



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DEC 14 2006

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Dr. Joseph B. Morton
Superintendent of Education
Alabama Department of Education
Gordon Persons Office Building
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Superintendent Morton:

On July 7, 2006, the Alabama Department of Education (ADE) 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.

Department of Education staff reviewed the 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 Elizabeth Witt had a lengthy discussion with Catherine Moore on October 31. As a result of this conversation, ADE made additional changes to the plan and filled in places where information was missing. A revised version of the equity plan was submitted to the Department on November 21, and a revised version of the remainder of the plan was submitted on December 6. These documents have been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan documents submitted on November 21 and December 6 meet all six requirements and are 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 November 21 and December 6 documents 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 Alabama. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737, or robert.stonehill@ed.gov), or Elizabeth Witt (202-260-5585, or elizabeth.witt@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson