



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Honorable D. Kent King
Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary
& Secondary Education
205 Jefferson Street, 6th Floor
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioner King:

On July 7, 2006, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) 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 November 1, 2006.

A Department of Education internal peer review committee 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 Miriam Lund had several discussions with Randy Rook from DESE. As a result of these conversations, DESE made additional changes to the plan and filled in places where information was missing. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on November 30, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 30 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. Because this plan meets all requirements, the Department has removed the high-risk designation earlier imposed on DESE.

We will post the November 30 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 Missouri. 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.lund@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson