**Maine High School Diploma Options and Requirements**

**This resource provides a general comparison of the two diploma options as established in Public Law 2017, Chapter 466, enacted in July 2018. The points of comparison are relevant to the requirements of a high school diploma as provided for in the new law.**

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| **Statutory Requirements** | **Proficiency-based Diploma Law** | **Credit\*-based Diploma Law** |
| **Legislation/Statute** | [PL 2017, Chapter 466](https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1152&item=8&snum=128) | Title 20-A, [§4722](http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-Asec4722.html) as referenced in PL 2017, Ch. 466 |
| **State requirements for award of diploma** | Demonstration of proficiency in all (8) content areas of the [Maine Learning Results](https://www.maine.gov/doe/proficiency/standards/maine-learning-results.html) and the [Guiding Principles](https://www.maine.gov/doe/plan/GUIDINGPRINCIPLES.pdf)  Demonstration of proficiency in The Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results  Educational experiences relating to English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology in each year of a student’s secondary schooling | **Diploma Requirements (through separate or integrated study)**   1. “English--4 years; 2. “Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance--2 years 3. “Mathematics--2 years 4. “Science, including at least one year of laboratory study--2 years. 5. “Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama--one year”   *\*Credit is a general term used in this document to mean the successful completion of a course.* |
| **Locally determined requirements for award of diploma** | Allowed; specified by local governing body (typical examples: participation in assessments, specific courses, endorsements or badges, service learning, exhibitions, post-secondary plans) | Allowed; specified by local governing body (typical examples: participation in assessments, additional courses/credits, endorsements or badges, service learning, exhibitions, post-secondary plans; grade/score thresholds) |
| **Applicability of content area standards of the** [Maine Learning Results](https://www.maine.gov/doe/proficiency/standards/maine-learning-results.html) **to the Diploma** | Certification of “proficient” in all eight content areas required for diploma | All secondary school students expected to “achieve” the standards. Certification of achievement is not required by state for diploma |
| **Applicability of** [Guiding Principles](https://www.maine.gov/doe/plan/GUIDINGPRINCIPLES.pdf) **of the Maine Learning Results to the Diploma** | Certification of “proficient” in the Guiding Principles required for diploma | None specified |
| **Students with Disabilities: State requirements for diploma** | “As specified by Individual Education Program (IEP) team,” students must complete all diploma requirements; tasks and accommodations must “maintain integrity of standards.” | “As specified by goals and objectives of their Individual Education Plan,” students must meet the standards of the Maine Learning Results, and students must satisfy graduation requirements. |
| **Career and Technical Education CTE students: State requirements for diploma** | Demonstration of proficiency in six content areas and the Guiding Principles; and  Complete state-approved CTE program and meet third-party-verified state or national industry standards OR earned six credits in a dual enrollment CTE program | May, “with the approval of the Commissioner,” satisfy minimum state-mandated course requirements with CTE through separate or integrated study within CTE curriculum and courses |
| **Programmatic curricular and instructional requirements specified in diploma laws** | Schools must provide “Sufficient opportunity and capacity through multiple pathways for all students to study in [the eight content areas of the Maine Learning Results].” | Schools must provide “Sufficient opportunity and capacity through multiple pathways for all students to study in [the eight content areas of the Maine Learning Results]” |
| **Pedagogical approaches (i.e. methods of teaching)** | None; determined by local governing body | Determined by local governing body |
| **Grading/scoring approaches** | None; determined by local governing body | Determined by local governing body |
| **Transcript requirements** | 1. Certification of content-area proficiency “must be included with… permanent…transcript” 2. Certification of post-secondary readiness, based on objective measures | 1. Certification of post-secondary readiness, based on objective measures |
| **Official academic credential** | 1. Certification of content area proficiency 2. Transcript | Transcript |