



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Mr. John Winn  
Commissioner of Education  
Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines St., suite 1514  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0100

Dear Commissioner Winn:

On July 7, 2006, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) 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 28, 2006.

Department of Education staff 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 Elizabeth Witt had a lengthy discussion with Hanna Skandera and Kathy Hebda on November 2. As a result of this conversation, FLDOE made additional changes to the plan and filled in places where information was missing. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on November 29, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 29 meets all six requirements and is now 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 plan, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the November 29 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan 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 Florida. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737, or [robert.stonehill@ed.gov](mailto:robert.stonehill@ed.gov)), or Elizabeth Witt (202-260-5585, or [elizabeth.witt@ed.gov](mailto:elizabeth.witt@ed.gov)).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson