



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

JAN 12 2007

Ms. Susan Castillo
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street, N.E.
Salem, OR 97310-0203

Dear Superintendent Castillo:

On July 7, 2006, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) 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.

A Department of Education internal peer review committee 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 corresponded with Bev Pratt and Helen Maguire from the ODE on several occasions. As a result of this email correspondence, ODE made additional changes to the plan and filled in missing information. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on December 11, 2006, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on December 11, 2006, meets all six requirements and now is 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 document, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a comprehensive plan and look forward to receiving additional information when it is available.

We will post the December 11 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the document 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 Oregon. 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,

Raymond Simon
Deputy Secretary

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