

October 25, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is one of our country's most important education laws. A few years ago, this law was revised and is now called the No Child Left Behind Act. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) 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. Our school receives federal funding and we are happy to share this information with you.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and high 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 the following:

1. A four-year degree;
2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
3. Proof of their 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 Bayonne 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.

All of Bayonne Public School's teachers have met this legal definition of "highly qualified." All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition. Veteran teachers, hired before the 2002-2003 school year, who did not yet meet the legal definition of "highly qualified" had until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to do so.

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 Bayonne 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.

Sincerely,



Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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