



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. The previous version of the law, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, was enacted in 2002. NCLB represented a significant step forward for our nation's children in many respects, particularly as it shined a light on where students were making progress and where they needed additional support, regardless of race, income, zip code, disability, home language, or background. The law requires all schools receiving federal funds to inform parents of their right to ask the school about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Because our school receives federal funding, we are sharing this information with you.

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 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:

- 1. A four-year college degree;
- 2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
- 3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject he/she teaches.

New Jersey has some of the most highly qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff at the Cumberland County Technical Education Center. All of our content teachers in the areas of Math, Science, History and English have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The state of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. Career and Technical Education Teachers are certificated by the Department of Education and are highly qualified as a result of their years of service in the industry of their profession. Lastly, every teacher continues his or her own 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, knows how to teach, and knows the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our school 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 become highly qualified according to the letter of the federal law.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her teacher on a regular basis. By partnering together, we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Amy Whilden
Assistant Principal

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