

### **Highly Qualified:**

Federal law requires teachers to be, or become, “Highly Qualified” in the subjects they teach. That law, called the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) has been designed to help your child achieve more in school.

The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific, federal definition of “Highly Qualified” in order to teach in schools that receive federal funding. Our district receives federal funds to support the programs we offer to your child.

Maine has some of the most 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 fully qualified for their positions. All of our teachers are currently entitled to teach under Maine’s strict certification requirements. 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 evaluated each year 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 passing a test.

Your child’s teacher is dedicated to the success of every child in the class. Thank you for your continued support of your child’s education and we encourage you to communicate with his or her teacher on a regular basis so that together we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Additional information on the NCLB Act, as well as on the qualifications of your child’s teacher is available on request. Working with parents is an important aspect of our efforts to help students learn and we welcome your interest.