UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

NOV 29 2006

The Honorable Judy A. Jeffrey
Director of Education
Iowa Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
East 14th & Grand Streets
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dear Director Jeffrey:

I am pleased to approve Iowa's assessment system under Title I of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB). I congratulate you on meeting this important NCLB requirement.

My decision is based on input from peer reviewers external to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) and Department staff who reviewed and carefully considered the evidence submitted by Iowa. I have concluded that the evidence demonstrates that Iowa's standards and assessment system satisfies the NCLB requirements. Specifically, Iowa's system includes academic content standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; student achievement standards in reading/language arts and mathematics; alternate achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in reading/language arts and mathematics; assessments in each of grades 3 through 8 and high school in reading/language arts and mathematics; and alternate assessments for those subjects. Accordingly, Iowa's system warrants **Full Approval**. This status means that Iowa's standards and assessment system meets *all* applicable statutory and regulatory

Please be aware that approval of Iowa's standards and assessment system under NCLB is not a determination that the system complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, and requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Finally, please remember that, if Iowa makes significant changes in its standards and assessment system, the State must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

We have found it a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for your State's approved standards and assessment system under NCLB. I wish you well in your continued efforts to improve student achievement in Iowa.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Johnson

Henry L. Johnson

cc: Governor Tom Vilsack
Pamela Pfitzenmaier
Paul Cahill
Tom Deeter