



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JAN 29 2010

Honorable Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Superintendent Grasmick:

The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) office, Title III State Consolidated Grant Group will conduct an onsite review of the Maryland State Department of Education's implementation of Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, during the week of February 22-26, 2010.

During the onsite review, the ED team will interview State educational agency (SEA) staff and review evidence of State-level monitoring and technical assistance, implementation of the State's Title III accountability system, and fiscal and administrative oversight. The ED team will also visit several local educational agencies (LEA) where they will interview district and school staff to gather information related to the State's oversight of Title III subgrantees.

ED will issue a monitoring report within 35 business days after the review. ED will send an electronic copy of the draft report to the SEA for review before issuing the final report. The SEA has five business days to review the draft report and provide information regarding factual errors. After this information is submitted, ED will incorporate appropriate changes and send the final report to your Chief State School Officer. The SEA has 30 business days from receipt of the final report to submit information and corrective actions that address any compliance issues identified in the report.

ED recognizes that some corrective actions may require more than the prescribed 30 days, and in these instances ED will work with the SEA to determine a reasonable timeline. In all cases, however, evidence of implementation of actions designed to correct all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report must be submitted and approved by ED.

Through its monitoring efforts, ED gathers data about State and local needs and uses those data to design technical assistance initiatives and national leadership activities. Thus, monitoring has and will continue to serve not only as a vehicle for helping States to achieve high-quality implementation of ESEA, but it will also enable ED to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in that effort.

Page 2 – Nancy S. Grasmick

We appreciate your continued cooperation and support in our monitoring efforts and look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to address the needs of English language learners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zollie Stevenson, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zollie Stevenson, Jr., Ph.D.

Director

Student Achievement and

School Accountability Programs

cc: Gloria Grimsley, Director