



**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**153 Winthrop Road**  
**Edison, NJ 08817**  
[WWW.EDISON.K12.NJ.US](http://WWW.EDISON.K12.NJ.US)

**Joan Valentine,**  
**Principal**

**(732)-650-5280**  
**Fax.(732)-650-5283**

September 13, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* is our country's most important federal education law. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and is now called the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)*. *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our district receives Title I funding to supplement the programs in the Title I schools.

The law requires that all teachers who teach in core content areas must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. 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 regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject they teach

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 Washington Elementary School. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition, every teacher continues 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.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. Every teacher in our district is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. For more information on NCLB and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) website at [www.ed.gov/esea](http://www.ed.gov/esea).

By partnering with your son/daughter's school, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Valentine**

Principal

***Lighting the Path for the Future***