

## Diploma Option 1 – 20-A, subsection 4722 & subsection 6209

Option 1 diploma requirements are now governed by subsection 4722 and revisions in subsection 6209, the system of learning results. Both describe, with one possible exception, only the instruction that must be made available. Students earn a diploma based on the number of years spent in five required content areas:

1. “Minimum instructional requirements. A comprehensive program of instruction must include a minimum 4-year program that meets the curriculum requirements established by this chapter and any other instructional requirements established by the commissioner and the school board.
2. Required subjects. Courses in the following subjects shall be provided in separate or integrated study programs to all students and required for a high school diploma:
  - A. English--4 years;
  - B. Social studies and history, including American history, government, civics and personal finance--2 years;
  - C. Mathematics--2 years;
  - D. Science, including at least one year of laboratory study--2 years;
  - E. Fine arts, which may include art, music, forensics or drama--one year.”

In addition, schools must also “ensure sufficient opportunity and capacity through multiple pathways for all students to study” the remaining three content areas of career development, world languages, and health, physical education and wellness. There are no requirements related to the Guiding Principles.

The amended transcript section of subsection 6209, which no longer requires proficiency-based transcripts, appears to include some local determination of postsecondary readiness:

**“3-A. Transcripts.** A school subject to this section shall:

- B. Certify on the basis of objective measures in the transcript a student's postsecondary readiness; and
- C. Establish a transcript that meets the requirements of ~~paragraphs A and~~ paragraph B as an officially sanctioned credential of student learning for admission to a postsecondary education institution and employment in a business, trade or industry.”

**There are also amendments to subsection 6214, the school accountability system,** that describe state and ESSA reporting and accountability requirements. The key amendment:

“Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year . . . the commissioner shall implement a school accountability system to measure school performance ~~and student proficiency in~~ facilitating students' achieving the knowledge and skills described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements”.

**Diploma Option 2 remains as described in subsection 4722-A.** All the previous requirements remain if the proficiency-based option is chosen. The rule making section has been amended to require the Department of Education to develop major substantive rules governing voluntary award of a proficiency-based diploma. Those major substantive rules must be developed through a formal rule making process and be brought to the legislature’s Education and Cultural Affairs Committee for approval.

### Common Requirements for both Options:

- All districts must offer students the required number of years in the five content areas in subsection 4722.
- All districts must offer instruction in all 8 content areas.
- School boards determine additional diploma requirements.
- Transcripts must certify postsecondary readiness and be an officially sanctioned credential of student learning.