

August, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

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

*Some key items of note:*

- ESSA replaces NCLB and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Full implementation began July 1, 2017
- Requires at least three performance goals in the areas of student instruction and growth, parent involvement, and professional development.
- Moves accountability from Title III/ELL to Title I for English language learner students.
- Districts must notify parents of their rights to request and receive information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers/Title I staff.

Your child's school receives a limited amount of Title I funding and is covered under ESSA guidelines.

Under ESSA, parents/guardians have a right to know the professional qualifications of their children's Title teacher, instructional assistant and or the program coordinator. This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about each of your child's teachers, the school's literacy specialist, and/or the school's instructional assistants.

- Whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status through which state licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subjects of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional assistant provides services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive specific information about your building's instructional staff member(s) or your schools Title I program or parent policy, please contact your school's Chief Executive Officer.

Independence Charter School West, which implements a Title I Schoolwide Program, is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me ([seang@icswest.org](mailto:seang@icswest.org)) if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

May we all have a productive, safe, and healthy school year!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Sean Gallagher  
Chief Executive Officer