



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 26, 2022

The Honorable Mohammed Choudhury  
Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Superintendent Choudhury:

I am writing to recognize Maryland'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 Maryland's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Hogan, 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, Maryland 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 Maryland'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 Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401