

## The Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Program

The **SRSA** program is a rural school initiative with two components –

REAP-Flex – the Alternative Use of Funds Authority

- REAP-Flex provides eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) with greater flexibility in using the formula grant funds that they receive under certain State-administered Federal programs. This portion of the SRSA program is not a grant program and does not provide LEAs with funding.

The SRSA grant program

- LEAs eligible to participate in REAP-Flex is also eligible for a grant under the SRSA grant program.
- **The U.S. Department of Education awards SRSA funds directly to eligible LEAs on a formula basis.**

### Eligibility

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

Has 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 ten persons per square mile.

Serves only schools that have an **NCES school locale code of 7 or 8** (assigned by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics) or be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

### Use of Funds

An LEA may use the funds that it receives under the SRSA grant program 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) Students)
- (6) Part A of Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities)
- (7) Part B of Title IV (21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers)
- (8) Part A of Title V (State Grants for Innovative Programs)

*(NOTE: These are the same programs under which an LEA may use its “applicable funding” when exercising REAP-Flex authority.*

# Georgia Department of Education

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## **Accountability**

The accountability requirements regarding restrictions on expenditures of Title VI, Part B funds when the LEA did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) have been waived under Georgia's Flexibility Waiver.

Georgia's Flexibility Waiver allows districts that receive RLIS or SRSA funds to use those funds for any authorized purpose regardless of the LEA's schools' Priority, Focus, and /or Alert status. Just as in previous years, funds must be used for activities authorized under:

- Title II, Part A (Teacher Quality);
- Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education Through Technology);
- Title V, Part A (Innovative Programs - Parent Involvement activities);
- Title IV, Part A (Safe and-Drug Free Schools and Communities);
- Title I, Part A (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged);
- Title III, Part A (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigration Students).

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) encourages LEAs to use RLIS and SRSA funds for needs identified under Georgia's differentiated recognition, accountability, and support system, including supporting Priority and Focus Schools.

## **Reporting**

Eligible LEAs that exercise REAP-Flex authority must report to the SEA on their use of "applicable funding" (i.e., funds that an LEA receives by formula under Title II, Parts A and D and Title IV, Part A) whether or not they received an allocation under the SRSA grant program through the Consolidated State Performance Report.

Those LEAs that receive allocations under the SRSA grant program are also required to submit a report directly to the U.S. Department of Education.