

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), is designed to help disadvantaged children reach high academic standards.

**One of the most important factors in raising student achievement is a high-quality teacher.**

Research shows that teacher subject-matter knowledge is greatly associated with student learning. In this era of high standards and high expectations, having a high-quality teacher has never been more important. The law requires that all teachers in the classroom be certified. A teacher is "certified" if the teacher has obtained full North Carolina teacher certification, which may include certification obtained through alternative routes to certification or has passed the North Carolina teacher licensing examination and holds a license to teach in North Carolina. Certified teachers are also evaluated annually to determine their overall quality. High-quality teachers are teachers who are certified and who also have effective or highly effective teacher evaluations using objective data such as Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) ratings or other objective measures of evaluating teacher performance if the teacher is not rated by EVAAS.

ESSA also requires that all paraprofessionals providing academic support and paid with Title I, Part A Basic funds must meet minimum qualifications to be identified as highly qualified.

**Properly trained paraprofessionals can play important roles in improving student achievement** in Title I schools where they can reinforce and supplement a teacher's effort in the classroom. Title I requires that paraprofessionals meet higher standards of qualification and ensures that students who need the most help receive instructional support only from highly-qualified paraprofessionals.

NECP helps parents stay informed about the qualifications of the school staff by:

- Notifying parents, at the beginning of the school year, of their rights to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher(s)
- Providing, upon request by a parent, timely information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s)
- Providing, to the parent of a child who is provided services by a paraprofessional, information about the qualifications of the paraprofessional
- Providing timely notice to the parent(s) if a student has been taught four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned

To this end, North East Carolina Preparatory School is committed to hiring the most qualified teachers and paraprofessionals to achieve our school's mission of preparing our students for post-secondary success.