



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

October 25, 2023

The Honorable Michele L. Blatt
State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0330

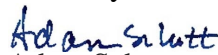
Dear Superintendent Blatt,

I am writing to recognize West Virginia'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, West Virginia's work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that West Virginia's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Justice, 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, West Virginia 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 West Virginia'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 Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable Jim Justice
Office of the Governor
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East,
Charleston, WV 25305-0330