



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Randy Watson
Commissioner of Education
Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Commissioner Watson,

I am writing to recognize Kansas' 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, Kansas' early work to implement these new, critically important resource equity requirements is appreciated. We note that Kansas' action is a result of cooperative efforts involving Governor Kelly, 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, Kansas 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 Kansas' students, educators, and families.

Sincerely,

James F. Lane, Ed. D.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

CC: The Honorable Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas
300 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612