



# SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the United States Congress in 2014 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.

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 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 Salem Middle School. All of our regular 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 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.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. The Salem City School District policies regarding Title I can be found on our website: [www.salemnj.org](http://www.salemnj.org) For more information on *ESSA*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) website at [www.ed.gov/essa](http://www.ed.gov/essa)

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

Sincerely,

*Pascale E. DeVilmé/tm*

Mrs. Pascale E. DeVilmé  
Principal