



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

September 22, 2009

Cynthia Curran  
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Dear Ms. Curran:

On August 17, 2009, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on September 9, 2009, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The EED has taken steps to ensure that teachers paid with Title II, Part A funds, for the purpose of class size reduction, meet highly qualified standards. The EED has also made corrections to its State and local report cards to ensure that information about teachers is properly reported, made plans to carry out the provisions of Section 2141(c), and made provisions for providing equitable services to non-public schools using State-level activity funds. The Department will follow up with the EED to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined the SAHE was not systematically monitoring its subgrantees. The SAHE has modified its monitoring plan for these grants. This satisfies the further actions requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

We commend your excellent work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Witt  
Program Officer

cc: Cecilia Miller

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