

January 18, 2011

David Harmon
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U S Department of Education
400 Maryland Av
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Harmon,
The South Dakota Department of Education is submitting its revised accountability workbook for review and approval.

We spent a great deal of time reviewing the workbook this past year and did some general cleanup (i.e. changing verbs from past to present tense, eliminating unnecessary duplication, etc.) The final draft was reviewed by the Department's NCLB team as well as the Title I Committee of Practitioners before submitting to your staff for review at the USDOE.

The following revisions are the ones that require USDOE approval:

- 5.1 Incorporates the seven categories required in the Final Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to the US Department of Education on our AYP determinations
- 7.1 Requesting permission to calculate our graduation rate according to the Title I 4 Year Adjusted Cohort – also requesting to lower our state's graduation rate from 85% to 80%

Assistance provided through the USDOE was most appreciated. If you have questions/concerns regarding our workbook, please contact Janet Ricketts, Director, Office of Educational Services and Support, at 605-773-4689 or janet.ricketts@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

/x/

Dr. Melody Schopp, Interim Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education