

**WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
500 Ogden Drive  
Westampton, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-8565

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September 8, 2009

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 the *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 school receives Title I funds and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

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 schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teachers 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 he/she teaches

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the county, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Westampton 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 possible level.

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 the *NCLB*, veteran teachers, hired before the 2002-2003 school year, who do not yet meet the legal definition of highly qualified, had until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to do so. The state of New Jersey has requested flexibility from the United States Department of Education to extend the deadline to the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

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

Sincerely,



Mr. John H. Gambie Jr.  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction