

Thomas Heyward Academy

Parents' Right-to-Know Policy

(ESSA Compliance Statement)



Purpose: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides parents with the right to request and receive timely information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and instructional staff. Thomas Heyward Academy supports full transparency and is committed to communicating this information to parents upon request.

Parent Rights: Under ESSA, parents and guardians of children enrolled at Thomas Heyward Academy may request the following information about their child's classroom teacher(s):

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher provides instruction.*
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional status by which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.*
3. The teacher's college major, any graduate degrees, and certifications held.
4. Whether the child is provided instructional support by paraprofessionals and, if so, the qualifications of those paraprofessionals.
5. ***Important Notice:** *As an independent school, Thomas Heyward Academy requires all classroom teachers to hold at least a **bachelor's degree**. However, teachers are **not required to hold a state-issued teaching certificate**.*

Contact Information: Parents who wish to obtain information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers may submit a written request or contact the school office at: 843-726-3673