



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Honorable Hank M. Bounds
Superintendent of Education
Mississippi State Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
359 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Superintendent Bounds:

On July 7, 2006, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) 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 Daphne Buckley and Steven Hebbler on November 2. As a result of this conversation, MDE 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 15, and has been reviewed by Department staff. This plan was later revised again, and re-submitted on November 27.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 27 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 27 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 Mississippi. 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