



2015 - 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

At Newark Legacy Charter School, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal rules related to teacher qualifications as defined in No Child Left Behind. These rules allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact the school at (973) 374-7000.

Sincerely,

NLCS Leadership

## **NCLB: Parent's Right to Know Qualifications of Scholar's Teachers<sup>i</sup>**

Did you know you have a right to know the qualifications of your scholar's teachers and paraprofessionals? Did you know that your school district must notify you of your right to request information about the qualifications of your scholar's teachers and paraprofessionals?

At the beginning of the school year, the school district must notify parents of all scholars who attend Title I schools of their right to request information about the qualifications of your scholar's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

- (1) Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- (2) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- (3) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- (4) Whether the scholar is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

### ***Qualifications of Substitute Teachers***

Is a substitute teacher teaching your scholar? If a teacher who is not highly qualified for 4 consecutive weeks has taught your scholar, your school district must notify you of this fact. This requirement applies to substitute teachers, many of whom do not meet "highly qualified" requirements. [Source: NCLB, Title I, Section 1111(h)(6)]

### ***How to Request Information about Teacher Qualifications***

If you want to learn the qualifications of your scholar's teachers and paraprofessionals, you need to write a letter to request this information from the school.

You may want to print a copy of the article, [Teacher Quality: Frequently Asked Questions](#) from the U. S. Department of Education, and include this with your letter.

### **Links: Teacher Quality Resources**

[Teacher Quality: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Improving Teacher Quality](#) - Free pub from U.S. Department of Education includes standards for highly qualified teachers and clarifies parents' right to know about the quality of their scholars' teachers; is written in an easy-to-understand "Question and Answer: format.

[Facts About Good Teachers](#) from No Scholar Left Behind site.

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