



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

AUG 20 2008

Dr. Rafael Aragunde-Torres
Secretary of Education
Puerto Rico Department of Education
Post Office Box 190759
San Juan, PR 00919-0759

Dear Secretary Aragunde:

On July 7, 2006, the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE) submitted its revised highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers who reviewed the State plans found serious deficiencies in the plan, and the Department of Education asked that it be substantially revised and re-submitted. The central problem with Puerto Rico's plan was that PRDE did not have classroom-level HQT data. Without such data, it was impossible for PRDE to formulate an approvable plan. Because PRDE was not able to produce an acceptable HQT plan in a timely manner, formulation of an approvable plan was made part of PRDE's December 17, 2007, Compliance Agreement.

PRDE has since completed its HQT data collection. It used these HQT data to formulate a new HQT plan, which it submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) on June 30, 2008, as per the Compliance Agreement. The Department reviewed the June 30 plan. Department staff clarified a few outstanding questions with Ramonita Rodríguez Nogué at PRDE, who submitted a slightly revised version on July 17, 2008. In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on July 17, 2008, meets all six requirements and is now approved. We recognize the substantial challenge required in preparing this plan, and are encouraged that PRDE was able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the July 17, 2008, version 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 intensive monitoring to ensure that Puerto Rico implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal for the benefit of all students in Puerto Rico. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Witt at (202) 260-5585, or at elizabeth.witt@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerri Briggs".

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

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