

Dear *Pace Charter School of Hamilton* Parent:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. In 2001, this law was reauthorized and is now called the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). NCLB 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 must meet a specific legal definition of "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:

- ★ A four-year college degree
- ★ A regular teaching certificate/license
- ★ Proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach

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 *Pace Charter School of Hamilton*. All of our 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 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. I am proud to report that all teachers at *Pace Charter School of Hamilton* meet the legal definition of highly qualified. A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. .

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. For more information on NCLB and the role of Title I parents, visit the United States Department of Education website at www.ed.gov/nclb. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Pontoriero
Lead Person