



**MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, enacted on December 10, 2015, is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). In New Jersey, all educators 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. All MOTSD schools with the exception of Sandshore Elementary School, were deemed eligible to receive Title I funding by the NJDOE 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 Mount Olive Township School District. 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.

For multilingual learners who qualify for ESL services, a separate letter will be sent in your home language, as well as in English, to inform you of the ESL services to be provided to your child. The entry and exit criteria for ESL services are based on state mandated English proficiency tests (WIDA Model and ACCESS tests). Students who score below a 4.5 on the WIDA model are eligible for ESL services. Students receiving ESL services will have their English language proficiency measured via the NJ state mandated assessment. Performance on this assessment (typically 4.5 or higher), along with an English Language Observation Form completed by general education teachers, will determine ability to exit the program.

We encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESEA*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at [Elementary and Secondary Education](#) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) website at [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) in New Jersey](#). By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elizabeth McDermond, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Kathleen Regan, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

