

ESEA Director's Training Curriculum

1.3 Parents Right-to-Know Notifications

The parent's right-to-know provision of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) allows parents, guardians, and stakeholders the ability to request information on the qualifications of their child's classroom teacher. Under ESSA § 1112(e)(1)(A), at the beginning of each year, an LEA shall notify parents that they may request, and the LEA will provide, certain information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's teachers and paraprofessionals. This includes information about whether the student's teacher:

- has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- is teaching in the field of discipline not of the certification of the teacher; and
- is teaching alongside paraprofessionals and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications [ESSA § 1112(e)(1)(A)].

Even though ESSA eliminated the highly qualified requirement, the parents' right-to-know provision now focuses on students being taught by teachers who do not meet the state certification or licensure at the grade-level and subject they are teaching. For more information on teacher certification and licensing, visit the Tennessee Department of Education's licensing website at: <https://www.tn.gov/education/licensing>.

Required Deadlines:

- Parents must be informed annually at the start of the school year.
- If a change in placement occurs during the school year, then the notification must be sent home as well.

Available Resources:

- [Divisional Coordinator](#)
- [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > ESSA Information & Guidance > ESSA General Guidance Documents > ESSA Highly Qualified Requirements
- Sample ESSA Parents Right-to-Know is located in [ePlan > TDOE Resources](#) > Parent and Family Engagement Resources > Family & Community Engagement & Outreach
- https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/licensure/Operating_Procedures_for_Districts.pdf

Action Steps & Recommended Timeline:

- **May–June:** Ensure all Title I school administrators are aware of the requirement. LEA-level staff may want to consider sending a letter home or providing a blurb for school-level publications and websites.
- **June–July:** Review all blurbs or letters to ensure wording is correct.
- **August:** All Title I Schools should provide information to parents, guardian, and stakeholders.