



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

May 13, 2008

Larry J. Martinez
Bureau Chief
Professional Development Bureau
State Department of Public Education
444 Galisteo, Suite A
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. Martinez:

On March 7, 2008, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) 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 (HQT) 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 May 7, 2008, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. As a result of the monitoring report, NMPED updated its monitoring protocols to include verification that all teachers hired to teach in Title I programs are highly qualified in the courses that they teach. NMPED committed to publishing the correct information in both its SEA and LEA report cards found on the State's website. NMPED anticipates that the revised report cards will be posted in June, 2008.

Additionally, NMPED developed annual measurable objectives (AMOs) for each of its LEAs and initiated a process to ensure that every district has a plan in place to ensure sufficient progress is made towards meeting this goal. Finally, NMPED submitted to the Department a revised plan to ensure that poor and minority students are not taught at higher rates than other students by inexperienced, unqualified or out-of-field teachers. NMPED will develop a STARS-based report to measure this plan by September, 2008.

The Department will follow up with NMPED to ensure that progress is being made in the areas outlined above 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 the SAHE had not effectively managed the competition to award grants and found that the SAHE was not systematically monitoring grantees. As a result of these

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

findings, the SAHE provided current applicants and grant recipients with guidance on allowable activities and current grant recipients were required to submit acknowledgement of the requirement that all paraprofessionals served with project funds must be highly qualified. The SAHE will ensure that in the future, starting with FY 07-08, all grant recipients are monitored during each grant cycle.

We commend your efforts to address 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 New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jessica Clark
Program Officer

cc: Frances Ortega