



HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Highly Qualified Teacher
School Year 2016-2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal law required teachers to be, or become, “Highly Qualified.” The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which became law in December 2015, no longer requires that all teachers teaching core academic classes meet a specific, federal definition of “Highly Qualified.” New ESSA requirements will be effective School Year (SY) 2017-2018. As the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) works through this transition from NCLB to ESSA, we believe that teacher quality is important and have elected to maintain the current NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher requirements through SY2016-2017.

As a parent/guardian of a HIDOE student, you continue to have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher(s) and the educational assistant(s) who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child’s classroom teacher(s) and educational assistant(s) and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner upon request.

You have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teacher(s).

1. Whether the teacher has met licensing criteria and has earned the designation of Highly Qualified for the grade levels and subject areas in which he/she teaches. Core academic subjects include: • English/language arts • Mathematics • Science • Foreign Languages • Civics and Government • Economics • History • Geography • Art
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
3. The teacher’s college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
4. Whether any teachers’ aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact our school office.

Mahalo,

Bernie Tyrell

James B. Castle High School, Principal