



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

September 5, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by the U.S. Congress 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 schools receive Title I funding and principals will be 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 Newark Public Schools. All our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are required to be evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

I encourage you to continue 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 feel free to contact your child's school. More comprehensive information can be found on the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

Parents are encouraged to download a copy of our District Strategic Plan, *The Next Decade 2020 – 2030* <https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/mdocs-posts/nboe-strategic-plan-the-next-decade/>. As always, parents are emboldened to work with schools to collaborate and support the important role of parents in the success of our ecosystem.

By partnering with educators, we will provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger León".

Roger León
Superintendent