



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 31, 2023

The Honorable Tony Sanders
State Superintendent
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Dear Superintendent Sanders,

I am writing to recognize Illinois' 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, Illinois' work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Illinois' action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Pritzker appropriators in your State 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, Illinois 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 implementation of maintenance of equity requirements. Thank you for your collaboration, and all you do for Illinois' students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

Adam Schott
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and
Duties of the Assistance Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706