



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Office of the Governor
Capitol, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Brownback:

During the week of October 2, 2010, staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) conducted the first of two monitoring reviews of your State's implementation of the SFSF program. Your State's SFSF contacts were extremely helpful in coordinating and responding to this desk review.

During the monitoring review, we discussed your State's policies, procedures, and activities related to the SFSF program. We spoke with officials at local educational agencies (LEAs) and public institutions of higher education (IHEs) that received Education Stabilization Fund grants, as well as representatives of entities that received Government Services Fund grants. A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization.applicant>.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively in order to meet the financial needs of LEAs and other State agencies. This report demonstrates Kansas's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency.

The Department identified two issues regarding the State's implementation of the program. In particular, the Department found issues with subrecipient monitoring and infrastructure certifications under section 1511 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). In response to the first issue, the State amended its subrecipient monitoring plan, protocols and schedule. No additional action is required at this time.

With regards to ARRA Section 1511 certifications, the State provided the Department with additional information to determine the allowability of several projects and provided notification that it worked with IHEs to reallocate some funds to allowable uses. While no additional action is required at this time, during the year two on-site monitoring review, the Department will request the State to provide an updated 1511 certification list.

<http://www.ed.gov>

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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.

Additionally, during the year two monitoring visit, the Department will review fiscal documentation to ensure funds that were de-obligated from unallowable uses have been applied to allowable costs.

The Department also reviewed documentation on the levels of State support for elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education. The State used these levels of support to calculate the amount of SFSF Education Services funds to be awarded to LEAs and IHEs. The Department has determined that the documentation substantiates the State's division of funds between LEAs and IHEs.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Kansas. Monitoring not only helps States to achieve high-quality implementation but also helps the Department to improve its role as an advisor and partner with States in this effort. As we work together, we want this process to be interactive and helpful.

We will be contacting your office in the future to schedule the second monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in Kansas who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

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Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Diane Duffy, Vice President of Finance, Kansas Board of Regents
Elaine Frisbie, Budget Analyst, Kansas Division of the Budget
Veryl Peter, ARRA Officer, Kansas Department of Education