



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

April 29, 2009

Peggy Primicerio
Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Room 126
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Primicerio:

On February 24, 2009, the Florida Department of Education 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 March 27, 2009, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. Florida has developed corrective action plans for LEAs that are found to hire teachers who are not highly qualified in Title I programs or that are found to be paying teachers who are not highly qualified with Title II, Part A class-size reduction funds. The Department will follow up with the Florida Department of Education to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

Additionally, during the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team recommended that the SAHE develop written policies to avoid incurring large carryover balances of Title II, Part A SAHE funds.

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 Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Clark".

Jessica Clark
Program Officer, Title IIA

cc: Kathy Hebda

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