Carter C. Raymond Junior High

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Principal: Dr. Jill Summers **Assistant Principal**: Dr. Cheronda Cooper
Lead Teacher: Mr. Julius LaCaze

Right-to-Know Letter

August 11, 2025

Dear Parents,

The *Every Student Succeed 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 Louisiana still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the *ESSA*, all schools receiving Title 1 funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our school receives Title 1 funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

Louisiana has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Rapides Parish 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 our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure 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 https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/laws-preschool-grade-12-education/every-student-succeeds-act-essa

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Summers
Principal, Carter C Raymond Junior High