

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

**Graduation Requirements
(Up to and Including the Class of 2020)**

Maine School Administrative District #33 will recognize each student who anticipates graduating in the *Classes of 2018, 2019, and 2020* by awarding him/her a high school diploma providing s/he has successfully completed a total of 25 credits, of which 18 credits shall include:

- 4 credits in English/Language Arts,
- 4 credits in Mathematics,
- 3 credits in Science, including at least one year of laboratory study,
- 3 credits in Social Studies and History, including one credit in US History and government,
- 1 credit in Fine Arts,
- 1 credit in Physical Education,
- 1 credit in World Language,
- 1 credit in Health.

The state also requires that students demonstrate computer skills according to the school unit's standards for computer literacy and safety, proficiency, and performance.

The remaining credits will be selected by the student based upon the student's interests and the requirements of the field that the student plans to enter upon graduation.

A student who has not met these requirements may do so through a course approved by the principal in advance of registration.

Special Education Students

A student who receives Special Education services who has successfully met specified goals and objectives of his/her Individualized Education Plan will be awarded a diploma.

Transfer Students

When a student transfers to Wisdom Middle/High School, the Wisdom Middle/High School principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting state standards.

Extended Years of 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. Students eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other suitable programs.

Participation in Graduation Exercises

In order to participate in graduation ceremonies, the following requirements must have been fulfilled before graduation day:

1. Students must be within one credit of the necessary number of credits required for their graduation class.
2. All disciplinary requirements must be fulfilled.
3. Students must have paid all fees and fines owed to the school.
4. Students attending other academic institutions or being home schooled shall not participate in Wisdom's graduation ceremony unless they are registered at least as a part-time student at Wisdom Middle/High School.

Qualification for Honor Parts

To qualify for honor parts, a student must have completed his/her Junior and Senior years at Wisdom High School.

Early Graduation

Wisdom Middle/High School recognizes that on occasion, exceptional circumstances will enable a student to complete graduation requirements in less than four years. Due to the academic and social implications, early graduation is granted only in a few cases. Students who have been accepted for early admission at the collegiate level may graduate with their class if they so inform the high school principal at the time of their acceptance into the early admission program.

Graduation Requirements (Effective for students entering Wisdom High School beginning with the 2017-18 school year)

In accordance with Maine law and MSAD #33's proficiency-based system learning beginning with students entering the 9th grade during the 2017-18 school year and beyond, the awarding of a diploma from Wisdom High School will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas of Maine's system of Learning Results and meeting the cross-content performance standards of the Guiding Principles, rather than the accumulation of credits. The student must also fulfill any other requirements specified in this policy.

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:

All learners must be engaged in educational experiences relating to English language arts,

mathematics, and science and/or technology in each year of their secondary schooling.

The District administration and staff will develop and apply a set of graduation standards and performance indicators that align with the content-area standards of the Maine Learning Results.

Students will meet with designated Wisdom staff to create a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). This plan will help them achieve short- and long-term learning goals. These plans will be reviewed with their “PLP team” each year.

All graduating seniors will need to complete and submit a Senior Project. The Senior Project will be a way for seniors to showcase their proficiency in their academics, as well as the Guiding Principles.

The standards of Career and Education Development may be embedded and addressed in other content-area learning experiences.

Meeting the standards entails demonstrating proficiency for each standard within each content area.

English/Language Arts
Mathematics
Science and Technology
Social Studies
Health Education and Physical Education
Visual and Performing Arts
World Languages
Career and Education Development (embedded in the other content areas)

**CTE learners must show proficiency in their individual industry standard in place of science and technology proficiency.

Students must also meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

- A student graduating from Wisdom High School will be expected to be a:
- Clear and effective communicator
 - Self-directed and life-long learner
 - Creative and analytical problem solver
 - Responsible and involved citizen
 - An Integrative and informed thinker

Multiple Pathways to the Awarding of a Proficiency-Based Diploma

MSAD #33’s high school educational program is designed to enable students to satisfy graduation requirements in four years through a sequence of educational (learning) experiences/courses providing opportunities to gain and demonstrate proficiency in all of the

content areas of the Learning Results and in the cross-content Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

While most learners will satisfy graduation requirements over the course of a four-year academic program, learners may also satisfy MSAD #33's graduation requirements during a period of time that is either accelerated or lengthened, based on their distinct learning needs. All learners are expected to develop a Personal Learning 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.

MSAD #33 offers all students multiple learning options that allow learners to demonstrate proficiency on expected learning standards, earn academic credit, and satisfy graduation requirements. MSAD #33 also encourages its learners to explore a broad range of learning experiences, including outside-of-school options.

To pursue outside-of-school learning options, learners must describe their learning experiences in a Personal Learning Plan, including how the experience satisfies both graduation requirements and expected cross-curricular and content-area standards.

Learning options may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Academic courses offered by the school
2. Dual enrollment or early college courses
3. Career and technical education programming
4. Online or blended learning options
5. Alternative or at-risk programming
6. Apprenticeships, internships, field work, or exchange experiences
7. Independent studies or long-term projects

Transfer Students

For learners who transfer to Wisdom High School from another state, country, school program, or home-schooling situation, including educational programs that are not aligned with MSAD #33's cross-curricular and content-area graduation standards, the Guidance counselor and principal shall evaluate the value of the learner's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the learner has met the school's graduation requirements. After enrolling in Wisdom High School, these learners will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the principal. The superintendent will ultimately determine whether these learners are eligible to receive a diploma.

District-based assessments may be used to determine a transfer student's level of academic achievement and placement in Wisdom High School's education program.

Home-Schooled Learners

For home-schooled learners wishing to receive a diploma from Wisdom High School, the

principal shall evaluate the value of the learner's prior educational experiences and determine to what degree the learner has met the school's graduation requirements. After enrolling in Wisdom High School, these learners will need to satisfy all assessment, proficiency, and graduation requirements in the appropriate subject areas, as determined by the principal.

District-based assessments may be used to determine a home-schooled student's level of academic achievement and placement in Wisdom High School's education program.

Learners Receiving Special-Education Services

A learner who is a child with a disability, as defined in Section 7001, Subsection 1-B, may meet the requirements and become eligible for a diploma by demonstrating proficiency in state standards established in the system of Learning Results through performance tasks and accommodations that maintain the integrity of the standards as specified in the learner's individualized education program by the learner's individualized education program team pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 301.

Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

If a learner leaves high school to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education, the learner may, upon satisfactory completion of their freshman year, be awarded a high school diploma, provided that the learner has notified the principal at the time of the early admission.

Certificate of Attendance

The MSAD #33 Board may provide a certificate of completion to a learner who leaves school having completed four years attendance as a full-time high school learner who has earned/completed the required credits or courses/learning experiences, but has not met Learning Results proficiency standards that may be mandated by the state.

Extended Study

Learners are eligible for extended years of study to complete the graduation requirements if they have not reached the age of 20. Learners eligible for extended years of study may be referred to adult education or other programs and resources.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A learner must complete all MSAD #33 Board of Education requirements for a high school diploma to participate in graduation exercises.

Graduation Honors (Up to and including the Class of 2020)

In order to be eligible for graduation honors based wholly or in part on academic achievement, (e.g., valedictorian, salutatorian), a learner must have been enrolled full time at Wisdom High

School during their junior and senior years leading to graduation. Learners who do not meet this enrollment requirement will not be eligible for graduation honors.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4722
Maine Department of Education Rules Ch. 127 § 7 ILA Testing and Assessment of Students

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| History: | Adopted | Meeting #450 | January 14, 1985 |
| | Revised | Meeting #477 | May 5, 1986 (as policy IKFB) |
| | Revised | Meeting #487 | August 4, 1986 (as policy IKFB) |
| | Revised | Meeting #638 | July 5, 1993 |
| | Revised | Meeting #700 | September 2, 1997 |
| | Revised | Meeting #715 | November 2, 1998 |
| | Revised | Meeting #795 | May 3, 2004 |
| | Revised | Meeting #839 | May 7, 2007 |
| | Revised | Meeting #866 | December 1, 2008 |
| | Revised | Meeting #868 | February 2, 2009 |
| | Revised | Meeting #917 | July 9, 2012 |
| | Revised | Meeting #967 | May 2, 2016 |
| | Revised | Meeting #1014 | November 5, 2018 |