



ECO Charter School

ENVIRONMENT · COMMUNITY · OPPORTUNITY

TITLE I PARENTS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW LETTER: 09.10.15

Dear ECO Parent/Guardian—

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is one of our country's most important federal education laws. The law was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and renamed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); NCLB's associated program funding is known as Title I. Title I funds are federal monies allotted to public and public charter schools to help all students achieve academic success. The funds are used to provide supplementary instruction to students at risk for academic underachievement and to more completely involve families in the academic lives of their children. ECO Charter School is a recipient of this funding.

The criteria used to identify Title I program student participation include but are not limited to teacher recommendation, STAR 360 test data, grade level benchmark literacy and mathematics tests and previous program participation. Student participants, depending upon individual needs may receive up to 120 minutes of individualized or small group instruction via an interventionist during school hours in Reading, Math or in both subjects. Some students may also be eligible to receive tutoring. Students receive the supplemental support weekly and are monitored every

four week to determine whether the supplemental instruction is helping the students make academic progress. Students exit the program when grade level proficiency is reached; the same measurements used to determine participation are used to make decisions regarding program continuance.

The ESEA law itself requires that all schools receiving Title I funding inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of teachers. We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education than having a well-prepared, committed teacher. Faculty members must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funds. The legal definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

1. *A four-year college degree;*
2. *A teaching certificate/license;*
3. *Proof of her/his knowledge in the subject areas in which she/he teachers.*

All ECO teacher are highly qualified and certified by the State of New Jersey. A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We are extremely proud of the quality of our teaching staff at ECO Charter School. New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers, including those who work in

charter schools. In addition, every teacher continues learning through official in-service programs and professional development activities; our teachers are evaluated several times each year to ensure their teaching skills are sufficient to meet student needs.

I encourage you to support your child's academic growth by becoming more involved in the life of our school and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. You are invited to help plan and participate in our monthly Home and School Alliance events and/or volunteer in your child's classroom! For more information on ESEA, NCLB, Title I and/or parental engagement, please visit the United States Department of Education website at www.ed.gov/nclb and/or contact me. We have vacancies on our Title I Committee. By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

With warm regards, I am,
Antoinette C. Dendtler, Ed.D.
Founder & Head of School/Lead Person

CC: File
C. Murphy
Assistant Business Administrator