

Charter School of Excellence

- Hamilton Center**, 2931 Harvard Road, Erie, PA 16508 ~ (814) 459-3954 voice ~ (814) 459-1050 fax
- Leadership Center**, 1511 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16501 ~ (814) 480-5914 voice ~ (814) 454-9859 fax
- Maritime Center**, 40 Holland Street, Erie, PA 16507 ~ (814) 459-5070 voice ~ (814) 459-5072 fax



August 19, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Federal law requires us to let you know when a teacher does not have a certain set of credentials and teaches your child for four consecutive weeks. The credentials I speak of are contained in the No Child Left Behind law that defines “highly qualified teachers.” By definition a highly qualified teacher is fully certified, has a bachelors degree, and has completed a content major or passed a content assessment. In Pennsylvania, a charter school is permitted to employ 25% of its staff as non-certified.

All teachers at the Perseus House Charter School of Excellence hold minimally a bachelor’s degree and Pennsylvania teaching certification, while many hold masters degrees. Some of our staff have not completed a specific content major or passed a content assessment. We are working closely with those teachers to complete the major or pass a content assessment so they can meet the federal definition of highly qualified.

I can assure you that all of our teachers are highly trained and dedicated to the success of their students. You have the right to request the following information about each of your child’s classroom teachers:

- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has licenses or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he/she teaches;
- Whether the Pennsylvania Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in the classroom without being licenses or qualified under the state regulations because of special circumstances;
- The teacher’s college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degree and, if so, the subject of the degree.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call your site administrator, Ms. Kestler at the Maritime Center, Mr. Viglione at the Leadership Center, or Mr. Primavera at the Hamilton Center.

Thank you for your support of the Charter School of Excellence.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Oliver
Chief Educational Officer