



September 29, 2023

Dear HCPSS Title I Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Howard County Public School System is committed to ensuring equity and giving every child an opportunity to succeed. Essential to this mission is hiring and retaining highly effective teachers and support staff who are invested in providing safe and secure classroom environments where every child is encouraged to thrive.

Your school has been identified as a Title I participating school for the 2023-24 school year. Title I is a federally funded program that is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Title I is designed to close achievement gaps and ensure all children have an opportunity to access a high quality education by providing funding for supplemental academic services and supports.

The Federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* contains several provisions that promote a parent/school partnership through communication. One such provision gives parents at Title I Schools the right to ask for and receive information in a timely manner about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. A parent may request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher
- Whether the parent's child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to request the above, please submit a written request to the principal. The principal will provide the information to you within 30 business days of the date of your request.

Thank you for supporting your child's education. Strong partnerships with parents and families are essential to a student's academic success and social-emotional well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Martirano".

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
Superintendent