



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Chad Aldis  
Director  
Iowa Department of Education  
400 E 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Dear Director Aldis:

I am writing to recognize Iowa'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, Iowa's early work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Iowa's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Reynolds, 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, Iowa 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 Iowa'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 Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319