



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 12, 2012

Honorable Robert McDonnell  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell,

During the week of January 31, 2011 staff from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program from the U.S. Department of Education 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 have received Education Stabilization Fund grants, as well as with representatives of entities that have 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 [www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant](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, IHEs, and other State agencies. The results of our review demonstrate Virginia's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency. Throughout the monitoring process, subrecipients noted that the state has been very helpful about guidance on the SFSF program, particularly with 1512 reporting.

The Department identified no substantive issues regarding the State's implementation of the program.

[www.ed.gov](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.*

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in Virginia. 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 Virginia who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

//s//

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