



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DEC 14 2005

Mr. Edward J. McElroy
President
American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. McElroy:

This is in response to your November 10, 2005, letter to Secretary Margaret Spellings regarding your request that the qualifications for highly qualified teachers (HQT) under the No Child Left Behind Act be extended to paraprofessionals. Specifically, you ask that the flexibility granted to States in meeting HQT be applied to paraprofessionals as well. Your letter was referred to me, and I am pleased to respond.

We appreciate being made aware of your thoughts and would like to assure you that the Department will keep your views in mind as it considers this issue.

Thank you for writing to the U.S. Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Darla A. Marburger
Deputy Assistant Secretary