



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Riley
Commissioner of Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner Riley:

I am writing to recognize Massachusetts' 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, Massachusetts' early work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Massachusetts' action is a result of cooperative efforts involving your executive branch, 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, Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts' 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 Maura Healey
Governor of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St., Room 280
Boston, MA 02133