



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

June 23, 2011

Jessie Montano
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

Dear Ms. Montano:

On September 1, 2010, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) 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 between December 2010 and June 2011, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. The MDE has corrected problems with identifying the highly qualified status of elementary special education teachers, clarified the certification status of teachers in programs like Teach For America, corrected its procedures for carrying out accountability provisions in Section 2141 of the ESEA, and made plans to report on the progress of its equitable distribution plan. The Department will follow up with the MDE 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 not correctly identifying high-need LEAs for participation in partnership grants. The SAHE has satisfactorily addressed this problem for future grant competitions. This satisfies the further actions requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

We commend your 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 Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Witt".

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Nancy Walters

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