



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

February 11, 2008

Kelly R. Clenchy, Superintendent
Orono School Department
18 Goodridge Drive
Orono, ME 04473

Dear Superintendent Clenchy:

I am writing in response to your request for further clarification to the Orono School Department as you proceed with the school administrative reorganization process.

While I am willing to review documentation you may submit in support of such a filing, it is important to understand the conditions that must be met in order to qualify for an exception to the 2,500 student minimum found in the law.

Public Law 2007, Chapter 240, Section 1461(3)(B) indicates that RSUs must have at least 2,500 students "except where circumstances...justify an exception." Those circumstances are specified and include geography, demographics, economics, transportation, population density, or "other unique circumstances."

Please include the following with your submission:

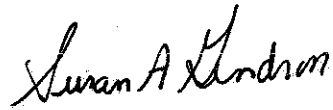
- Explain the course of action you have taken toward meeting due diligence as required in P.L. 2007, Chapter 240, Section XXXX-36(6)(A)(7).
- Clearly state your exception(s) and provide evidence as to justify this as required in P.L. 2007, Chapter 240, Section 1461(3)(B).
- Describe the basis for such a change in filing status and/or RSU partners.

To clarify this further, I encourage you and your legal counsel to review the full language of the law, found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/education/supportingschools/reorglaw.html>.

I encourage you to contact Ray Poulin and Norm Higgins of our Reorganization Team for more information and to further consult on this issue. They may be reached at 624-6802.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Gendron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner of Education

cc: Mary Jane McCalmon, Facilitator