



August 18, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

RSU #29 is sending this letter and posting it on the district's website as information which fulfills our obligation under the Parents' Right to Know requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under these requirements, teachers must meet general qualifications as well as specific requirements of the subject they are teaching. This requirement means that we will be informing parents whenever a child is taught for four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the federal definition of "highly qualified."

Maine has some of the most highly qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of our teaching staff. We work hard to assure that every class has a teacher with the appropriate background, experience, and credentials for his or her current teaching assignment.

We believe that a caring, competent, and qualified teacher for every child is the most important ingredient in education reform, and we want to assure you that we consider all our teachers to be qualified for their positions. All of our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues his or her own learning through professional development activities, and our teachers are regularly evaluated to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level. Most teachers already meet the federal definition of "highly qualified." Those teachers who do not meet this federal standard will be able to do so by engaging in additional professional development or by taking a test. These teachers will have until the end of the 2013 – 2014 school year to do so.

Additional information on the NCLB Act, as well as the qualifications of your child's teacher is available upon request. Please contact your school's principal if you have questions or would like further information. Working with parents is an important aspect of our efforts to help students learn, and we welcome your interest.

Sincerely,

Ellen Schneider
Superintendent of Schools