

# Regional School Unit 1

34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath, ME 04530

Patrick Manuel, Superintendent  
Debra Clark, Business Manager

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**Think - Care - Act**

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September 2018

RE: Proficiency Based Learning in RSU1

Dear RSU 1 Families,

With the change in Maine state law from a once required to now optional proficiency based learning (PBL) diploma, the RSU 1 administrative leadership team sees this as an exciting opportunity to solidify and communicate our beliefs around what makes excellent teaching and learning. This change allows us to maintain the components of the old requirements that benefit students and teachers, and shed those we do not, and never did, support.

Therefore, given this leeway to customize our approach, we will not be moving to adopt the MDOE's new PBL requirements. Rather, the district chooses to continue to improve our current RSU 1 systems based on a shared vision and practices related to teaching and learning in order to do what is in the best interest of all of our students.

While the practices at each of our seven schools may differ slightly for developmentally appropriate reasons, the district firmly believes the below ideas should and will guide and support our work with students.

1. We believe in a learner-centered classroom where students are known as individuals, are asked to do rigorous and relevant work, and receive more than one opportunity to grasp and show what they know.
2. We believe that the most effective learning for students happens when thoughtful and ongoing curriculum preparation, assessment development, and instructional execution occurs.
3. We believe that when students graduate from RSU 1 they must feel prepared for and supported in whatever path they have chosen, and we, as a staff, must feel able to guide and verify this preparedness.

To further understand these statements related to PBL in RSU 1, please read our whole Proficiency Based Learning Vision by clicking the following [LINK](#).

Sincerely,

*Katie Joseph*

Katie Joseph  
Assistant Superintendent

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