



## Regional School Unit No. 18

### *Williams Elementary School*

*"Where Children Come First"*

Belgrade \* China \* Oakland \* Rome \* Sidney

Kathy Harris-Smedberg  
Principal

Karen Alley  
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LETTER TO PARENTS  
HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER INFORMATION  
For Title I Schools and Programs Only  
(Parent Notice That They May Request Information)

August 1, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the coordinator of RSU 18's Title programs I am sending you this information as one way to fulfill our obligations under the "Parents' Right to Know" requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under these requirements, teachers and Title I paraprofessionals must meet general qualifications as well as the specific requirements of the subject they are teaching. This means the district will be informing parents whenever a child is taught by a teacher who does not meet state certification and licensure requirements.

Maine has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and in RSU 18 we are extremely proud of our teaching staff. The district works hard to assure that every class has a teacher with the appropriate background, experience, and credentials for his or her current teaching assignment.

RSU 18 believes 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 the teachers in the RSU 18's Title I receiving schools are currently entitled to teach under Maine's strict certification requirements. All of our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees beyond a Bachelor's degree. In addition, every teacher continues his or her own learning through professional development activities and are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level. All Title I paraprofessionals in RSU 18 meet the state licensure requirements, with many holding degrees far beyond what is expected.

Additional information on the ESSA Act, as well as on the qualifications of your child's teacher is available upon request. Please contact me (Kathy Harris-Smedberg) at 465-2965 if you have questions or would like further information. Working with parents is an important aspect of our efforts to help students learn and I welcome your interest.

Sincerely,

Kathy Harris-Smedberg  
NCLB Coordinator  
Principal Williams Elementary School