

# William H. Ross III Elementary School

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**John DiNicola**

**Principal**

September 22, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardian:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help our students improve achievement in school. The law requires that all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their rights to ask schools about qualifications of their child'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 than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet 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 the following:

1. A four-year college degree;
2. An appropriate grade-level or subject-area teaching certificate
3. 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 Margate 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 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.

The definition of "highly qualified" does not stop with our district's teachers. Each of our district's aides also meets the definition of a "highly qualified" paraprofessional. Those requirements include the following:

1. at least an Associate's Degree or
2. successful completion of a special equivalency exam (PRAXIS) approved by the Department of Education

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her teachers on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

John DiNicola  
Title I (NCLB) Coordinator