



ENGAGING AND CHALLENGING ALL STUDENTS

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Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

Your child attends the Ellsworth Elementary-Middle School (EEMS) that receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law and your child's education. This letter informs you about your right to know about the qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child and other policies related to assessments mandated by the State of Maine.

At EEMS, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for this school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you.

At any time, you may ask:

1. whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
2. whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
3. what undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) and/or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), includes additional right-to-know requests. At any time parents and family members can request information:

1. on policies regarding student participation in state-mandated assessments and the procedures for opting out, and
2. on required assessments that include a) subjects tested, b) the purpose of the tests, c) the source of the requirement (if applicable), d) the approximate amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and e) the time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that Ellsworth School Department provides you with any of the information discussed in this letter. If you have any questions or requests for information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Kehrman Ramos".

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