



Fort Lee Public Schools

Central Administration Offices

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www.FLBOE.com

Mr. Kenneth J. Rota
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Sharon Amato
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Haquisha Q. Taylor
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 20, 2016

Title I- Parents' Right-to-Know

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and is now called No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

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

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education than having a well-prepared and highly-qualified teachers. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly-qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I 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 college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject area he/she teaches

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 Fort Lee School District. All of our regular 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 learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest level possible.

Most teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified. All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition. According to NCLB, veteran teachers, hired before the 2002-2003 school year, who do not yet meet the legal definition of highly qualified, have until the end of the 2005-2006 year to do so.



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To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly-qualified teacher, the State of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers will soon be able to take a new test, if they can demonstrate their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities, and experience.

A highly-qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our schools 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 required by federal government.

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 NCLB, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at www.ed.gov/nclb. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Amato
Director, Curriculum and Instruction