

Series 2005-2006
Circular Letter: C-17

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Regional Educational Service Center Directors
Charter School Directors, Magnet School Directors

FROM: Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Final Report Regarding Title IIA Monitoring Visit

We are pleased to inform you that we received a formal response from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) yesterday regarding the final outcome to our January 2006 monitoring visit for Title IIA – Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). With the exception of the Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP), the USDOE approved Connecticut's programs as presented at the time of the visit. The issues that they originally questioned, but have now approved after further explanation, include: Connecticut's HOUSSE plan, the elementary major as an alternate HOUSSE plan for elementary teachers certified prior to 1990, the integrated social studies certificate and accompanying state assessment, the NCLB state report card, the methods used to annually report HQT to USDOE, and the identification of Title I teachers as HQT since 2002.

As I am sure that you are aware, in order for the DSAP, a form of an alternate route program, to be considered a HQT permit, the USDOE required that all new DSAP applicants pass the state assessment (either Praxis II or ACTFL for world languages) before entering a classroom to teach. Therefore, beginning **July 1, 2006**, all new DSAP applicants must have taken and passed the state assessment, in addition to the other requirements, in order to be issued a DSAP. We strongly recommend that individuals who currently hold a DSAP successfully complete the state assessment as soon as possible so that they can be also considered HQT.

Additionally, the USDOE has requested that all states discontinue the use of the HOUSSE plan for highly qualifying veteran teachers. Connecticut has proposed in our revised state plan that the use of HOUSSE for veteran teachers will be phased out by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Therefore, we strongly recommend that all special education teachers be HOUSSED in minimally two content areas (mathematics and reading/language arts/English) and that middle grades and bilingual teachers be HOUSSED in two to three core academic content areas to provide maximum flexibility in the future. Veteran teachers who hold cross endorsements in content areas that they are not teaching, but wish to be HQT should be accommodated to the best of the district's ability. Districts may consider the use of portfolio completion, inclusion of requirements into the individual's professional growth plan, etc. . . . to address the needs of these individuals.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Pugliese either by telephone at (860)713-6708 or via email at nancy.pugliese@ct.gov.

BJS:nlp

cc: Nancy Pugliese