Right To Request Parent Square Message

Subject:

Parent Notification Letter Right to Request Information on Teacher Qualifications and Assessment Opt Out Policies As Required Under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended*

Body of Message:

Greetings Francis C. Hammond Community,

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(1)(A) states that as a parent of a student in an Alexandria City Public School Title I school, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers instructing your child. Federal law requires the school division to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- 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 because of special circumstances.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification or degree he/she received.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

The Virginia Department of Education maintains a web portal which may answer some of these questions. The web address for this service is: https://vadoe.mylicense.com/verification/. Or, if you would like to receive any of this information, please contact your student's principal.

Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. More information is provided on the ACPS Assessment Website or you may contact your student's principal."

Sincerely,

Anika Buster-Singleton
Principal