

September, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. In December 2015, the "*Every Student Succeeds Act*" (*ESSA*) was signed into law. The *ESSA* replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. Highlights of *ESSA* include holding all students to high academic standards and ensuring that the lowest-performing students are provided appropriate supports for academic success.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of information regarding supports and resources available at the Salem County Vocational Technical School. As we continue to monitor student performance and provide professional development for our staff in meeting the needs of our students, we look to provide additional support to support their learning. Staff is available to provide individualized support to students who are struggling to demonstrate academic achievement.

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 the *ESSA*. Despite this fact, all educators in New Jersey still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the *ESSA*, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents 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 upon your request.

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 Salem County Vocational-Technical School District. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESSA*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

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

Sincerely,
Jason Helder
Principal