



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5602
Sacramento, CA 95814

JAN 13 2015

Dear Mr. Torlakson:

On September 15-18, 2014, the Office of State Support of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a program review in California. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants* program.

I am enclosing a monitoring report with this letter that is based on information ED collected during the review. I would like to note that the California Department of Education is doing good work and, in general, the ED team was pleased with the progress you are making to ensure that Federal funds are being used effectively to ensure that all teachers of core academic classes will be highly qualified.

ED has also identified some areas in which further action is recommended; in particular, the State should do the following:

- Review its guidance to LEAs to ensure that schools that receive Title I funds notify parents throughout the school year when their children are taught by teachers for periods of four or more weeks who are not highly qualified.
- Establish a formal process where the principal attests to the School report card to ensure compliance with §1119.

Please also note that the State received several commendations for their data collection and compliance monitoring systems that accurately identifies districts with highly qualified teachers; their extensive training on the use of such a system to schools, districts and county officials; their proactive approach to providing equitable services to private schools; and the work of its State Agency for Higher Education.

If there are factual errors in the report, ED would appreciate receiving suggested corrections no later than 10 business days from the date of this letter, so that they can be appropriately incorporated into the final version of the monitoring report, which will be posted on ED's web site. For areas in which ED has required further action, please send a written response within 30 business days from the date of this letter.

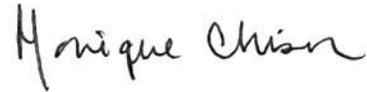
400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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Thank you again for hosting a productive site visit. I look forward to working further with you and your staff in any follow-up activities, in assisting you in any way to ensure that all teachers are meeting the highly qualified requirements and helping improve the delivery of Title II, Part A services in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique Chism". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.
Director
Office of State Support

Enclosure