



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 19, 2011

The Honorable Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

During March 1-3, 2011, 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 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 (GSF). A complete description of the scope of the monitoring review and the SFSF monitoring protocols are available on the Department's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>.

The Department found that the State implemented the program expeditiously and effectively to meet the financial needs of LEAs, IHEs, and other State agencies. The results of our review demonstrate Washington's commitment to ensuring that the funds were spent quickly, while balancing the need for accountability and transparency.

In the program review, the Department identified one issue regarding the State's implementation of the program, which has since been resolved. Specifically, the Department found that the State needed to enhance its monitoring protocols to ensure public IHEs spent the SFSF dollars in an appropriate manner. During the State's correction period, the State submitted additional monitoring protocols to the Department.

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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 Washington. 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 contact your office in the near 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 Washington who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Aaron Butcher