



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak
Secretary of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Secretary Zahorchak:

On July 7, 2006, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) 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 few remaining deficiencies. To resolve outstanding questions and concerns raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Julie Coplin had a lengthy discussion with Virginia Montgomery from the PDE on November 2. As a result of this conversation, PDE submitted supplemental information to the Department on December 1.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on September 28, together with the attachments 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 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 Pennsylvania. 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