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RIVER EDGE Public Schools
BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

Nicholas Bernice, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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September 1, 2026

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* replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*.

Under ESSA, all schools receiving federal funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our schools receive Title I funding, and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the River Edge School District. All of our teachers must have an undergraduate degree from a recognized college or university, and 72% have at least one graduate degree. The State of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition to having all required certifications, every River Edge teacher continues their own 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(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESSA* and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at this link.

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

Sincerely,

Nicholas Bernice, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools