

## Highly Qualified Teacher Information

### 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 (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 received 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 his/her knowledge in the subject he/she teaches.

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 Monroe 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.

Most teachers already meet this legal definition of highly-qualified. All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition. According to NCLB, veteran teachers hired before the 2002-2003 school year who do not meet the legal definition of highly qualified had until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to do so. The State of New Jersey requested flexibility from the United States Department of Education to extend the deadline to the end of the 2006-2007 school year. All Monroe Township Public School teachers are highly qualified.

Monroe Township highly qualified teachers know what to teach, how to teach, and possess a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We know that every teacher in our district is fully qualified and dedicated to teach your child.

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 parents, please visit the United States Department of Education web site at [www.ed.gov/nclb](http://www.ed.gov/nclb). By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education.

Sincerely,  
Charles M. Earling  
Superintendent of Schools

*Monroe Township Public Schools involve parents in the decision-making process to plan and implement a parental-involvement program and activities to help improve student academic achievement and school performance. Our parent-involvement policy is available on our district web site.*