

Teachers, Qualifications for a School of More Than Two Departments. Schools, Qualifications of Teacher Where There Are More Than Two Departments.

A teacher who has a county certificate of any grade, and is also the holder of a professional county certificate, or a life or state diploma, or is a graduate of a reputable normal school, is qualified to teach as the principal of a school of more than two departments.

Helena, Montana, March 10, 1910.

Hon. J. H. Stevens,
County Attorney.
Kalispell, Montana.

Dear Sir—

I am in receipt of your letter of February 21, and supplemental letter of March 7, in which you request an opinion upon the following proposition:

Has a teacher who has a third grade certificate from the county superintendent of the county in which he is teaching, and is also a graduate of a reputable normal school, qualified to teach as the principal teacher in a school of more than two departments?

In our opinion a person holding such a certificate, and who is also a graduate of a reputable normal school, if he took the full course of instruction in such school, is entitled to teach as principal of a school of more than two departments.

Section 901, revised codes, defines who shall be accounted as qualified teachers; namely, those who have received certificates from the county superintendent, or state certificates from the county superintendent, or state certificates or life diplomas from the state board of education, or diplomas from the state normal college. It also provides special certificates for special courses.

In addition to the qualifications mentioned in said section 901, it is further provided in section 958 that:

“No person shall be employed as teacher in a high school, or as the principal teacher of more than two departments who is not the holder of a professional county certificate or of a life or state diploma, or who is not a graduate of some reputable university, college or normal school.”

These two statutes must be construed together, and when so construed it follows that if a person is qualified to teach by having a certificate of any grade from the county superintendent, that he is also entitled to teach as principal of a school of more than two departments, if he possesses any one of the qualifications mentioned in section 958. And as the person involved in your inquiry is a graduate of a reputable normal school, it follows that he is qualified to teach as principal of such school:

Very truly yours,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.