

The Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) Program

The RLIS program is an initiative that provides grant funds to rural local educational agencies (LEAs) that serve concentrations of children from low-income families. