



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

August 25, 2010

Dr. Cindy Koss  
Assistant State Superintendent  
School Improvement Team  
Office of Standards and Curriculum  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Cindy:

On July 30, 2010, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) 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 July 30, August 4, and August 16, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. These findings centered on the OSDE's having mischaracterized a limited group of special education teachers as highly qualified when they were not, in fact, highly qualified in every class they taught. The OSDE has identified the small group of teachers affected by this error, notified these teachers of the error and the steps they must take to become highly qualified, and is notifying districts and others about the correction and the policies that will apply moving forward. The corrective actions the OSDE is undertaking will allow it to submit accurate HQT data at the end of this year and post accurate data in the report card it posts for the 2009-2010 school year.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined the SAHE was in full compliance with all Title II, Part A requirements.

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 Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Michelle Meier  
Program Officer

cc: Saeed Sarani

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

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