



September 9, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA, which replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Improving teaching and learning to increase students' academic achievement is the top priority of the ESSA. However, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision, once required under NCLB, was eliminated from the ESSA. Yet, all educators in North Carolina still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

North Carolina has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are incredibly proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Granville County Public Schools. All our certified teachers have college degrees, and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues to develop his or her craft through professional learning, and our teachers are evaluated throughout the academic year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest level.

In addition to prioritizing quality teaching and learning, parent and family engagement is a priority under the ESSA. Therefore, I would like to inform parents of their Right to Know under the new law. Since your child's school receives Title I funds, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, the district or school will provide you with the following as soon as possible:

- a. if the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction;
- b. if the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived;
- c. the type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degree or certificate; and
- d. if your child is receiving Title I services from paraprofessionals and, if so, his/her qualifications.

If you would like to request this information, please contact Mrs. Shelby Hunt at 919-693-4613. Also, if your child is assigned or is taught by a teacher or paraprofessional who does not meet the state licensure standards for four or more weeks, your child's school must notify you.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. I believe that by partnering, families, and educators can provide your child with the best education possible. 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>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alisa R. McLean, Superintendent Granville County Public Schools

Cc: Title I Principals