



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DEC 14 2006

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Superintendent Cannaday:

On July 7, 2006, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) 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.

Department of Education staff reviewed the revised plan. In general, the reviewers were pleased with the plan, finding only a one remaining recommendation. Even though requirement 4 was met through the peer review, the Department staff recommends that the VDOE create a policy that is consistent with ESEA Section 2141. By creating this policy, VDOE will ensure compliance with the accountability section within Title II, Part A.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on September 28 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 September 28 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 Virginia. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry L. Johnson".

Henry L. Johnson
Assistant Secretary