



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead
Superintendent of Public Instruction
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
State Capitol Building, 11th Floor
600 Boulevard Avenue, East
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

Dear Superintendent Sanstead:

On July 7, 2006, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) submitted its revised State highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers found deficiencies in the original plan, and the Department asked that it be revised and re-submitted. We received the revision on September 29, 2006.

A Department of Education internal peer review committee reviewed revised plan. In general, the reviewers were pleased with the plan, finding only a few remaining deficiencies. To resolve outstanding questions and concerns raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Miriam Lund had a lengthy discussion with Greg Gallagher and other staff members from the NDDPI on November 14, 2006. In this conversation, NDDPI clarified a number of issues and submitted a written response to the Department on November 29. The Department determined that no changes to the September 29 revision were required.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on September 29 meets all six requirements and is now approved. I would like to congratulate you and your staff for this excellent work. We recognize the substantial challenge it has been to prepare this plan, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the September 29 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan that is currently posted. We look forward to our continued work together, including routine monitoring to ensure that your State implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal in 2006-07 and beyond, for the benefit of all students in North Dakota. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737, or robert.stonehill@ed.gov), or Miriam Lund (202-401-2871, or miriam.lun@ed.gov).

Sincerely,


Henry L. Johnson