

NCLB, Highly Qualified and Teacher Web Pages

On January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the *No Child Left Behind* Act (NCLB). This legislation, designed to ensure that all children have an opportunity to obtain a quality education, has resulted in many changes in South Carolina's schools.

The *No Child Left Behind* Act was adopted, in part, to ensure that schools and school districts across the country employ highly qualified teachers, teachers' aides and instructional assistants in schools that receive federal funds.

According to this law a "highly qualified" teacher is one who is certified or licensed in his/her content area, holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and has demonstrated knowledge and skills in his/her teaching area. This law also requires each school to inform parents/guardians when a teacher does not meet the "highly qualified" definition set forth in the NCLB law.

NCLB requires districts to send each parent/guardian a notice (much like the FERPA notice) at the beginning of each school year. We are required to let parents/guardians know that, as part of this legislation, parents may request and receive information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher(s).

If their child's classroom has an instructional assistant working it, they may also request and receive information about the professional qualifications of that instructional assistant. The NCLB defines a "highly qualified" aide or assistant as one whom holds a two-year degree, has two years of college with 60 semester hours, or who passes a new state test.

Teachers should put information about their qualifications on their teacher Lex↔Connect Web pages.

Please include:

- the college(s) you attended (name of college(s), city and state);
- the college degree(s) you acquired (include undergraduate and graduate); and
- the area(s) of South Carolina teacher certification you currently hold.

If you need to verify your current certification, you can go to this Web site for information about your teacher credentials

<https://www.scteachers.org/apps/mycert/logon.cfm>.

Of course, you can include any other information about yourself that you'd like. For instance: Are you nationally board certified? Do you have areas of expertise? Have you received any honors? Are you ADEPT trained? Are you a mentor teacher or department head? Do you sit on the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council or other another board or committee?

If parents cannot get this information from your Web site and would like to receive it, they will send a letter to the principal. Each principal must provide that information within three weeks of receiving the request.