

SALVATORE GONCALVES
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary/Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is our country's most important federal education law. ESEA was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools. We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in public schools. 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 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. 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 possible level.

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 our school 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 the 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 ESEA, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at www.ed.gov/esea. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Jaynellen Behre-Jenkins
Assistant Superintendent