



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SEP 12 2013

Honorable Scott Swisher
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall, South, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4987

Dear Commissioner Swisher:

During the week of April 15-19, 2013, a team from the U. S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) office reviewed the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) administration of the following programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended:

- Title I, Part A (Basic);
- Title I, Part D (Neglected and Delinquent); and
- Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Education for Homeless Children and Youth) as amended by NCLB.

Enclosed is a report based upon this review.

The ESEA, as reauthorized, has increased the emphasis on accountability for all students, and has focused on States' responsibilities to work with districts and schools to improve instruction and student achievement. ED will continue to work closely with States to define their responsibilities in implementation.

The enclosed report contains a listing of the critical monitoring elements in each of the three areas for the three programs monitored. In addition the report includes 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 monitoring review. The NDE has 30 business days from receipt of this report to respond to all of the compliance issues contained herein. ED staff will review your response and will determine if further documentation of implementation is required. 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 you to determine a reasonable timeline. In those instances where additional time is required to implement specific corrective actions, the NDE must submit a request for an extension in writing to ED, including a timeline for completion of all related actions.

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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.

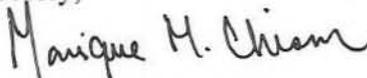
Each State that participates in an onsite monitoring review and that has significant compliance findings in one or more of the programs monitored will have a condition placed on that program's grant award specifying that the State must submit (and receive approval of) documentation that all compliance 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 2013 at the time of SASA's onsite review. The NDE received communication from ED on August 23, 2010 that states the NDE addressed all noncompliance areas from the onsite visit occurring the week of May 7, 2007.

The ED team would like to thank SEA and LEA 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 your State's staff to implement the many requirements of the four programs monitored.

We look forward to working further with your staff to resolve the issues contained in this report and to improve the quality of Title I programs in Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Monique M. Chism, PhD
Director
Student Achievement and
School Accountability Programs

cc: Diane Stuehmer, Title I Director
Roger Reikofski, Homeless Education Director
Pat Frost, Neglected and Delinquent Director