



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

November 22, 2022

The Honorable Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
205 Jefferson St., P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioner Vandeven:

I am writing to recognize Missouri'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, your early work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Missouri's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Parson, appropriators in your General Assembly, 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, Missouri is taking critical steps to accelerate academic recovery and close opportunity and achievement gaps.

My team looks forward to continuing our work with yours in implementing the second year of maintenance of equity requirements in fiscal year 2023. Thank you for your collaboration, and all you do for Missouri's students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

James F. Lane, Ed. D.
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions
and Duties of the Assistant Secretary for
Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Governor of Missouri
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102