



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 26, 2022

The Honorable Angelica Allen-McMillan  
Commissioner of Education  
New Jersey Department of Education  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Allen-McMillan:

I am writing to recognize New Jersey'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 New Jersey's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Murphy, appropriators in your State Legislature, and State education 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, New Jersey 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 New Jersey'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 Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625