

Special Notice To Parents Teacher Qualifications All Public Schools

Requirements Under Federal Law

(Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized January, 2002 as "No Child Left Behind")

Newly enacted federal laws have created higher standards for teacher qualifications in public schools across the United States. The US Department of Education now defines minimum standards for the education and licensing of teachers, and requires that local school districts work with their staff to insure that all teachers of core subjects meet the federal definition of "highly qualified" by 2005-2006.

Boulder Valley School District's staff already largely meets and exceeds the new requirements. We have an exceptionally well-qualified cadre of teachers, who on average have over 12 years of teaching experience. Over half our teachers hold advanced degrees. Our paraprofessionals are also a highly experienced group, with educational credentials generally exceeding the standard, and many possessing other special skills as well.

Under new federal law, all parents of children attending US public school districts receiving certain types of federal aid (Title I funding) have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their children. You are allowed to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teacher(s), and the school is required to provide this information in a timely manner if you ask for it.

Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- ▶ Whether the Colorado Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects s/he teaches.
- ▶ Whether the Colorado Department of Education has waived licensing requirements for the teachers because they have determined that special circumstances apply.
- ▶ The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees.
- ▶ Whether any teacher's aides or other paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

To request information about a teacher's qualifications, please fill out a Teacher Qualification Request Form. The forms are available at the New Vista front desk. Please do not contact teachers, the principal or other school staff to request information about teacher qualifications, as they do not have immediate access to personnel records. To insure that fair and uniform information is provided, all requests for information about teacher qualifications will be processed by the Boulder Valley School District's Department of Human Resources. They will provide written information by mail within 30 days of receiving a request. The HR Department cannot provide this information over the telephone, nor will they respond to anonymous requests. The teacher in question and the principal of his/her school will be notified that information regarding qualifications has been requested and given to a parent, and provided with the same information supplied to the parent; however, the teacher and principal will NOT be given the name of the parent requesting information.

For further information on these new federal policies, the websites listed below may be helpful:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/progrsum>

http://www.nsba.org/cosa/Hot_topics/nclba.htm