and Department of Education regulations.

1. English Language Arts -4 credits
2. Social Studies – 3 credits
3. Mathematics – 3.5 credits
4. Science and Technology – 3.5 credits
5. Visual and Performing Arts – 1 credit
6. Physical Education - 1 credit
7. Health – 1 credit
8. Career Education - .5 credit

The remaining 6.5 credits may be selected by the student on the basis of his or her interests, abilities and plans following graduation.

- B. In addition to meeting the credit requirements and achievement of the content standards as described above, students must have documented community service for a minimum of 15 hours.

Students may earn credits and achieve the content standards through coursework

as well as other learning experiences as allowed by law and high school guidelines.

Multiple measures may be used to demonstrate achievement including but not limited to exams, portfolios, performances, exhibitions, projects and community service.

Special education students may earn a diploma by fulfilling State and local requirements as specified by the goals and objectives of their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

All students must be enrolled in a minimum of six courses or their equivalent. The Principal may waive this requirement when in his/her judgement extenuating circumstances warrant such a waiver.

### **Multiple Pathways to Earning of Credits:**

- A Students may also demonstrate standards achievement in the content areas through multiple additional pathways, including but not limited to any combination of the following:
- a Traditional coursework as outlined above
  - b Early college/dual enrollment courses
  - c Career and Technical Education
  - d Online/virtual learning
  - e Apprenticeships, internships, and/or fieldwork
  - f Exchange Programs
  - g Independent Study
  - h Alternative Education
  - i Adult Education
  - j Summer school (must have taken class previously at MVHS)

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to RSU 3's course offering. Any credits earned through alternative methods must be approved by the Department Chair of the content area for which the student is seeking credit, the student's guidance counselor, and the building principal.

#### **Additional Considerations Applicable to the Awarding of a Mount View High School Diploma**

##### **A. Students Receiving Special Education Services**

In order to be awarded a high school diploma, students receiving special education services must meet the above-referenced requirements by the date in the post-secondary transition plan of the Individual Educational Plan (IEP). The student's IEP team, may indicate alternate requirements and/or alternate methods of meeting the requirements for a diploma.

##### **B. Transfer Students and Home-schooled students**

For students who transfer to Mount View High School from another state or an educational program, the High School Principal shall determine which graduation requirements have been met, as well as, any areas that require continued study.

#### C. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

A student who leaves Mount View 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.

#### D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and the RSU 3 School Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma with prior written approval from the Principal.

#### E. Special Recognition

All students at Mount View High School are eligible to receive special recognition for academic achievement. To achieve honor roll status, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of six classes and pass each class with a grade of 85% or better. In addition, graduating seniors may be recognized by their class rank based upon grade point average calculated after seven semesters.

#### Cross Reference:

IKE – Student Progress Through the Learning System  
IHBGA-Home Schooling – Participation in School Programs  
IHCD – Enrollment Options at Public and Private Postsecondary Schools  
ADF – School District Commitment to Learning Results

Legal References: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 4722; 4722-A; 6209  
Ch. 125, 127, 131, 132 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

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