



# ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 15, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was our country's most important education law. This law is now called the **No Child Left Behind Act**. *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help our students achieve more in school.

The law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives federal funding and we are happy to share this information with you.

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 federal 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; and
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 in the Rockaway 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 his or her own 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.

All Rockaway Township teachers already meet this legal definition of "highly qualified."

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. Teachers will soon be able to take a new test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities and experience.

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 his or her teacher on a regular basis. For more information on the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and the role of Title I parents, please review the previous information sent home in the School Parent/Compact which indicates all our responsibilities as a school, parent, and student. By partnering together as families and educators ó we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Very truly,

Michael J. McGovern  
Principal  
Catherine A Dwyer Elementary School