



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

July 2, 2009

Lisa Medler
Title IIA Coordinator
1560 Broadway, Ste. 1450
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Medler:

On February 23, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) 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 June 25, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. Included in the response are plans outlined by CDE to ensure, through the Highly Qualified Online System (HQOS), that teachers hired to work in Title I programs are highly qualified. In addition, CDE provided a plan and a timeline by which it will regularly and systematically monitor LEAs through the use of an online monitoring system structured around a five-year monitoring cycle. CDE also included in its response a plan to correct the data on the status of highly qualified special education teachers in two LEAs that had incorrectly reported. On May 22, CDE submitted an assurance that the State's HQT data had been corrected and that all related data issues, including plans for the data to be submitted in the 2009 CSPR, had been resolved. The Department will continue to follow up with CDE 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 regularly and systematically monitoring its grantees. On February 24, the SAHE provided a response that included a plan for regular and systematic monitoring of its grantees to be conducted on a quarterly basis. This satisfies the further actions requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

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 Colorado.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Heather DeLange

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