



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

September 8, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was signed into law by President Obama in December 2015. The *ESSA* is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965* and replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. *ESSA* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

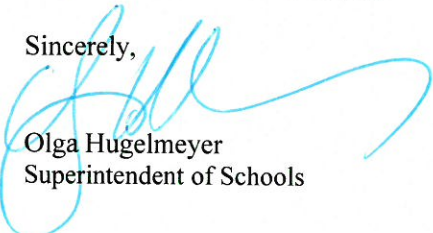
1. A four-year college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Elizabeth Public School District. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The state of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition, every teacher continues 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.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. Our goal is that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child, and we will do everything possible to help our teachers who may not yet meet the legal definition required by the federal government.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESSA*/NCLB and the role of Title I parents, please visit the US Department of Education Website at www.ed.gov/essa. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible. We are dedicated to providing all students with the excellent educational experiences to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent of Schools