



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Mr. Jack T. O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5602
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Superintendent O'Connell:

On July 7, 2006, the California Department of Education (CDE) 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.

The 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 Don Kariott from the CDE as well as emails on a number of occasions to Lynda Nichols, Marcela Obregon-Enriquez, Jill Rice, Kim Eaton, and Cindy Olsen. As a result of the discussions, CDE 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 20, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 20, 2006 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 20 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 California. 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

Cc: Kenneth Noonan