

FALMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Learn with passion! Lead with confidence! Live with character!
1000 FORBES STREET • FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22405

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

SALLIE JOHNAKIN-PUTNAM – PRINCIPAL
NICHOLAS KENNEDY – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



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**Right to Request Information on Teacher Qualifications
As Required Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
Parent's Right to Know and Opt Out Letter**

September 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Part I

On January 8, 2002, the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) was signed into law. Section 1111(h)(6)(A) states that as a parent of a student in Falmouth Elementary School, which receives Title I funds, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers instructing your child. Federal law requires the school division to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the **right to request** the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the teacher meets the state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grades and subjects s/he teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

Part II

In addition, the NCLB federal law requires that the school shall provide the following:

- Parents should be provided the level of achievement of their children each year based on the results of state assessments.
- Parents should be invited to an annual meeting to inform parents of their right to be involved in the planning of school improvement programs. In addition, a number of parent meetings should be scheduled to involve parents in decisions related to the education of their children.
- Include parents in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents.
- Parents should be involved in decisions that determine how federal funds for parental involvement are used, including activities promoting family literacy and parenting skills.
- A school-parent compact should be developed that outlines how parents and the school share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Part III

In addition, we are required to notify you that our school's performance on state standardized tests is available for parents to review. The state school report card can be found on the Virginia Department Of Education's website at: <http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/schools/falmouth-elementary> or you can request a printed copy in the front office of our school.

Part IV- Opt-out

Section 1112(e)(2) of the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) requires divisions that receive Title I, Part A, funds to notify parents of students attending Title I schools that the parents may request information regarding any state or division policy regarding student participation in required assessments.

· *At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable. The notice must be made available in any language as requested by a parent.*

A revision on December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title I schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments.

If you would like to receive **any** of this information, please contact Sallie Johnakin-Putnam, Principal, either by phone at 540-373-7458, or in writing at Falmouth Elementary School, 1000 Forbes Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia, 22405.

Sincerely,

Sallie Johnakin-Putnam

Falmouth Elementary School Principal