



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

February 23, 2010

Mr. Bret Schundler,
Acting Commissioner of Education
New Jersey Department of Education
100 River View Plaza
CN Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Mr. Schundler:

On January 26-27, 2010, the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a program review in New Jersey. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001, and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program.

I am enclosing with this letter a monitoring report that is based on information we collected during the review. I would like to note that the Department of Education team was pleased with the progress you are making in New Jersey to ensure that Federal funds are being used effectively to ensure that all teachers of core academic classes will be highly qualified. The State is commended for thoughtfully and cohesively leveraging, integrating and coordinating professional development funds and resources to maximize its impact on teachers and, ultimately, on student achievement.

As you will see from the enclosed report, the Department has issued two findings. In past years, the State had not required each LEA that did not meet annual measurable objectives for highly qualified teachers for two consecutive years to have an improvement plan in place, nor had it entered into agreements on the use of funds with LEAs that have not met annual measurable objectives for highly qualified teachers and have failed to make AYP for three consecutive years. No further action is required to correct these findings because the State has already implemented procedures that will allow it to carry out both requirements in the current school year and which satisfactorily address the findings identified in the monitoring report. The Department will follow up with the State to ensure that progress is being made in implementing these new procedures.

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.

Although no formal response to the monitoring report is required, if there are any factual errors in the report, we would appreciate receiving suggested corrections no later than

WWW.ED.GOV

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

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

March 9, 2010, so that we can appropriately incorporate them into the final version of the monitoring report, which will be posted on the Department's web site.

Again, thank you for hosting a productive site visit. We look forward to working further with you and your staff in any follow-up activities, in assisting you in any way to ensure that all teachers are meeting the highly qualified requirements and helping improve the delivery of Title II, Part A services in New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Butler".

James Butler
Group Leader, Teacher Quality Programs

Enclosure