



BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence in Education"

240 Baird Road ♦ Branchburg, NJ 08876-4200

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September 1, 2015

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 of 2001 (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 inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teacher(s). Our school receives Title 1 funding 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 who teach in core content areas meet a specific legal definition of *highly qualified* in order to teach in schools that receive Title 1 funding. The legal definition of a highly qualified teacher has three parts. It states that a teacher 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 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 in the Branchburg Township School District. All of our 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. Our teachers are evaluated multiple times each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

To ensure that every child has a highly qualified teacher, the State of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements for content area expertise as outlined in the Federal law. To confirm that they are *highly* qualified, teachers may take a content-area Praxis test, or provide a transcript of accredited coursework taken in a college or university program.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach effectively, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We know that every teacher in our school is fully qualified, and we support the educational program that is presented to your child.

I encourage you to engage in your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. Your partnership with your child's teacher is one of the most valuable assets that you can provide.

For more information on *NCLB* and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) website at www.ed.gov/nclb.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gensel

Rebecca Gensel
Acting Superintendent
Branchburg Township Public Schools

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*"The mission of the Branchburg Township School District and Community is
to inspire our children to learn, think grown and excel in life"*