

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before entering high school, students need to know the standards for attaining a high school diploma in order to plan an appropriate, sequential, educational program to meet that goal.

Nokomis Regional High has adopted a proficiency-based system of learning consistent with Maine law, which means that after January 1, 2019, the awarding of a diploma will be contingent on the demonstration of proficiency in the content areas and Guiding Principles of the Learning Results.

To be awarded a high school diploma from the RSU #19 schools, students graduating in the Class of 2019 and beyond must demonstrate proficiency in the content areas identified in Maine's system of Learning Results, meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results, and fulfill all additional graduation requirements set by the Board.

Students graduating in the Classes of 2014-2018 must meet the credit and other graduation requirements specified in this policy.

A student who would have graduated with the Class of 2018 and have been awarded a diploma at commencement but for his/her failure to earn sufficient credits or meet other requirements set by Board policy will have until December 31, 2018 to fulfill the graduation requirements applicable to the Class of 2018.

The Superintendent, through the high school principal or other designee, shall be responsible for making accurate information concerning diploma requirements available to incoming students and their parents prior to the start of their ninth grade school year. A copy of this policy will be disseminated to all incoming ninth grade students at the time of course selection. This policy will also be included in every edition of the high school student handbook.

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

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.

**I. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASSES OF 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, OR 2018**

In order to graduate from Nokomis Regional High School, a student must:

- A. Meet or exceed the standards in the following content areas and required courses or the equivalent as determined by a review team;
- B. Accumulate 22 credits including these required courses (or approved equivalent) and elective courses;
- C. Complete state assessment requirements; and
- D. Demonstrate meeting the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

Home School students enrolling at Nokomis must be enrolled during their senior year and complete at least 13 of the 17.5 required courses at Nokomis, in addition to meeting all other graduation requirements to be awarded a Nokomis Diploma.

Minimum Credits Required For A Diploma:

22 Total Credits / 17.5 Required Courses and 4.5 Electives

<b>English 4</b>	<b>Math 3</b>
<b>Science 3</b>	<b>Social Studies 3</b>
<b>Fine Arts 1</b>	<b>Career Pathways 2</b>
<b>Health &amp; Phys. Ed. 1.5</b>	<b>Electives 4.5</b>

Required Course of Study: Below is the course of study required to earn a Nokomis diploma. All students will be expected to complete the courses listed below. Consideration will be made for the following students:

- Students receiving Special Services may be registered in equivalent courses to meet graduation requirements as identified in their Individual Education Program (IEP).
- Transcripts of students transferring to Nokomis will be evaluated by Guidance Counselors and approved by the Principal to identify and verify equivalent courses that match our required courses.

- Under special circumstances, a student may request that an alternative, but equivalent course, be accepted and recognized as a graduation requirement. The Principal must approve requests.
- Awarding of high school diplomas to Veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict is permitted under Policy IKFD.

Content Area Required Courses:

1. **English Language Arts**, 4 credits: English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12/Applied English
2. **Social Studies**, 3 Credits: 3 semesters (1.5 credits) of World Based Social Study and 3 semesters (1.5 credits) of American Based Social Study to include US History
3. **Mathematics**, 3 Credits: \*Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II  
\*Students completing Algebra I prior to high school will not be issued HS credit. Algebra I completion will be noted on the transcript, but students must take a minimum of 3 math credits during their high school career.
4. **Science**, 3 Credits: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry
5. **Health and Physical Education**, 1.5 Credits: ½ Health and \*1 Physical Education , \*1 semester of PE will include successful completion of Project Adventure
6. **Visual and Performing Arts**, 1 Credit: See course guide for courses that meet Fine Arts Requirements
7. **Career Pathways**, 2 Credits: .5 credit during Grade 9, 10, 11 of a Pathway course or a pre-approved alternative such as TCTC or JMG and .5 credit for successful completion of Senior Project and documentation of 20 hours of Community Service
8. **Electives**, 4.5 Credits: Students will take a minimum of 4.5 elective credits, which may be additional credits in the core subject areas or any of the available elective credits. See course guide.

Persons who may question or want to challenge a portion of Nokomis curriculum should see Policy IMB-R Procedures For Objection To Curriculum Topic Or Material, Policy IJJ-E, Challenge Of Instructional Materials Form, and/or Policy IMBB, Exemption From Required Instruction. Policies are available at [www.RSU19.org](http://www.RSU19.org).

The Nokomis Curriculum Supports the Guiding Principles of Maine's Learning Results. It is our goal that each student leave school as a:

1. Clear and Effective Communicator;
2. Self-Directed and Life-Long Learner;
3. Creative and Practical Problem Solver;
4. Responsible and Involved Citizen;
5. Collaborative and Quality Worker; and an
6. Integrative and Informed Thinker.

