



Scot Burkholder
Assistant Director of Student Support Services
50 Nellis Drive
Wayne, N.J. 07470

sburkholder@wayneschools.com
Phone: (973) 317-2165
Fax: (973) 317-2159

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by the U.S. Congress late last year 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 certificate/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. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

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 Wayne Township Public School District. All our regular 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 their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

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's (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

You will receive a letter from your children's school shortly with an invitation to a Title I annual parent information session which will discuss the eligibility criteria and programs offered at your children's school. We encourage you to attend this session and to provide your schools leadership team with feedback and suggestions on programs you would like to see implemented at the school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Scot R. Burkholder,

District Title I Coordinator
Assistant Director - Student Support Services
Federal, State, and Special Programs