

POMPTON LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
237 Van Avenue  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
(973-835-7100  
Fax (973-835-1748

*Jayne L. Tanis*  
*Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Testing*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. In 2015 this law was reauthorized and is now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. *ESSA* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

Although *ESSA* 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 *ESSA*. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their teaching assignment.

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. Many of our schools receive 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 Pompton Lakes School District. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and are evaluated each year to ensure 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 Title I parents, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

*Jayne L. Tanis*