Washington Township
Public Schools

Eileen Abbott
Central Administration Building
Office of the Assistant
Superintendent of Curriculum
and Instruction
206 East Holly Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080
(856) 589-6644, ext. 6325

Title I – Parents' Right-to-Know

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
Wedgwood Elementary School
Orchard Valley Middle School
Washington Township High School

September 9, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is attending a Title I School within our district. 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 wa*s 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. The schools listed in this correspondence receive 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 Washington 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.

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Additional Notification Required Under ESSA

Parents and guardians may request, and the district will provide, information regarding the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

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 at the Office of Curriculum and Instruction (856-589-6644 x6325).

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

Sincerely,

Gretchen Gerber

Gretchen Gerber
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Washington Township Public Schools