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1005 State Street ~ East St. Louis, Illinois 62201

(618) 646-3000

(618) 586-7186 Fax

www.estl189.com

Arthur R. Culver
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* into law. *ESSA* reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 "to ensure that every child achieves." *ESSA* is the nation's general education law, and as such, has been revised by Congress many times over the years. The last reauthorization took place in 2001 and was called the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*.

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 Illinois are still 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 inquire about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. District 189 schools receive Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you **upon your request.**

East St. Louis School District 189 has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in our school district. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, our educators continue learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

A. The following information may be requested about the professional qualifications of classroom teacher(s):

1. Whether the teacher has met Illinois teacher certification requirements for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which Illinois qualifications or certification criteria have been waived
3. The college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher

B. Information may be requested as to whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. Paraprofessionals must work under the supervision of a certified teacher and meet professional qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning the qualifications of your child's teachers and instructional paraprofessionals, please contact Kimberly Mitchell at Kimberly.mitchell@est189.com or (618) 664-3071. If you have questions or concerns, please also contact the school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Culver". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur Culver, Superintendent