Rural Education Achievement Program: Purpose, Eligibility, Implementation and Accountability

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Rural Education Achievement Program
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PURPOSE
Purpose of Title VI, Part B

The purpose of the Title VI, Part B Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) is to address the unique needs of rural LEAs that frequently:

1. Lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for federal competitive grants; and

2. Receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes.
Purpose of Title VI, Part B

Title VI, Part B, Rural Education (REAP)

• REAP is designed to assist rural LEAs in using federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement.

• Rural education identified as an initiative and priority of the President and Secretary of Education.
ELIGIBILITY
Eligibility

REAP consists of two separate programs:

• Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) [*Section 6211*]

• Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) [*Section 6221*]

Local educational agencies (LEAs) must meet specific criteria in order to be eligible for either of the two programs.
SRSA

The Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA)

• Rural school initiative with two components
  1. REAP-Flex – the Alternative Uses of Funds Authority
  2. The SRSA grant program
SRSA

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the SRSA grant and REAP-Flex program, an LEA must:

• Have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of less than 600 students, **OR**

• Serve only schools that are located in counties that have a population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; **AND**

• Serve only schools that have an NCES school locale code of 7 or 8 (assigned by the US ED’s NCES) **OR** be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.
RLIS

• RLIS is an initiative that provides grant funds to rural LEAs that serve concentrations of children from low-income families.

• US ED awards funds by formula to SEAs, which in turn make sub-grants to LEAs either by formula or competitively.

• Georgia uses a formula for making grant awards.

• An LEA may use RLIS funds to support a range of authorized activities in order to assist the LEA in meeting the State’s academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.
RLIS
Eligibility

An LEA is eligible to receive funds under the RLIS program if:

• 20 percent or more of the children age 5 to 17 served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line.

• All schools served by the LEA have a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8 assigned by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES).

• The LEA is not eligible to participate in the Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA).
IMPLEMENTATION
Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA)
SRSA

REAP FLEX – Alternative Uses of Funds Authority

• Provides LEAs with greater flexibility in using the formula grant funds that they receive under certain state-administered federal programs.

• This component of SRSA is not a grant program; does not provide funding.

• REAP FLEX gives greater latitude in spending funds that LEAs receive under other federal programs so that they can better address their particular needs.
SRSA

REAP FLEX – Alternative Uses of Funds Authority

• REAP-Flex does not involve a transfer of funds from one program to another.

• REAP-Flex gives an LEA broader authority in spending “applicable funding” for alternative uses under selected federal programs.

• “Applicable funding” is the funding for which an eligible LEA may exercise its REAP-Flex authority.
SRSA

REAP FLEX – Alternative Uses of Funds Authority

Specifically, “applicable funding” includes all funds allocated by formula to an eligible LEA under the following programs:

1. Subpart 2 of Part A of Title II (Improving Teacher Quality State Grants);
2. Part D of Title II (Educational Technology State Grants);
3. Part A of Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities); and
4. Part A of Title V (State Grants for Innovative Programs).
SRSA
Grant Program

- An LEA eligible to participate in REAP FLEX is also eligible for a grant under the SRSA grant program.
- SRSA funds do **not** flow through the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).
- SRSA authorizes formula grant awards directly to eligible LEAs for a wide range of local activities that support student achievement.
SRSA

Use of Funds

Funds may be used to carry out local activities authorized under the following provisions:

1. Part A of Title I (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged);
2. Part A of Title II (Improving Teacher Quality State Grants);
3. Part D of Title II (Educational Technology State Grants);
4. Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students);
5. Part A of Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities);
6. Part B of Title IV (21st Century Community Learning Centers); and
7. Part A of Title V (State Grants for Innovative Programs).
SRSA

Use of Funds

These are the same programs under which an LEA may use its “applicable funding” when exercising REAP-Flex authority.
Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS)
RLIS

Use of Funds

RLIS funds may be used for the following activities:

1. Teacher recruitment and retention, including the use of signing bonuses and other financial incentives. (Title II Part A)

