

*Geneva Area City Schools: Parent's Right To Know*

*September 2016*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Any school in receipt of Title I, Part A funds must inform parents if their child is assigned a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks who is not yet "highly qualified" under the terms and criteria outlined in law.

According to the Title I, Part A provisions, a "highly qualified" teacher is one who

1. Has obtained a bachelor's degree or higher;
2. Has obtained full state certification – in our state this means that the teacher has either a preliminary, initial, or professional teaching license; and
3. Has demonstrated competency in the core academic subject area(s) that he/she teaches.

Please know that all teachers who teach the core academic subjects had until June 30, 2006 to meet all three standards. This transition was deliberately written into the law to acknowledge that many states have certification and licensure requirements that differ from the new federal standards for teacher quality. This is true of our state. Although our state has some of the most demanding certification requirements in the country, these requirements do not automatically mean that every teacher meets the highly qualified standard, even if the teacher has been teaching for years and has been performing at high levels.

As of this writing, your child's teacher and all Geneva Area City School teachers serving Title I building programs have met the *requirements for Highly Qualified*. Should your child be placed with a teacher who has not yet the requirements for Highly Qualified for more than 4 weeks, you will be notified.

If you have any questions regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher please feel free to contact me. For additional information about the federal highly qualified teacher requirements and the state's policies related to them, please visit the department of education's Web site.

Sincerely,

Michael Penzenik

Principal

Geneva Platt R. Spencer School