



ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ronald C. Lee
Superintendent of Schools

September 8, 2015

Right to Know & Highly Qualified Letter

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 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 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 teacher must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of their 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 at the City of Orange Township 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.

The Orange Board of Education Department of Human Resources strives to maintain the requirements of the NCLB Law that all newly hired teachers meet the highly qualified requirements for their particular position.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the state of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. We recommended that teachers take the appropriate test to demonstrate proficiency in their particular content area based on the grade and subject. We will continue to offer teachers professional development opportunities of best practices, outstanding teaching models, and programs to help our children.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We have been diligent in making sure that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child, as defined by 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 Title I parents, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at www.ed.gov/nclb. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Lee
Superintendent of Schools