Dear Parent / Guardian,

Cobbles Elementary has been designated as a Title 1 school. As a parent of a student attending a designated Title 1 school in the Penfield School District, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher(s) who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask certain information about your child’s classroom teacher(s), and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teacher(s):

1. Whether the NYS Education Department has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.*
2. Whether the NYS Education Department has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulation because of special circumstances.*
3. The teacher’s college major and whether they have any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degree.
4. Whether any paraprofessionals provide service to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive this information, please call the Office of Instruction at (585) 249-5708 or email your request to Curriculum@penfield.edu. Requests for information should include the name of the elementary school, your student’s name, grade and teacher name. Please include your name and contact information (phone number or email address).

Thank you.

James Peiffer
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

*All teachers at Cobbles Elementary School are licensed/qualified by NYSED for the grades(subjects which they are teaching).

Suggested Reference: Title I School-Parent Compact on our website at http://www.penfield.edu/instruction.cfm?subpage=1257942
What is Title I?

Title I, Part A (Title I) is part of the federal government’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program. It provides financial assistance to school districts to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. For a school to be designated as Title I, it must have a poverty percentage at or above the district average. These calculations are done every spring, using BEDS day data from the previous fall.

In 2009-10 more than 56,000 public schools across the country used Title I funds to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children master challenging curricula and meet state standards in core academic subjects. For example, funds support extra instruction in reading and mathematics, as well as special preschool, after-school, and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.

In the Penfield school district, we typically use the funds to provide extra help to our lowest performing students in ELA – to help them acquire the reading skills they will need throughout their lives. We use most of the money to pay for a reading teacher at Cobbles and one at Indian Landing, to pay teachers to conduct our summer school reading program, and to purchase the books/materials/supplies these teachers use with their students.

The ESSA law requires school districts to target the Title I funds they receive to schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. We then are required to focus Title I services on children in those schools who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet state academic standards. ESSA does not allow us to use the money in all of our schools, to provide services to all of our students.