



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

June 15, 2010

Edmund Moore
State Department of Education
Gordon Persons Building, Room 5336
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36120-2101

Dear Edmund:

On April 12, 2010, the Alabama Department of Education (ADE) 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 May 28, June 9, and June 10, 2010, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The ADE has agreed to take a variety of steps to ensure that secondary reading teachers are not deemed highly qualified when they are not. Where necessary, the ADE is correcting the highly qualified designation of such teachers and, by November 1, 2010, it will notify these teachers of the steps they must take to achieve highly qualified status. Because corrections in the highly qualified teacher database will be completed by December 1, 2010, the state has indicated that it will be able to comply with all related requirements, including the submission to the U.S. Department of Education accurate CSPR data this December.

The ADE has already notified districts that certain secondary reading teachers may not be highly qualified and should not be assigned as secondary reading teachers. To ensure that the highly qualified status of new secondary reading teachers is appropriately determined in the future, the ADE will revise its written guidelines governing this group of teachers to make them compliant with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It will submit a draft of the revised guidance to the Department by July 12, 2010, and share the final revised guidance with districts and school administrators by August 1, 2010.

Additionally, by December 31, 2010, the ADE will post on its web site the state, district, and school-level report cards showing the required teacher quality information for the 2008-2009 school year. It will post the report cards, including the required teacher quality data, for the 2009-2010 school year by February 28, 2011. The ADE is currently in the process of analyzing whether Alabama has made any progress in the equitable distribution of quality teachers between high and low poverty schools between 2007 and 2009, and the agency will post its analysis on its

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web site by November 1, 2010. This analysis will focus primarily on the distribution of teachers by highly qualified status and include a comparison of first year teachers to more experienced teachers in both high and low poverty schools.

The ADE will regularly monitor district compliance with the prohibition on hiring non-highly qualified teachers in Title I programs. The Department's monitoring team identified several districts that were out of compliance with this prohibition, and, by July 31, 2010, the state will notify these districts that they must take action to ensure full compliance and submit evidence of the notification.

The Department will follow up with ADE to ensure that progress is being made on these issues, that all agreed upon deadlines are met, and that appropriate documentation is submitted.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined the SAHE was in full compliance with program requirements.

We commend your good 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 Alabama.

Sincerely, -



Michelle Meier
Program Officer

cc: Elizabeth French

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