UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

May 29, 2008

Yomara Martinez Rivera
Oficina de Asuntos Federales
Departamento de Educacion
Urbanizacion Tres Monjitas
Calle Calaf #38
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918

Dear Dr. Martinez:

On May 8, 2008, the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE) 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, 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. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on May 27, 2008, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. In particular, PRDE has agreed to meet all teacher quality related requirements in Tasks 4 and 10 of its Compliance Agreement with the Department. In particular, PRDE must submit an approvable Highly Qualified Teacher plan by June 30, 2008. The State has also agreed to provide evidence to the Department by no later than October 15, 2008 that is has fully complied with the ESEA requirement that parents of students who attend Title I schools be properly notified when their children have been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by teachers who are not highly qualified. The Department will follow up with PRDE to ensure that progress is being made on outstanding compliance issues and that all agreed upon deadlines for the Compliance Agreement and the monitoring findings are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring visit, the program team found the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education to be in full compliance in its administration of the SAHE program. The Department considers monitoring of the SAHE program in Puerto Rico complete.

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 Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Magdalena Mendez, PRCHE