PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SHINING BRIGHTER TOGETHER

Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Office of Federal Programs
2200 Piedmont Avenue
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
(757) 393-8611
Renee Hales, Program Director

October 8, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA}* was signed into law. Section 1112(e)(1)(A) states that as a parent of a student in a school receiving Title I funds, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers instructing your child. Federal law requires the school division to provide you this information in a timely manner if you request it. Specifically, you have the right to request the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived.

3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

4. Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to request this information, please contact our Human Resources department for Portsmouth Public Schools, by calling (757) 393-8701.

Please note that you can also obtain additional information about your child's school by accessing the *Va. Department of Education School Quality Profile Report* on each school's website. This document gives detailed information about the academic performance of the children in our schools. If you have difficulty accessing the link or would like a written copy of the School Quality Profile Report, please contact your principal.

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cc: Chief Human Resource Officer

October 8, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On December 10, 2015, the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* (ESSA) was signed into law. Section lll2(e)(2) of ESSA states that parents of students in Title l schools have a right to know about state or division policies regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by ESSA, including any policy, procedure, or parental right to opt students out of such assessments. If you would like to request this information, please contact Derrick Nottingham, Director of Research and Evaluation for Portsmouth Public Schools, by calling (757) 393-8840.

All students enrolled in Virginia public schools are expected to take the applicable state tests. ***The Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia state:***

> *"In kindergarten through eighth grade, where the administration of Virginia assessment program tests are required by the Board of Education, each student shall be expected to take the tests" and "each student in middle and secondary schools shall take all applicable end-of-course SOL tests following course instruction" (8VAC20-131-30).*
>
> *The Virginia regulations* ***do not*** *provide for what is sometimes referred to as an* ***"opt out policy"*** *for students regarding the Virginia assessments. If parents refuse to have their student participate in one or more of the required Virginia assessments, they should be aware that their student's state assessment score report will reflect a score of 11 0 11 for any test that is refused.*

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