

Israel Marmolejos
Principal

Carole Durna
Secretary

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Dear Parent/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 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 1 funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Great Meadows Middle School receives Title 1 funds and has this information available at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-trained and highly qualified staff. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title 1 funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have: a four-year college degree, a regular teaching certificate/license, and 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 the Great Meadows Regional 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 to develop as professionals through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

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(ren).

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child(ren)'s teachers on a regular basis. For more information on NCLB, and the role of the Title 1 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,

Israel Marmolejos
Principal
Great Meadows Middle School