



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

December 3, 2008

Cynthia Bell
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
51 N Street, NE
7th Floor, Room AA
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Ms. Bell:

On June 13, 2008, the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on June 25, September 23, October 14, October 30 and November 25, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. OSSE has corrected errors in reporting highly qualified teacher (HQT) data for special education teachers; it has corrected the reporting of teacher data in its annual report card; it has established appropriate steps for determining maintenance of effort; and it has developed appropriate policies for entering into funding agreements with local educational agencies as per section 2141(c) of the ESEA. OSSE has also revised its State HQT plan, as required by the monitoring report. The Department will post OSSE's updated HQT plan on the Department's web site. The Department will follow up with OSSE to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined there were no findings for the SAHE program.

We commend your work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Erika Lomax

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