

**January 13, 2016**

Dear Valley Local Parent/Guardian:

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA). This newly named law reauthorized the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

It is important to note that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) under their jurisdiction will continue to operate under a waiver awarded from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) during the 2011-2012 school year. This waiver affords ODE and LEAs flexibility from requirements of several provisions within the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We would like to share with you how Valley Local Schools continue to provide your student with a high quality education while operating under the auspices of the flexibility waiver.

#### Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

Title I, Part A of NCLB, required LEAs to offer students who attend districts in improvement status for two or more years an opportunity to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES). The flexibility waiver excuses districts from this requirement. However, districts must set aside 20% of Title I funds to expand learning time. This is achieved through intensive 30 minute intervention instruction in Language Arts (Reading) and Math each day for students who qualify.

#### Notice to Parents

Title I, Part A of NCLB, required districts to notify parents if any of buildings within the district or the district as a whole was placed in improvement status. The flexibility waiver excuses districts from this requirement; however the Valley Local District report card is available to all members of the public on the Ohio Department of Education website at [www.education.ohio.gov](http://www.education.ohio.gov).

#### Public School Choice

Title I, Part A of NCLB, required districts offer students who attend schools or districts in improvement status the opportunity to attend another public school or district without that designation. Districts in or with buildings designated in improvement status were required to provide or pay for costs associated with the transportation to the transfer school of choice. The flexibility waiver excuses districts from this requirement.

Additional information regarding the Title I Flexibility Waiver, NCLB, ESEA, or ESSA may be found at the links listed below or you may contact Jane Thayer, VLSD Federal Programs contact at 740-259-5551.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/esea-flexibility/index.html>

<http://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn>