



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

February 1, 2022

Lisa Cavin
Deputy Superintendent Business Services
Plumas County Office of Education
Plumas Unified School District
50 Church Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Dear Ms. Cavin:

Thank you for submitting to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) your request for an exception to the requirement that Plumas Unified School District maintain equity in its high-poverty schools in fiscal year (FY) 2022. Please note that if Plumas Unified School District did not have an aggregate reduction in combined State and local per-pupil funding in FY 2022, Plumas Unified School District has demonstrated an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance which renders this request unnecessary as detailed in Question 32 of [Frequently Asked Questions, American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Program, Maintenance of Equity Requirements](#), December 29, 2021.

As you know, section 2004(c)(2) of the American Rescue Plan Act outlines that a local educational agency (LEA) need not maintain equity if the LEA “demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance, such as unpredictable changes in student enrollment or a precipitous decline in the financial resources of [the LEA], as determined by the Secretary.” An “exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance” might include increased one-time expenditures in the baseline year (school year 2020-2021) due to the pandemic, a very small school where the maintenance of equity calculations do not result in meaningful information about resource availability, or a significant change in the expenses of a school that no longer serves a student whose educational and support needs required services that have a particularly high cost. Each request for an exception requires a case-by-case review by the Department.

On January 11, 2022, we received your request for an exception to the maintenance of equity requirement for your high-poverty schools in FY 2022. According to the materials you provided, you request an exception because of the destruction caused by the Dixie Fire and its subsequent impact on enrollment at Greenville Junior High School and Greenville Elementary School. After reviewing your request, we concur that these events constitute an “uncontrollable or exceptional circumstance” that prevents you from maintaining equity in FY 2022. As a result, Plumas Unified School District is excepted from the maintenance of equity requirements for FY 2022.

Thank you again for reaching out to the Department and for your ongoing commitment to maintaining equity. If you have any questions, please contact the California state mailbox at: California.OESE@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Jimenez

Laura Jimenez

Director, Office of State and Grantee Relations
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education

CC: The Honorable Tony Thurmond
Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
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