

Winchester School District  
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Dr. Kenneth R. Dassau,  
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### Parent's Right to Know

August 29, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a long-awaited overhaul of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or more commonly referred to as the No Child Left Behind Act, ESSA passed with bipartisan support, and encourages states and schools to innovate, while at the same time maintaining an emphasis on state and local systems of improvement and strengthening a more balanced assessment and accountability system.

ESSA establishes a framework for preparing students for life beyond K-12, whether that is attending college or pursuing a career. The reauthorized Act largely continues Congress' interest in ensuring that the nation's investment in elementary and secondary education is in service of our most vulnerable youth. This includes:

- Ensuring students graduate high school ready for college and the workplace;
- Reducing gaps among student groups in achievement, opportunity and graduation;
- Supporting and improving struggling schools;
- Improving school conditions for student learning, including the use of technology to improve academic achievement;
- Providing all students with access to a well-rounded education;
- Expanding access to high-quality early learning opportunities, and
- Keeping the focus on high-quality classroom instruction through professional development and meaningful feedback for educators.

Under ESSA, parents have a right to request professional qualifications of their children's teacher(s) or paraprofessional(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about your children's classroom teachers or paraprofessionals:

- Whether New Hampshire has licensed the teacher for the grades and subjects, he/she teaches.

- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which New Hampshire licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's baccalaureate degree major and whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive specific information about your child's teacher or paraprofessional, please contact your school principal.

Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts to provide the best education for your child's 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.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Kenneth R. Dassau, Superintendent