

The Public Schools
West Orange, New Jersey
179 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052

Title I – Letter to Parents About Highly Qualified Teachers

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Earlier in the school year you received a letter explaining the new federal law that requires teachers to be, or become, highly qualified in the subject they teach. That law, called the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* has been designed to help your child achieve more in school.

The law states that all teachers who teach in core content areas must meet a specific, legal definition of “highly qualified” in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. Our school received Title I funds, which supplement the programs in the school. The legal definition of a “highly qualified teacher” has three parts. It states that teachers must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree
2. A standard teaching certificate
3. Proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach

The new law also requires us to notify parents if their child is being taught for four (4) or more weeks by a teacher in a Title I school or program who does not yet meet the federal definition of “highly qualified”.

While all teachers working in our school meet the first two (2) parts of the definition, some teachers do not yet meet the third part of the definition of a highly qualified teacher. According to *NCLB*, teachers in the state of New Jersey must meet these federal requirements.

This letter is to inform you that one of your child’s teacher, _____, is in the process of meeting the new requirements and we are provided the necessary support. To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the state of New Jersey and our school district are helping teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers are able to take a test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities, and experience.

Your child’s teacher is dedicated to the success of every child in the class. I encourage you to continue to support your child’s education and communicate with the teacher on a regular basis. Through our partnership, we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Chief School Administrator