



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Honorable Wayne G. Sanstead  
State Superintendent  
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0440

JAN 09 2009

Dear Superintendent Sanstead:

Thank you again for submitting evidence on North Dakota's science assessments. We appreciate your efforts in putting together this information. As I noted in my letter on February 28, 2008, for the 2007-08 school year, each state was required to demonstrate that it satisfied the following basic requirements: (1) it has approved content standards in science; (2) it administered a general and alternate science assessment in each grade span (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12); (3) it included all students in the general or alternate science assessments; and (4) it reported the results of the general and alternate science assessments on state, district, and school report cards.

In my letter of October 8, 2008, I noted that, in order to meet basic requirements for science assessments for the 2007-08 school year, North Dakota needed to submit the following evidence: data showing the inclusion in the science assessments of all students in the tested grades; and sample State and district reports or report shells for results of general and alternate science assessments. North Dakota indicated that this information would be available on the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) website by December 2008. We have reviewed the North Dakota state, district and school profiles posted on the NDDPI website and determined that North Dakota has met the basic requirements for administering science assessments for 2007-08.

In 2008-09, North Dakota must submit the remaining required evidence regarding its science standards and assessments for peer review. We have scheduled a peer review for March 23 through 27, 2009. Please plan accordingly. All materials for review must be provided to the Department three weeks before the peer review is scheduled.

The Department remains committed to working with North Dakota to help it meet the full requirements of NCLB. If you have any additional questions, would like to discuss this further, or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Collette Roney ([collette.roney@ed.gov](mailto:collette.roney@ed.gov)) or Abigail Rogers ([abigail.rogers@ed.gov](mailto:abigail.rogers@ed.gov)) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor John Hoeven  
Greg Gallagher

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*