



CHARTER SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE

September 12, 2012

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 or Mr. Primavera at the Maritime Center, Mr.Lafata at the Leadership Center, or Ms. Gordon at the Skills Center.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Oliver Chief Educational Officer