



Berkeley Township School District

Dr. Jeffery Zito, Assistant Superintendent

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. In 2015 this law was reauthorized and is now called the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA). 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.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. **Every teacher in our district is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child.** All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees and have met the definition of highly qualified. 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.

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 a "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 his/her knowledge in the subject he/she teaches

We 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, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education website at www.ed.gov/essa. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Jeffery S. Zito, Ed.D.
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