



## Somerdale Public School District

301 Grace Street  
Somerdale, New Jersey 08083  
(856) 783-6261 (856) 783-2607 FAX  
[www.Somerdale-park.org](http://www.Somerdale-park.org)



**Mr. Robert Ford**  
Vice-Principal

**Mr. Mark Pease**  
Superintendent/ Principal

**Ms. Melissa Engelhardt**  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

September 10, 2018

Re: Parents Right to Know Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was signed into law on December 10, 2015. The *ESSA* replaced the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* to become 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 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 at Somerdale Park. 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>.

Thank you for your understanding and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Ford".

Mr. Robert Ford  
Vice Principal  
Title 1 Coordinator