



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

August 12, 2010

Elizabeth Losee  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
75 Pleasant St.  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Ms. Losee:

On June 28, 2010, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MDESE) 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 August 5 and 6, 2010, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The MDESE has agreed to correct how it determines the highly qualified status of ESL teachers who teach core content and to correct highly qualified teacher data that has been incorrect because of improper identification of these teachers. The MDESE has also agreed to improve how it monitors highly qualified teacher information housed in school districts, particularly documentation related to the HOUSSE process. The MDESE has put strategies in place to ensure that teachers hired for Title I positions are highly qualified at the time of hire and that teachers paid with Title II, Part A funds for the purpose of class size reduction are highly qualified. The MDESE has also put plans in place to ensure that all districts subject to Section 2141(c) of the ESEA have an appropriate agreement on the use of Title II, Part A and Title I, Part A funds in place with the SEA. The MDESE has also agreed to measure progress on and report on its plan for the equitable distribution of qualified teachers, to ensure that all districts complete the required assessment of professional development and hiring needs, and to regularly and systematically monitor subgrantees for compliance with Federal statutes and regulations. The Department will follow up with MDESE 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 had awarded grants to partnerships that did not include an LEA partner that met statutory requirements for high-need. The SAHE has taken appropriate steps to correct this problem with current grants and in the future. This satisfies the further actions requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

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

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 Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Witt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth A. Witt  
Program Officer

cc: Simone Lynch  
Eileen Lee

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