

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Title I: ESSA- Parents Right to Know

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the U.S. Congress in late 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.

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 West Deptford Township Schools. All our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees making them highly knowledgeable in specific areas of instruction. In addition, every teacher continues learning and mastering their craft through participating in professional development activities, at least once a month, and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills and instruction remain at the highest possible level for all of our students.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) 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, families within the community and educators within each of our schools can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed. D.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Chief Academic Officer