

# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 is the most current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. ESSA includes provisions that help ensure success for students and schools by:

- advancing equity by upholding protections for disadvantaged and high-need students.
- requiring that all students be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- ensuring that information is provided to educators, families, students and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- helping to support and grow local innovations - including evidence-based and place-based interventions developed by local leaders and educators.
- sustaining and expanding investments in increasing access to high-quality preschool
- maintaining an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress, and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

ESSA was adopted, in part, to ensure that schools and school districts across the country employ teachers and instructional assistants who meet applicable state certification and licensure requirements in schools that receive federal funds.

At the beginning of each school year, Lexington One is required to notify families, parents, and guardians in all Title I served buildings that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s).

The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
  - has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade level(s) and subject area(s) in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - the college major and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher.
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Lexington One's Board of Trustees places top priority on hiring teachers and paraprofessionals for all our classrooms who meet applicable state certification and licensure requirements.

As part of our continued commitment to excellence, we ask each teacher to make information about his/her qualifications available on his/her teacher webpage, Schoology page, etc. You can access that information by going to the website of your child's school. The district's website address is [www.lexington1.net](http://www.lexington1.net). You can get to each school's website from there.

If you neither own a computer nor have access to the internet, the Gilbert, Lexington and Pelion branches of the Lexington County Public Library system provide internet access. If you still cannot get this information from our website and would like to receive it, send a letter to your child's principal. In that letter, please give your child's name, the name of the teacher or paraprofessional, and the grade or subject that person teaches. Your principal will provide you with the information in a timely manner after receiving your request.

Also, in Title I schools, notification will be sent to parents for a child who is taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks that does not meet state licensure requirements for the grade or subject level.