



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUN 08 2009

Honorable Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines St., Suite 1514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0100

Dear Commissioner Smith:

During the week of March 23, 2009, a team from the U. S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) office reviewed the Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) administration of the Title III program authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. Enclosed is a report based upon the review of the Title III program.

The enclosed report contains a listing of the critical monitoring elements for the Title III program, a description of the scope of the monitoring review, and the findings, required corrective actions, and recommendations that the team cited as a result of the review. The FLDOE has 30 business days from receipt of this report to respond to all of the compliance issues contained herein. ED staff will review FLDOE response for sufficiency and will determine which areas are acceptable and which will require further documentation of implementation. ED will allow 30 business days for receipt of this further documentation if required. ED recognizes that some corrective actions may require longer than the prescribed 30 days, and in these instances ED will work with FLDOE to determine a reasonable timeline. In those instances where additional time is required to implement specific corrective actions, FLDOE must submit a request for such an extension in writing to ED, including a timeline for completion of all related actions.

Each State that participates in an onsite monitoring review and that has significant compliance findings in one or more of the programs monitored will have a condition placed on that program's grant award specifying that the State must submit (and receive approval of) documentation that all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report have been corrected. When documentation sufficient to address all compliance areas has been submitted and approved, ED will then remove the condition from your grant award.

Please be aware that the issues presented in the enclosed report reflect the status of compliance in Florida at the time of SASA's onsite review. Florida may receive further

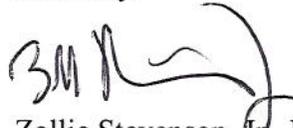
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communication from ED that will require it to address noncompliance occurring prior or subsequent to the onsite review.

The ED team would like to thank Lori Rodriguez and her staff for their hard work and the assistance they provided prior to and during the review in gathering materials and providing access to information in a timely manner. The ED team was impressed with the efforts of the State's staff to implement the many requirements of the Title III program.

We look forward to working further with the State's staff to resolve the issues contained in this report and to improve the quality of the Title III program in Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zollie Stevenson, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

Zollie Stevenson, Jr., Ph.D.

Director

Student Achievement and

School Accountability Programs

Enclosure

cc: Lori Rodriguez
Edward Jordan