

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Schools that receive federal Title I funding must be compliant in several categories and fulfill many responsibilities throughout the year. One of those requirements is making parents and guardians aware of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). The ESSA is a federal law which requires schools that receive federal Title I funding to ensure that all teachers teaching in a program supported with Title I funding hold appropriate state certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification. This year in particular, Franklin Towne Charter High School has felt some of the effects of the national teacher shortage that has hit districts at an alarming rate. Just today, *USA Today* published this [article](#) which reported that 86% of public schools are struggling to hire educators. We have had success this summer in attracting certified teachers straight from local colleges and hiring those that were unhappy with their experience at the School District of Philadelphia or local charter schools. We even had some success in bringing on teachers that wanted out of the Archdiocese. Charter schools can have as many as 25% of their teachers be uncertified and work toward certification.

The law also requires us to notify parents if their child is being taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher in a Title I school or program who does not yet meet the definition of “appropriate state certification.”

This letter is to inform you that your child’s teacher, _____, is in the process of meeting these requirements, and we are providing him/her the support necessary for success.

Your child’s teacher is dedicated to the success of every child in the class. While report cards are an important measure of student success, it is not the only opportunity you have to access your child’s achievement and growth. As the year progresses please feel free to contact us and request additional information regarding your child’s progress.

I thank you for your continued support of your child’s education and encourage you to communicate with his or her teacher on a regular basis so that together we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dougherty
Principal
Franklin Towne Charter HS