



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

June 2, 2009

Veta New
Director, Division of Teacher Quality
Georgia Department of Education
1852 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Drive, SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Veta:

On April 7, 2009, the Georgia Department of Education (GDE) 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 4, May 19, and May 28, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The GDE has made changes to ensure that all teachers in Title I programs are highly qualified at the time of hire, to ensure that local report cards include all required information, and to ensure that equitable services will be provided to non-public schools with State-level activity funds. The Department will follow up with the GDE 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 awarding grant to ineligible applicants. The SAHE has taken steps to ensure that this will not occur in the future. 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 Georgia.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Thomas R. Koballa, Jr.

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