



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

April 30, 2008

Bev Pratt
Education Specialist/Title II A Coordinator
Office of Education Improvement and Innovation
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Ms. Pratt:

On April 3, 2008, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) 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 April 16 and 29, 2008, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. In particular, ODE is eliminating an alternative assessment by which a small number of new elementary teachers were allowed to demonstrate subject matter competence. The State has also put into place plans for appropriately carrying out accountability provisions in Section 2141 of the ESEA. The Department will follow up with ODE 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 the SAHE was funding a project that did not meet the requirement to support professional development only in the core subjects or in other areas covered by statute and one project that included ineligible participants. The SAHE has assured that these errors will not occur in the future and will provide information to the Department after its current grant competition to show that all new grantees meet statutory requirements. This satisfies the further actions requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

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 Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Witt".

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: John Killoran
Bonnie Morihara

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202-6200

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