



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January 18, 2024

The Honorable Yanira I. Raíces Vega  
Secretary of Education  
Puerto Rico Department of Education  
Calle Federico Costas, Num 150  
Urb. Industrial Tres Monjitas  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919

Dear Secretary Raíces Vega,

I am writing to recognize Puerto Rico'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, Puerto Rico's work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Puerto Rico's action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Pierluisi, appropriators in your Legislative 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, Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico'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

C: The Honorable Pedro Pierluisi  
Office of the Governor  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
P.O. Box 9020082  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902