

**VERNON
TOWNSHIP
TITLE I
SCHOOLS**

Cedar Mountain PS

PO Box 420
17 Sammis Road
Vernon, NJ 07462
(P) 973-764-2890
(F) 973-764-3294
Principal:
Rosemary Gebhardt

Rolling Hills PS

PO Box 769
60 Sammis Road
Vernon, NJ 07462
(P) 973-764-2784
(F) 973-764-3284
Principal:
Stewart Stumper

**Lounsberry Hollow
School**

PO Box 219
30 Sammis Road
Vernon, NJ 07462
(P) 973-764-8745
(F) 973-764-101
Principal:
Dennis Mudrick

Glen Meadow MS

PO Box 516
7 Sammis Road
Vernon, NJ 07462
(P) 973-764-8981
(F) 973-764-3295
Principal:
Edwina Piszczek

**Supervisor
Language Arts**

Karen Stoeckel
PO Box 516
625 Rt. 517
Vernon, NJ 07462
(P) 973-764-6552
(F) 973-764-0101



Vernon Township School District
625 Route 517/P.O. Box 99
Vernon, New Jersey 07462
(973) 764-2900 (Phone) (973) 764-0033 (Fax)

Karen D'Avino, Superintendent of Schools
Charles McKay, D.Litt., Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Steven A. Kepnes, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, and represents good news for our nation's schools. ESSA builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country. ESSA was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach in core content areas must meet a specific legal definition to "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I 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. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject he/she teaches

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 Vernon Township School District. All 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 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.

Most teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified. Teachers in the state of New Jersey are still required to meet this definition.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the state of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers may take a content Praxis test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a college major in the content.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child, and we will do everything possible to help our teachers who may not yet meet the legal definition required by the federal government.

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 State Department of Education (USDE) website at www.ed.gov/essa.

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

Ms. Karen D'Avino

Karen D'Avino Wood
Superintendent

Dr. Charles McKay

Dr. Charles McKay,
Assistant Superintendent