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Dear Parents and Guardians:

On December 10, 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law as Public Law Number 114-95. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 “to ensure that every child achieves.” ESSA is the nation’s general education law and, as such, has been revised by Congress many times over the years. The last reauthorization took place in 2001 and was called the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act/ PARENTS’ RIGHT-TO-KNOW, this is a notification from Talbot County Public Schools to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive in a timely manner: a) information regarding the professional qualifications of your student’s classroom teachers. *Please note: Talbot County Public Schools’ Title I schools are EES (Schoolwide) and WMES (Schoolwide), as well as SMES (Targeted Assistance) and TES (Targeted Assistance).* The information regarding the professional qualifications of your student’s classroom teachers shall include the following:

- i. If the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught; a. If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which the state qualifications and licensing criteria are waived; b. The teachers baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline; and c. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(A)(i)-(ii)]
- ii. Information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable. [ESSA 1112(e)(2)(A)] c) In addition to the above information you will be notified if your student has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the applicable state certification for licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school principal or you can reach me at 410-822-0330 ext. 133. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James P. Redman
Coordinator of Title I Programs

encl. *Parent’s Right to Know* [ESSA 1006(e)]

PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW ESSA 1006(e)

“(e)—PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW—“

(1) **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS—(A) IN GENERAL**—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following: “(i) Whether the student’s teacher— “(I) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; “(II) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and “(III) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher. “(ii) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications. **(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**.—In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph (A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent of a child who is a student in such school, with respect to such student— “(i) information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part; and “(ii) timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 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.

(2) **TESTING TRANSPARENCY—(A) IN GENERAL**—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the local educational agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or local educational agency policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by section 1111(b)(2) and by the State or local educational agency, which shall include a policy, procedure, or parental right to opt the child out of such assessment, where applicable. **(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**.—Subject to subparagraph (C), each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the local educational agency’s website and, where practicable, on the website of each school served by the local educational agency) for each grade served by the local educational agency, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with section 1111, other assessments required by the State, and where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required districtwide by the local educational agency, including— “(i) the subject matter assessed; “(ii) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used; “(iii) the source of the requirement for the assessment; and “(iv) where such information is available— “(I) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and “(II) the time and format for disseminating results. **(C) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY THAT DOES NOT OPERATE A WEBSITE**.—In the case of a local educational agency that does not operate a website, such local educational agency shall determine how to make the information described in subparagraph (A) widely available, such as through distribution of that information to the media, through public agencies, or directly to parents.

(3) **LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION—(A) NOTICE**—Each local educational agency using funds under this part or title III to provide a language instruction educational program as determined under title III shall, not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year, inform parents of an English learner identified for participation or participating in such a program, of— “(i) the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction educational

program; “(ii) the child’s level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, and the status of the child’s academic achievement; “(iii) the methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction; “(iv) how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child; “(v) how such program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation; “(vi) the specific exit requirements of the program, including the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program) if funds under this part are used for children in high schools; “(vii) in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child, as described in section “(viii) information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance— “(I) detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request; “(II) detailing the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available; and “(III) assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than program or method is offered by the eligible entity. (B) SPECIAL RULE APPLICABLE DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.—For those children who have not been identified as English learners prior to the beginning of the school year but are identified as English learners during such school year, the local educational agency shall notify the children’s parents during the first 2 weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction educational program consistent with subparagraph (A). (C) PARENTAL PARTICIPATION.— “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency receiving funds under this part shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can— “(I) be involved in the education of their children; and “(II) be active participants in assisting their children to— “(aa) attain English proficiency; “(bb) achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and “(cc) meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students. “(ii) REGULAR MEETINGS.—Implementing an effective means of outreach to parents under clause (i) shall include holding, and sending notice of opportunities for, regular meetings for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of students assisted under this part or title III. (D) BASIS FOR ADMISSION OR EXCLUSION.—A student shall not be admitted to, or excluded from, any federally assisted education program on the basis of a surname or language minority status. “(4) NOTICE AND FORMAT.—The notice and information provided to parents under this subsection shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.”