

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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August 1, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by the U. S. Congress and signed into law on December 10, 2015. The ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and is the most recent authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The ESSA builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country.

ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for our students and our schools. Below are just a few. The law:

- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high need students.
- Requires that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students, and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Sustains and expands access to high-quality preschool.
- Requires that all schools receiving federal funds inform parents of their right to ask schools about our parental involvement activities and about the qualifications of our teaching staff, including paraprofessionals.

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country and we are extremely proud of the teaching staff in the Kearny School District. All of our teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. 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.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) website at www.ed.gov/essa.

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,



Patricia Blood, Superintendent of Schools