



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 1, 2023

The Honorable Heather Bouchey  
Secretary of Education  
Vermont Agency of Education  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Dear Secretary Bouchey,

I am writing to recognize Vermont'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, Vermont's work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Vermont's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Scott, 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, Vermont 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 Vermont'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 Phil Scott  
Office of the Governor  
109 State Street, Pavilion  
Montpelier, VT 05609