

The below comments were contained in the October 13, 2006 memorandum to Superintendents from Dr. David Driscoll, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education. The memo was titled, "Update to the NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Requirements and District Action Steps for the Coming Year" and can be read in their entirety at the following site:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/nclb/hq/101306memo.html?section=1>

## **Modifications to the MA HOUSSE Procedures**

USDOE has asked that all states phase out the use of HOUSSE. Below is a list of changes for the use of HOUSSE for both Elementary and Middle/Secondary schoolteachers:

- The Department will no longer allow districts to count teachers as HQT in the District and School Staffing Report (DSSR) based upon their completion of 50% of their content PDPs in their HOUSSE plans or logs. Any teacher that was previously counted as HQT, but who has not yet completed their HOUSSE requirements must have their HQT designation changed to non-HQT until the HOUSSE requirements are fully met. The Department has previously stated that the remaining 50% of the PDPs had to be completed by June 30, 2006. Since June 30, 2006 has passed, the Department is now requiring that all districts count only those teachers who have completed all of their HOUSSE requirements by October 2, 2006 as HQT.
- HOUSSE option will remain available through June 2007 for teachers of core academic subjects licensed prior to 1999. The core academic subjects include: English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts (visual art, dance, theater and music), history and geography.
- Teachers of core academic subjects licensed after 1999 cannot use the HOUSSE option to demonstrate subject matter competency. These teachers must use other options available to them; elementary teachers would need to pass the MTEL tests and middle/secondary teachers would need to either pass the appropriate MTEL examination, complete an academic major, a graduate degree, coursework equivalent to an academic major or the National Board certification process in the appropriate subject(s).
- HOUSSE will be completely phased out effective July 1, 2007 for all teachers except the specific population of teachers in the shortage areas of English Language Learners and Special Education teachers. The HOUSSE option will enable teachers from these categories to meet the HQT subject matter competency requirements so long as they are highly qualified in language arts, mathematics, or science at the time of hire.

**Additionally, more information on high quality teachers can be found at the following Massachusetts Department of Education site:**

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/nclb/hq/101306memo.html?section=11>