



## *Saddle Brook School District*

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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 ESEA. 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 schools who received Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Some of our schools receive this federal funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon request.

We believe nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and qualified teacher. 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 Saddle Brook School District. All of our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition to having all required certifications, every Saddle Brook teacher continues learning through professional development activities. Also, each Saddle Brook teacher is professionally evaluated each year in accordance with Achieve NJ to make sure their instruction remains at the highest possible level.

We encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her 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>.

This partnership of families and teachers in our district will enable the Saddle Brook School District to provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

*Toni Violetti*

*Director of Curriculum & Instruction*