



LEONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important education law. This law was revised in 2002 and is now called The No Child Left Behind Act. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help our students achieve more in school.

The law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Some of our schools receive federal funding and we are happy to share this information with you.

We believe 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 federal funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have:

1. A four-year college degree;
2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
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 Leonia School District. All our 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 his or her own learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure 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. We believe every teacher in our school district 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 his or her teacher on a regular basis. For more information on the No Child Left Behind Act, and the role of Title I parents, please read the information enclosed with this letter. By partnering together - families and educators - we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Joanne T. Megargee