WEST LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Betty McElmon Elementary ⬧ 20 Parker Road ⬧ West Long Branch, NJ 07764
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September 12, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Although NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under NCLB was eliminated from ESSA. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey are still required to hold the appropriate State certificate/license for their given position.

Under the ESSA, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents and guardians of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our school receives Title I funding, and we are happy to share this information with you.

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 West Long Branch School District. All of our teachers have college degrees, and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher has the appropriate certification and continues his or her own learning through professional development activities. Our teachers are evaluated each year to ensure that their teaching skills and strategies remain at the highest possible level.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her teachers on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA and the role of parents and guardians, please visit the United States Department of Education's website at http://www.ed.gov/essa. By partnering together—families and educators—we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Erhardt
BME Principal