

# RINGWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

121 CARLETONDALE ROAD  
RINGWOOD, NJ 07456



Dr. Nicholas Bernice, Superintendent  
bernice@ringwoodschoools.org  
Phone: 973-962-7028  
Fax: 973-962-9211

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important education law. In 2001 this Law was reauthorized and is called the **No Child Left Behind Act**. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB/ESSA) was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help our students achieve more in school.

The law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their children's teachers. Our school receives federal funding, and we are happy to share this information with you.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well prepared and highly qualified teacher. The NCLB law requires that all teachers must meet a specific, legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive federal funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified" teacher has three parts. It states that the teacher must have:

1. A four-year college degree;
2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the 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 Ringwood School District. All of our teachers currently meet the federal definition of "highly qualified." Every teacher has a college degree and many have advanced degrees. The State of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers and Ringwood's entire instructional staff is State Department of Education certified. In addition, every teacher continues his or her own 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.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the State of New Jersey and our school district have worked together to help our teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Many of our teachers have taken a new test, or they have demonstrated their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities and experience. As a result, 100% of Ringwood's instructional staff for the 2015-2016 school year meets the federal definition of a "Highly Qualified" Teacher.

Ringwood has an outstanding teaching staff, each of whom is certified to teach in New Jersey, and we assure you that each teacher is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child. We encourage you to support your child in his/her educational experience and communicate with his/her teacher on a regular basis. You should take advantage of our website [www.ringwoodschoools.org](http://www.ringwoodschoools.org), including Parent Portal, where you can monitor your child's academic assignments and view his/her teachers' comments. By working together as parents and educators we can provide your child with the best educational experience possible.