

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ALLENDALE, NJ 07401

September 28, 2016

Dear Parents,

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by the U.S. Congress late last year and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Although NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under NCLB was eliminated from the ESSA. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey are still required to hold the appropriate state certification/license for their position.

Under the ESSA, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and professionals. Our school district receives Title I funding, and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

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 Allendale Public School District. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and are evaluated each year to make sure their learning skills remain at the highest possible level.

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 ESSA, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDA) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Barcadepone, Ed. D.  
Superintendent