



**STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL  
24 VALLEY ROAD, STANHOPE NJ 07874  
973-347-0008 973-347-8368 FAX**

**LINDEN AVENUE SCHOOL  
19 LINDEN AVE, STANHOPE NJ 07874  
973-448-2830 973-448-2831 FAX  
[www.stanhopeschools.org](http://www.stanhopeschools.org)**

**Maria Cleary  
Chief School Administrator**

**Nadia Inskeep  
Assistant Principal**

August 22, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardian,

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and is now called *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.

This 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. Stanhope Public Schools receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that a vital component to your child's education is a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach 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:

1. A four year college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate
3. 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 Stanhope Public School District. All of our regular 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. Most teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified, teachers in New Jersey are required to meet this definition.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the state of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers may take a content praxis test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a college major in the content.

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.

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) website 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,

Nadia Inskeep