



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

July 19, 2010

Scott Pfeifer
Director of Instructional Assessment
Maryland State Department of Education
200 W. Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Scott

On June 25, 2010, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) 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 satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The MSDE submitted a written plan with specific procedures and a timeline that the State will implement to ensure all teachers hired for Title I positions are highly qualified. The Department will follow up with MSDE 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 portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined that there were no findings and that all monitoring requirements had been met.

We commend your excellent work during the review and in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. Also, we would like to commend the staff for working collaboratively throughout the review. 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 Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Manitaras".

Carol Manitaras
Program Officer

cc: Melinda Vann

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400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202-6200

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