



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)*. The *ESSA* replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*. *ESSA* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

Although *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under *NCLB* was eliminated from the *ESSA*. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

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. Our school receives 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 at BelovED Community Charter School. All of our 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.

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 parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

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

Sincerely,



Michele A. Link

Dean of Instruction/Title I Coordinator