



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Mr. Roger Sampson
Commissioner of Education
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner Sampson:

On July 7, 2006, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (EED) 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 Margaret Miles had discussions with Cynthia Curran from the EDD as well as emails on a number of occasions. As a result of the discussions, EED made additional submission to the Department on November 15, 2006.

In the judgment of the Department, the November 15 plan 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 November 15 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 Alaska. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737), or robert.stonehill@ed.gov, or Margaret Miles (202-260-2531), or margaret.miles@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson