



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Ryan Walters
State Superintendent
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Secretary Walters,

I am writing to recognize Oklahoma'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, Oklahoma's work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Oklahoma's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Stitt, 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, Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma's 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 J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105