



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 19 2006

Ms. Judy Jeffrey
Director of Education
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
East 14th & Grand Streets
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Dear Ms. Jeffrey:

On July 7, 2006, the Iowa Department of Education 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 28, 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 a lengthy discussion with Pam Pfitzenmaier and other staff members from the Iowa Department of Education on November 13. As a result of this conversation additional changes were made to the Iowa plan and clarification was provided where information was missing. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on December 1 and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on December 1 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 December 1, revision 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 Iowa. 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