UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEC 14 2006

Honorable Douglas D. Christensen
Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall, South, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Commissioner Christensen:

On July 6, 2006, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) submitted its revised State highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers found deficiencies in the original plan, and the Department asked that it be revised and re-submitted. We received the revision on September 29, 2006.

A Department of Education internal peer review committee reviewed the revised plan. In general, the reviewers were pleased with the plan, finding only a few remaining deficiencies. To resolve outstanding questions and concerns raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Miriam Lund had a lengthy discussion with Marge Harouff and other staff members from NDE on November 14. As a result of this conversation, NDE made additional changes to the plan and filled in places where information was missing. A revised version of the plan was submitted to the Department on November 29, and has been reviewed by Department staff.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on November 29 meets all six requirements and is now approved. I would like to congratulate you and your staff for this excellent work. We recognize the substantial challenge it has been to prepare this plan, and we are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan.

We will post the November 29 revision of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan that is currently posted. We look forward to our continued work together, including routine monitoring to ensure that your State implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal in 2006-07 and beyond, for the benefit of all students in Nebraska. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Stonehill (202-260-9737, or robert.stonehill@ed.gov), or Miriam Lund (202-401-2871, or miriam.lund@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson

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