The Oakland K-8 Public Schools

"One Community....One Vision....Committed to Excellence"

Office of the Superintendent
315 Ramapo Valley Road
Oakland, New Jersey 07436

DR. GINA M. COFFARO
Superintendent of Schools

Tel. (201) 337-6156
Fax. (201) 405-1237

September 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA),* enacted on December 10, 2015, replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and remains as 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 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.

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 Oakland K-8 Public School District. All our teachers must have college degrees and many have advanced degrees with multiple certifications. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Sean Bowe
Dogwood Hill Elementary School Principal