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Dear Parents,

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is an important federal education law 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 rights to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. 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 must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of "highly qualified" 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 his/her knowledge in the subject they teach

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country. We are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Readington Township School District who are all highly qualified. 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 and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

Teachers in the state of New Jersey are required to meet this definition. Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes ensuring that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled.

You are encouraged to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site at [www.ed.gov/esea](http://www.ed.gov/esea). By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacey Brown  
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