



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Raymond C. Morgigno
Interim State Superintendent of Education
Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Dear Dr. Morgigno,

I am writing to recognize Mississippi's ongoing commitment to the maintenance of equity requirements under section 2004(b) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). Knowing the numerous, competing priorities facing States, State educational agencies, and local educational agencies, Mississippi's work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Mississippi's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Reeves, appropriators in your State Legislature, and State educational agency leadership and staff.

ARP maintenance of equity requirements help ensure that State and local education funding supports students who experienced longstanding opportunity gaps before, and were disproportionately impacted by, the COVID-19 pandemic. In implementing these provisions through a mix of data-quality efforts, engagement with Department-provided technical assistance, and maintenance of State education funding for the communities and students who need it most, Mississippi is taking critical steps to accelerate academic recovery and close opportunity and achievement gaps.

Thank you for your collaboration on the implementation of the maintenance of equity requirements and for all you do for Mississippi's students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

Adam Schott
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and
Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable Tate Reeves
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
400 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201