

**Appendix A (NEW August 6, 2021)**

**American Rescue Plan  
LEA Certification of Exception from Local Maintenance of Equity Requirements**

Please submit this certification to your SEA, which will notify the Department which LEAs in the State are excepted from the local maintenance of equity requirements under section 2004(c)(2) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act due to such certifications for FY 2022.

LEA name: Cook County Board of Education

State: Georgia

On behalf of my local educational agency (LEA), I Dr. Becky Ratts (name),  
Assistant Superintendent (title), certify that for the 2021-2022 school year, this LEA demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance under section 2004(c)(2) of the ARP Act.

Please check the option that demonstrates the Maintenance of Equity Exception.

- Has a total enrollment of less than 1,000 students;
- Operates a single school;
- Serves all students within each grade span with a single school; or
- Demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance, such as unpredictable changes in student enrollment or a precipitous decline in the financial resources of the LEA as determined by the Secretary. Specifically, this LEA faces one-time implementation challenges due to the enactment of the ARP Act in March 2021 and the impact of the pandemic. Given these unique timing and implementation circumstances and that this LEA will not implement an aggregate reduction in combined State and local per-pupil funding in FY 2022 (i.e., is not facing overall budget reductions), this LEA demonstrates such an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance under section 2004(c)(2) of the ARP Act.

By signing this certification, I hereby confirm that I am the authorized representative, with the fiscal and legal authority, to certify on behalf of this school district. In addition, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this certification is true and correct.

Becky Ratts  
Signature

Becky Ratts 11/30/21  
Printed Name & Date