## **II. DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE CLASS OF 2019 AND BEYOND**

In accordance with Maine law and Nokomis Regional High's proficiency-based system of learning, after January 1, 2019, the awarding of a diploma from Nokomis Regional High schools 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 of the Learning Results. The student must also fulfill any other requirements specified in this policy.

Students who anticipate graduating in the Classes of 2019 and beyond must meet the following requirements in order to be awarded a high school diploma:

Demonstrate proficiency in meeting standards in the following content areas of the Learning Results. Meeting the standards entails demonstrating proficiency for each standard within each content area. The following diploma requirements will be phased in from the 2018 – 2021 school year to the 2021 - 2022 school year:

For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2019 - 2021, certify that the student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, health education and physical education, visual and performing arts, and career and education development.

For a student graduating in the graduating class of 2022, and for each subsequent graduating class, certify that the student has demonstrated proficiency in meeting the state standards in all content areas.

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- Health Education and Physical Education
- Visual and Performing Arts
- World Languages
- Career and Education Development

- B. Meet the cross-content performance standards set forth in the Guiding Principles of the Learning Results. A student graduating from RSU 19 schools is expected to be a:

Clear and effective communicator;  
 Self-directed and life-long learner;  
 Creative and analytical problem solver;  
 Responsible and involved citizen; and an  
 Integrative and informed thinker.

- C. Successful completion of a senior project.
- D. Complete a portfolio to include an Individual Graduation Plan, evidence of learning, and an application to a post-secondary educational institution, training program or other experience that provides an opportunity for further growth.
- E. The student must also complete the following non-academic requirements:  
 20 hours of Community Service.

**MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO THE AWARDING OF A PROFICIENCY-BASED DIPLOMA**

RSU 19’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.

Students following a traditional pathway will:

- A. Engage in educational experiences in the content areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology in each year of their high school program.

[NOTE: The requirement in “A” above is for the purpose of alignment with Maine law and the adoption of Common Core and national science standards.]

- B. Engage in at least three or educational experiences in the content area of social studies during their high school program.
- C. Engage in at least one educational experience in each of the content areas of visual and performing arts during their high school program.
- D. Engage in at least two educational experiences in world languages throughout the 7-12 educational programming in RSU #19.
- E. Engage in at least one health and two physical education experiences during their high school program.
- F. Engage in at least three educational experiences that integrate career and education development into other content areas of the Learning Results.

Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of six full year learning experiences/courses or integrated equivalents in each of their high school years.

Students may also opt to demonstrate proficiency toward a high school diploma through multiple additional pathways including:

- Early college/dual enrollment courses
- Career and technical education programming
- Online/virtual learning
- Apprenticeships, internships and/or field work
- Experiential/service learning
- Exchange programs
- Independent study
- Alternative education/“At Risk” programming
- Adult education

Each pathway must provide a quality learning experience comparable in rigor to the school unit's own educational experience (course) offerings.

In order to pursue one or more of the multiple/alternative pathways, a student must develop an Individual Graduation Plan detailing how the pathway will provide exposure to the content standards of the Learning Results and how the student will demonstrate proficiency in meeting the standards. The Individual Graduation Plan must be reviewed by the Guidance Counselor and Department Chair and approved by the Principal.

### **III. STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Students who achieve proficiency in the content standards of the Learning Results and Guiding Principles, as specified in the goals and objectives of their Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be awarded diplomas.

### **IV. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE AWARDING OF A DIPLOMA FROM NOKOMIS REGIONAL HIGH**

This section applies to all students, in all graduation classes.

#### **A. Transfer Students**

For students who transfer to Nokomis Regional High from another state or from an educational program that is not required to be aligned with the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the Nokomis Regional High Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience towards meeting graduation requirements.

#### **B. Home-schooled Students**

For home-schooled students wishing to receive a diploma from Nokomis Regional High, the Nokomis Regional High Principal shall determine the value of the student's prior educational experience toward meeting graduation requirements. A home-schooled student must have attended Nokomis Regional High for a minimum of one year in order to receive a Nokomis Regional High diploma.

C. Delayed Awarding of Diplomas

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

D. Early Awarding of Diplomas

A student who has met the State's and the Board's diploma requirements in fewer than four years of high school may be awarded a diploma.

E. Extended 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 resources suitable to young adult learners. Extended study for students with disabilities shall be specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan.

F. Participation in Graduation Ceremony

A student must complete all Board requirements for a high school diploma in order to participate in graduation exercises.

Legal Reference: 20-A § 1001 (6); 6208 - 6209  
20-A M.R.S.A. § 253, 2902, 4502, 4701, 4704, 4706, 4711,  
4722, 4723, 4724, 13016  
Ch. 127 § 7 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IHCDA – Post-Secondary Enrollment Options  
IK – Student Achievement  
IKFA - Early Graduation