



**ESSA Parent Right-to-Know Notification
Qualifications and Assessments
Title I Schoolwide Status: Letter to Parents**

2026-2027 School Year

Date: September 10, 2026

To: Parent(s) / Legal Guardian(s)

Subject: ESSA Parent Right-to-Know Notification: Qualifications and Assessments

Dear Parent(s) / Legal Guardian(s),

As a parent or guardian of a student attending a school receiving Title I funds, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional paraprofessionals who instruct your child. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1112(e)(1)(A), you may request the following information at any time:

- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grade levels and subject areas they teach.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The college major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held, and the field of discipline.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

State Assessment & Opt-Out Policy Notification

In addition to teacher qualifications, ESSA Section 1112(e)(2)(A) grants you the right to request information regarding any state or district policy regarding student participation in any mandatory assessments.

You have the right to know our school's testing schedules and policies, as well as your right to request an exemption or opt-out from mandatory state assessments (such as the PSSA or Keystone Exams) based on religious or philosophical objections, in accordance with Pennsylvania State Board of Education regulations (22 Pa. Code § 4.4).

If you would like to request information regarding teacher qualifications, or if you wish to review assessment policies and opt-out procedures, please contact the main office at 570.955.3830 or email admin@gillinghamcharterschool.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's academic journey.

Sincerely,

Nicolle Hutchinson
Executive Director