Re: Highly-Qualified Teacher Requirements

Date:  
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Title I Directors/Coordinators and Consolidated Application Contacts

With the December 10th, 2015 passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are no longer federally required to ensure all teachers of core subjects are highly qualified1. However, Ohio will continue to require highly-qualified teachers in core academic subjects in the 2016-2017 transition year as dictated by current state legislation, report card requirements, and the state equity plan. Moving forward through this transition year, the Department will work with stakeholders to redefine teacher qualifications in Ohio. Ohio will continue to provide a Highly-Qualified Teacher Toolkit to support districts during the 2016-2017 transition year.

Additionally, beginning in spring 2016, districts and schools will no longer receive annual letters regarding highly qualified teachers due to recent federal requirements within the Excellent Educators for All Initiative. The Excellent Educators for All Initiative called for states to develop a state equity plan to ensure that poor and minority students are not taught by unqualified, inexperienced or out-of-field teachers at higher rates than other students. Requirements from the Excellent Educators for All Initiative have led to the revision of the Highly Qualified Teacher Components to include new Equitable Access Planning requirements in the CCIP. More information regarding the Equitable Access Planning requirements can be found in the CCIP document library.

In response to the changes in ESSA, the department will be seeking stakeholder input during the transition year from educators from across Ohio. Follow the department’s ESSA webpage for further information.

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1 No Child Left Behind required all teachers of core academic subjects to be “highly qualified”. A teacher must hold a bachelor's degree, proper licensure, and have evidence of content knowledge in the core subject of the teaching assignment(s) to be a highly-qualified teacher.