



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 24, 2023

The Honorable Arsenio Romero
Secretary of the Public Education Department
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Secretary Romero,

I am writing to recognize New Mexico'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, New Mexico's early work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that New Mexico's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Lujan Grisham, appropriators in your 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, New Mexico 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 New Mexico's students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

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

CC: The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501