



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT,  
AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS

May 16, 2008

Honorable Peter McWalters  
Commissioner of Education  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Commissioner McWalters:

Thank you for your submission of evidence regarding the corrective actions Rhode Island has taken to address the compliance issues identified in the Attachment T Special Conditions document issued with the State's 2007 Title III, Part A grant award.

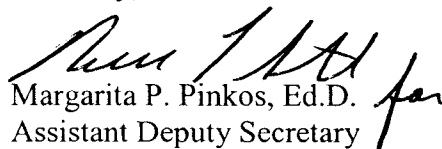
Rhode Island has submitted all required data for the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) for the 2005-2006 school year. The Department will remove the conditions from your State's 2007 Title III, Part A grant award.

It has come to the Department's attention that, due to technical difficulties in comparing spring 2003 and spring 2004 MAC II English language proficiency (ELP) assessment data, Rhode Island did not incorporate annual measurable achievement objective (AMAO) determinations for the 2003-04 school year into its calculations for determining which subgrantees did not meet Title III AMAOs for two or four consecutive years. Rhode Island is considering the 2003-04 school year to be the first year from which the State counts which subgrantees did not meet Title III AMAOs for two or four consecutive years, and are therefore, subject to the accountability requirements under section 3122(b).

Looking forward, if your State expects to have difficulty implementing its AMAO determinations, please notify your OELA program officer. You should explain the issue, the challenges your State is facing, and potential options for addressing those challenges. The Department will review that information and work with you to ensure that Rhode Island stays in compliance with Title III.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for the timely completion of your State's Title III corrective action plan. We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure a high-quality Title III program to address the needs of LEP students in your State.

Sincerely,

  
Margarita P. Pinkos, Ed.D.  
Assistant Deputy Secretary

cc: Kenneth Swanson, Director of Special Populations