



PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

IDA SMITH
Chief Academic Officer

JEFFREY HAVERS
Superintendent
ADELINA GIANNETTI
Assistant Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, enacted on December 10, 2015, 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 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 schools 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 school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request. Additionally, schools are required to provide timely notice that a student has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements.

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 **Helen Fort Middle School**. All our 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 <http://www.ed.gov/essa>. Questions regarding this notification should be sent to the district by contacting Ida Smith, Chief Academic Officer, via email at ismith@pemb.org.

By partnering, families and educators can ensure the best education possible is provided to your child.

Sincerely,

Aaron Eyler
Principal

PHONE: 609-893-8141 Ext. 1010 EMAIL: ismith@pemb.org

Office: One Egbert Street, Pemberton, New Jersey 08068 • www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/curriculum

Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time