



WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The *ESSA* replaced 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 are still 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. West Essex receives and utilizes Title I funding to provide instructional programs and additional resources for eligible students. Please follow this link to our district's website for more information regarding [Title I Parent Resources](#).

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the dedicated, high quality teaching staff at West Essex Regional School District. All of our full-time teachers are certified, possess 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 teachers 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 with educators, students, families, and community members, West Essex can provide your child with the best educational experience possible.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gupta

Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Title I Coordinator