

# Title I- Parents' Right to Know

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. Although NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under NCLB was eliminated from the ESSA. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey still are required to hold the appropriate state certification/license for their given position.

Under the ESSA, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals.

The information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers including at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

*\*If at anytime your child has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher not highly qualified, the school will notify you.*

Outside of teaching requirements for certification, Cape May Tech teachers continue to learn through professional development activities and are evaluated each year to ensure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level. By partnering with our teachers, families can provide their children with the best possible education. I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

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