



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

July 11, 2008

Amelia Hodges
Delaware Department of Education
John W. Collette Education Resource Center
35 Commerce Way
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Ms. Hodges:

On June 25, 2008, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) 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 July 9, 2008, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. DDOE submitted a written plan with specific procedures to ensure that all teachers hired after the first day of the 2002-03 school year in Title I programs are highly qualified at the time of hire and that all teachers paid with Title II, Part A funds for class size reduction are highly qualified. With regards to the supplement/supplant finding for class size reduction, DDOE provided documentation identifying LEAs that had used Title II, Part A funds in the 2007-2008 school year to pay the salaries of teachers who were not highly qualified to reduce class size. DDOE notified these LEAs that they must pay the salaries out of other funds. Technical assistance will be provided to ensure that districts/charters comply with the supplement/supplant requirement. The FY2007 allocations have been corrected. Finally, the State will correct FY2006 and FY2008 allocations. The Department will follow up with DDOE 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 had one recommendation to have the DDOE and the Higher Education Commission work more collaboratively. DDOE has provided evidence that this collaboration is occurring.

We commend your excellent 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 Delaware.

Sincerely,


Carol Manitaras
Program Officer

cc: Patricia Bigelow

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