

NCLB/Highly Qualified Teachers **HQT requirements in NM**

School districts and school personnel have been working for several years to complete the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* Act regarding highly qualified teachers. I applaud your hard work to comply with the federal law. As the June 30, 2006 deadline quickly approaches, (June 30, 2007 for rural districts), we are close to the 100 percent goal but not quite there, despite tremendous efforts statewide.

Recently, the United States Department of Education (USDE) reviewed compliance with this requirement and informed states of their status. We were informed that while we have shown good faith effort in meeting the HQT goal that it appears that we will not reach 100% by June 30, 2006, and that we are required to submit a plan detailing specific new actions that we will take to reach 100% in the 2006-2007 school year.

It is our intent to submit a revised plan to USDE which will delineate New Mexico's new strategies; USDE is expecting bold new actions to address the remaining 10% of New Mexico's teachers who are not Highly Qualified. The revised New Mexico State Plan is due July 7, 2006.

One strategy we will be outlining in our state plan is the consolidated application review process. This year we are using this review process to closely examine each district's progress in meeting the HQT goal. For districts that have not achieved 100% HQT, we are looking for the specific steps and actions that will be taken to meet that goal during the 2006-2007 school year, along with the appropriate budgeted amounts to support these actions. We appreciate your efforts to work with us as we complete this process.

There are currently 6 districts in New Mexico who have reached 100% HQT. Congratulations to Animas Schools, Bloomfield Schools, Grady Municipal Schools, Magdalena Municipal Schools, Maxwell Municipal Schools, and Tatum Municipal Schools.

We will continue to keep you informed of these new requirements as information becomes available.”