

# TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

*“Children Come First, niños son primeros.”*

James Earle  
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the U.S. Congress 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 still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the *ESSA*, all districts receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our district schools receive 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 Trenton Public School District. All our classroom teachers have college degrees, and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher is required to continue to enhance instructional skills through participation in targeted professional development activities. Additionally, all of our teachers are regularly evaluated each year by building and district administrators to ensure that their teaching 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 (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

Through building a collaborative partnership, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible. Together we can reach our mission *to create a challenging learning environment that encourages high expectations for all students*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James N. Earle".

James N. Earle  
Superintendent of Schools