



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

November 9, 2022

The Honorable Elsie Arntzen
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Superintendent Arntzen:

I am writing to recognize Montana'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 Montana's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Gianforte, 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, Montana 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 on this issue and all you do for Montana'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 Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620