



STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dennis Fyffe
Interim Superintendent

Clifford Burns
Principal

September 11, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Act was our Country's most important education law. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and is now called the *No Child Left behind Act* (NCLB). NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching 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 must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive federal funding. The legal definition of a Highly Qualified Teacher has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree;
2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
3. Proof of their 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 Stanhope Public School. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The state of New Jersey has always required teaching professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

Our teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified. All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition. According to NCLB, veteran teachers, hired before the 2002-2003 school year, who do not yet meet the legal definition of highly qualified, had until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to do so. The entire teaching staff at Stanhope Public School District is certified Highly Qualified!

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 Title I parents, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at www.ed.gov/nclb. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fyffe

Dennis Fyffe
Interim Superintendent