



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 9, 2011

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305-0370

Dear Governor Tomblin:

During the week of September 20, 2010, 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 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 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 West Virginia'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. First, the State did not include the required General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) assurances in its initial LEA application, prior to distributing SFSF funds to LEAs. In response, the State obtained the required GEPA assurances for the SFSF program in its LEA application for the Education Jobs Fund. Second, the State did not have Section 1511 certifications on file

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for all infrastructure projects supported by SFSF funds. The State has since submitted approved 1511 certifications for all relevant projects and made the certifications publicly available on the State's website. Because the State has taken the actions noted above, there are no outstanding issues for the State to resolve.

The Department is grateful for the cooperation and responsiveness of the staff in West 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 an on-site monitoring review of the State's implementation of the SFSF program. We look forward to collaborating with you and the other officials in West Virginia who are working on this critical educational initiative.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Deputy Director, Implementation & Support Unit