



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

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Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

December 4, 2009

**HOUSSE plans may no longer be used to determine that teachers are highly qualified**

I want to provide complete clarity on the expectations for meeting the Highly Qualified Teacher requirement. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001 specifies that districts must hire *and* place only Highly Qualified teachers in assignments for all core academic subjects.\*

Beginning in 2003, districts could ensure this status through two options – option 1, academic major, advanced degree, National Board certification, or content testing; or option 2, completing the Rhode Island HOUSSE rubric. Teachers who could not be confirmed as Highly Qualified through either option were required to initiate a remediation plan to become Highly Qualified that would be supported by the use of Title II, Part A, funds and be monitored by the district.

With the start of the 2009-10 school year, the HOUSSE rubric and process is no longer an available option for districts to use to ensure teachers' Highly Qualified status. All newly hired teachers of core academic subjects **must** be Highly Qualified through either an academic major or the appropriate content tests. All veteran teachers of core academic subjects **must already be** Highly Qualified for that assignment before they are placed or seek such an assignment; districts and teachers may no longer initiate new HOUSSE plans. (Teachers enrolled currently in district-monitored HOUSSE plans may continue to work with the district to complete these plans by June 30, 2010.)

Please contact Paulajo Gaines, in the Office of Educator Quality and Certification, with any questions you may have.

\*Core academic subjects - the arts, English (reading and language arts), history (civics, economics, geography, and government), world languages, mathematics, and science

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