

Fall, 2018

Dear UCVT Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was passed by the U.S. congress and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which is our country's most important federal education law. ESSA was designed to incorporate changes in instruction and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach in **core content areas** must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

- A four-year college degree
- A regular teaching certificate/license
- Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject they teach

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 Union County Vocational-Technical School District. All our academic teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The state of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level. All of our district teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child.

Our school utilizes Title I funds by providing additional math classes negotiated by pre and post tests administered by our math teacher. We also utilize the free and reduced lunch reports via the state regulations to determine student eligibility.

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 *NCLB*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site at [www.ed.gov/nclb](http://www.ed.gov/nclb).

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

Sincerely,

*Peter A. Capodice*

Peter A. Capodice, Superintendent