

Dierks Public Schools

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Dear Parent:

Selecting teachers is one of the most important responsibilities of school leaders. Teachers must be trained in their subject area through university study and are required to pass a variety of tests, demonstrate knowledge, and hold an Arkansas license to teach. In addition, each teacher must pass a background check conducted by the Arkansas State Police.

In addition to these preliminary prerequisites, it is also important to exhibit a high degree of enthusiasm and a personal commitment to working with students. These are the most important qualities we seek in aspiring teachers and selecting the best available teacher for every classroom is our highest priority.

Teacher licensure requirements in Arkansas are rigorous, and they are designed to prepare the best teacher for your student's academic achievement. Coupled with this is recent federal No Child Left Behind legislation, which requires teachers of core academic classes to hold a designation of Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT). This legislation also requires superintendents to notify parents when their child is assigned to a classroom teacher who has not completely met all the requirements for the HQT designation.

The administration in your child's school always works hard to select and assign quality teachers who are best for your child and also meet all state and federal technical requirements. This sometimes becomes very difficult, but be assured we strive to put the best possible candidate in our classrooms.

Accordingly, I am informing you that Wendy Parsons, your child's special education teacher, holds a valid Arkansas teacher's license, and is in the process of completing all requirements consistent with achieving a full license in this area. While completing these requirements is essential, the fact that these technical requirements have not been satisfied will in no way limit her effectiveness as a teacher.

I appreciate your continuing support for all our teachers. If you have any further questions regarding teacher selection or qualifications, please contact Mrs. Holly Cothren at 870-286-2191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Cothren". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Holly Cothren, Superintendent
Dierks Schools