2. Teacher professional development, including programs that train teachers to use technology to improve teaching and to train teachers of students with special needs. (Title II, Part A)

3. Educational technology, including software and hardware, that meets the requirements of Part D of Title II.
RLIS

Use of Funds

4. Parental involvement activities. (Title I, Part A and Title V, Part A)

5. Activities authorized under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grant Program. (Title IV, Part A)

6. Activities authorized under Part A of Title I.

7. Activities authorized under Title III.

[Section 6222]
Supplement Not Supplant

Part B Rural Education Initiative

Funds made available under subpart 1 or subpart 2 shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other federal, state or local education funds.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Section 6232
Supplement Not Supplant

- Title VI, Part B funds differ from other federal funds in that they must supplement other federal dollars.

- Title VI, Part B cannot fund an activity or budget item previously funded by another federal program if the other federal funds are still available.

- Title VI, Part B provides resources above all other resources.
Supplement Not Supplant

Title VI, Part B

Federal

State and Local
Supplement Not Supplant

An LEA has three Title I schools. A reading coach is being funded at two of the three schools with Title I funds. The third school will fund a reading coach with Title VI, Part B funds.

Supplementing?
Supplanting?
Supplement Not Supplant

An LEA has three Title I schools and one non-Title I school. A reading coach is being funded at the three Title I schools with Title I funds. The non-Title I school will fund a reading coach with Title VI, Part B funds.

Supplementing?
Supplanting?
All schools in the LEA are Title I schools. Title I is providing 2 supplemental computers in each classroom in each Title I school.

Title VI, Part B is providing 1 computer in each classroom in each Title I school.

Supplementing?

Supplanting?
Supplement Not Supplant

All five schools in the LEA are Title I schools. Title I is providing 100 iPads in four schools and Title VI, Part B is providing 100 iPads in the fifth school.

Supplementing?
Supplanting?
CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION
Budgets Due October 30

Budget Pages

• Detailed budget descriptions.
• Descriptions cannot be general and open ended or use the words “such as” “etc.”
• Budget figures must align with selected activities on Rural Education Initiative tab.
• Quantity and cost per unit needed for all equipment items.
• Budget for audit costs if applicable.
Budgets Due October 30
Rural Education Initiative Page

• Complete via Rural Education Initiative tab within the Program Information tab.
• Enter the anticipated expenditures for each activity the LEA will implement.
• The figures on this page must align with the budget and represent the LEA’s anticipated expenditures.
• This page must be updated with each amendment.
• The selected activities from the Rural Education Initiative page must align with the activities reported on the Annual Evaluation Report.
Annual Evaluation Report

Due October 30

• Complete via Data Collection tab within Program Information tab.
• Select “Yes” or “No” for each of the seven activities.
• Report actual expenditures for each program activity the LEA participated in and for which “Yes” was chosen.
• Report expenditures in whole dollars based on the Program Completion Report.
• Performance data will be uploaded by GaDOE.
• Requires Coordinator and Superintendent submit.
ACCOUNTABILITY
Georgia’s Flexibility Waiver

• The requirements in ESEA sections 6213(b) and 6224(e) that limit participation in, and use of funds under the SRSA and RLIS programs based on whether an LEA has made AYP and is complying with the requirements in ESEA section 1116 have been waived.

• Georgia’s Flexibility Waiver allows an LEA that receives RLIS or SRSA funds to use those funds for any authorized purpose regardless of the LEA’s schools’ Priority, Focus, and /or Alert status.
Georgia’s Flexibility Waiver

GaDOE encourages LEAs to use these RLIS and SRSA funds for needs identified under Georgia’s differentiated recognition, accountability, and support system, including supporting Priority and Focus Schools.
Questions?
Resources

State: GaDOE Web site: www.gadoe.org Title Programs
Georgia’s Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP); Program Guidance

NCLB: Title VI, Part B, REAP
Subpart 1: SRSA – Sections 6211 - 6213
Subpart 2: RLIS – Sections 6221 – 6224
Subpart 3: Sections 6231 – 6232


Rural Education Resource Center: http://www.ed.gov/rural-education
Contact Information

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