



1.5 Parents Right-to-Know

The parent's right-to-know provision allows parents, guardians, and stakeholders the ability to request the qualifications of their child's classroom teacher. Under ESSA § 1112(e)(1)(A), at the beginning of each year, an LEA shall notify parents that they may request and the LEA will provide certain information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's teachers and paraprofessionals. This includes information about whether the student's teacher:

- 1) Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- 2) Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- 3) Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
- 4) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Even though the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) eliminated the highly qualified requirement, the parents' right-to-know provision now focuses on students being taught by teachers who do not meet the state certification or licensure at the grade-level and subject they are teaching. For information on teacher certification and licensing, please visit the Tennessee Department of Education's website at <https://www.tn.gov/education/section/licensing>.

Required Deadlines:

- Parents must be informed annually at the start of the school year.
- If a change in placement occurs during the school year, then the notification must be sent home as well.

Available Resources:

- Regional Consultant
- In ePlan:
 1. TDOE Resources
 2. ESSA Information & Guidance
 3. ESSA Highly Qualified Requirements
- Sample ESSA Parents Right-to-Know 1 & 2

Action Steps & Recommended Timeline:

- May-June: Ensure all Title I Schools administrators are aware of the requirement. District-level staff may want to consider providing a blurb for school-level publications and websites.
 - June-July: Review all blurbs to ensure wording is correct.
 - Aug.: All Title I Schools should provide information to parents, guardian, and stakeholders.
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