

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

RICK FALKENSTEIN
Superintendent/Principal

880 County Road 519
Frenchtown, New Jersey 08825
(908) 996-2941
FAX (908) 996-7268

SCOTT YERGER
Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents,

The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* is currently our country's most important federal education law. *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that 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. 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 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 (bachelor's) degree;
2. A standard teaching certificate for which no requirements have been waived; and
3. Documentation of his/her content area expertise or knowledge in each subject he/she teaches.

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 Kingwood Township 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. All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition while veteran teachers hired before that date needed to be highly qualified by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The New Jersey Department of Education's School Report Cards now provide information about the highly qualified teacher requirement and can be accessed at <http://education.state.nj.us/rc/nclb07/index.html>.

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 are able to take a new test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities, and experience. 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, and we will do everything possible to help our teachers who may not yet meet the legal definition required by the federal government.

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 Web site at www.ed.gov/nclb. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Rick Falkenstein
Superintendent/Principal