



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Carmen Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear State Superintendent Ayala:

I am pleased to approve Illinois' American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) State plan. This plan, together with the unprecedented funding available under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, will help support districts and schools in your State in identifying homeless children and youth, providing wraparound services in light of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), providing assistance needed to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities, and address the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students due to the impact of COVID-19.

Illinois' plan is consistent with all ARP-HCY statutory and regulatory requirements and addresses all ARP-HCY State plan elements. This letter, along with Illinois' approved ARP-HCY State plan, will be posted on the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) website.

Please be aware that approval of Illinois' ARP-HCY State plan is not a determination that all the information included in the State plan complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Illinois' responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

The Department is committed to working in partnership with your State so that your ARP-HCY funds are quickly put to work to ensure children and youth experiencing homelessness are expeditiously identified and connected to wraparound services as well as other educationally related support services that they may need to recover fully from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The thoughtful, evidence-based, and timely use of ARP-HCY funds will have a lasting impact on our Nation's schools and help to address the inequities in resources, services, and opportunities available to our students.

Sincerely,

/s/

Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.