



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 26, 2022

The Honorable Jillian Balow  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education  
101 North 14th Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Superintendent Balow:

I am writing to recognize Virginia'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 Virginia's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Youngkin, 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, Virginia 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 Virginia's students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

Adam Schott  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218