



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Neely Hackett
Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The *NCLB/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 Student 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. Our schools receive 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 than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach in core content areas 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 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 Irvington Public Schools. All of our certified teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. 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. We believe that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child.

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*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Website at www.ed.gov/nclb.

The theme for the 2019-2020 school year is *Rigor Begins with Relationships and is Anchored in Relevance*. As a community, built on strong collaborative relationships, we will serve as a village to make our school district a place of excellence and opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neely Hackett
Superintendent of Schools