



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Jesus Aguirre
State Superintendent of Education
810 First St. NE., Ninth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20003

NOV 25 2014

Dear Superintendent Aguirre:

On August 27-28, 2014, the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) conducted a program review in the District of Columbia/Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). 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.

Enclosed with this letter is a monitoring report that is based on information that ED collected during the review. I would like to note that OSSE is doing good work and 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 required; in particular, the State must do the following:

- Submit a timeline and plan for clarifying and implementing highly qualified teacher requirements, which addresses how the State will ensure that all LEAs are hiring only highly qualified teachers to teach core academic subjects, and that all teachers paid with Title II, Part A funds to reduce class size are highly qualified.
- Submit a plan for ensuring that all public schools in the District of Columbia that receive Title I, Part A funds accurately notify parents when their children are assigned, or taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- Submit a plan for ensuring that data it submits on highly qualified teachers reflect ESEA-required definitions and that annual report cards include all required information about teachers.
- Submit a plan to provide guidance and monitor compliance of District of Columbia Public Schools' calculations of equitable services.
- Submit documentation showing that all current SAHE subgrantees are using their Title II, Part A funds for authorized activities and additional documentation on how it plans to return funds for the portion of a 3-D printer's cost attributable to percentage of time used by students in one of the State Agency for Higher Education (SAHE) projects.
- Provide plans to develop guidance specific to the purchase of technology, as noted in the report.

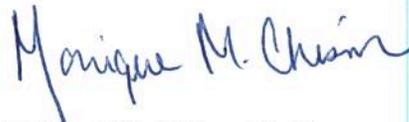
400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

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

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. This is so that ED can appropriately incorporate them into the final version of the monitoring report, which will be posted on ED's website. For areas in which ED has required further action, please send a written response within 30 business days from the date of this letter.

Again, thank you 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 the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monique M. Chism". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

Enclosure