

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
379 Boulevard
Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604

Dr. Matthew Helfant Tel: (201) 393-8146 Superintendent of Schools Fax: (201) 288-0289

September 9th, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important education law. This law was revised in 2015 and is now called **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**. **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help our students achieve more in school.

The law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Some of our schools receive federal funding and we are happy to share this information with you.

We believe 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 federal funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have:

1. A four-year college degree
2. A regular teacher certificate/license; and
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 Hasbrouck Heights School District. All of our 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 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, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe every teacher in our district is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her teacher on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA, and the role of Title I parents, please read the information enclosed with this letter. By partnering together, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Helfant
Superintendent of Schools

HEIGHTS: Where Tradition & Innovation Take Flight!