



Norma Elementary School

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Patience Respect Integrity Diligence Empathy

Dr. Priscilla Ocasio-Jiménez, Principal (ext. 4732)

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

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 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 Pittsgrove Township School District. In addition to holding undergraduate college degrees, many teachers have advanced degrees. Most importantly, our district's purpose is about *growing all learners to thrive* and is why the district strives to provide engaging, targeted professional learning opportunities and activities for teachers. Our teachers are evaluated each year and provided feedback to ensure their content knowledge and 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> or the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) website at <https://www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA/>. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Priscilla Ocasio-Jiménez

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Principal