



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 12, 2007

Ms. Elizabeth Ann Witt
United States Department of Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education AITQ
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3W251
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Witt:

Please be advised that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) wishes to amend the revised state plan to reflect the continuation of its HOUSSE options for veteran and special education teachers to demonstrate that they are highly qualified. When the MDE developed its revised state plan, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) had indicated that the HOUSSE options should be phased out by June 2007. In September 2006, Secretary Spellings issued a letter that "encouraged" states to eliminate the use of HOUSSE, but did not "require" it.

Given that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is expected to be reauthorized within the next two years, maintaining the HOUSSE options for this short period of time does not adversely affect teacher quality in Michigan. All teachers are still required to be appropriately certificated and highly qualified for the classes to which they are assigned to teach. The HOUSSE options will only be applicable to veteran teachers employed prior to the beginning of the 2002-03 school year and special education teachers. Michigan will continue to stress the importance of having all of our students taught by highly qualified and highly effective teachers.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Dr. Flora L. Jenkins at 517-373-6505.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Flanagan
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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