

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear High Point Parents or Guardians:

Greetings! I hope all is well with you and your family, and that you are experiencing a successful start to the new school year.

In 2015 the No Child Left Behind Act was reauthorized and is now called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools. 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 are still required to hold the appropriate state certification for their given position. Under ESSA, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. We will 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 High Point. All of 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 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 States Department of Education website at www.ed.gov/essa. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

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Seamus Campbell