

ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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"Building Foundations for Future Success."

CRAIG STAGE, SUPERINTENDENT

LAURA PERRY, BUSINESS MANAGER

August 23, 2018

Notice to Parents/Guardians of Elementary Students and Middle School Students:

A legislation that was signed into law by President George Bush in January 2002 expanded the federal government's role in the operation of public education and imposed a host of new obligations on local school districts. The legislation was called **No Child Left Behind**. Additionally, on top of that law, the Senate passed and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, **The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** which governs the United States K-12 Public Education policy. This new law tries to preserve the spirit of **No Child Left Behind**, while fixing what were widely perceived as its 'one-size-fits-all' approach. The goals of **No Child Left Behind** were high standards, accountability, closing the achievement gap, but it often fell short. It didn't always consider the specific needs of each community, led to too much testing during classroom time, and often forced schools and school districts into a cookie-cutter reform that didn't always produce the kinds of results that we, as a District, were trying to achieve.

Every Student Succeeds Act will provide the flexibility to continue with the initial law of **No Child Left Behind** with the goals to ensure that ALL children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic standards and state academic assessments. On top of that ESSA requires that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to be successful in college and careers.

One of the requirements under the law is that the parents of children in all Title I Schools have the right to request and receive timely information regarding the professional qualification of their child's classroom teacher. Athens Area School District Title I Schools consist of Lynch Bustin Elementary, SRU Elementary and Harlan Rowe Middle School.

All Elementary Teachers and Middle School Teachers in the Athens Area School District meet the qualification under federal guidelines of being "highly qualified".

Sincerely,


Mr. Craig J. Stage
Superintendent

Board President ~ John A. Johnson, IV Board Secretary ~ Nancy A. Russell
An equal opportunity employer in compliance with Title IX and Section 504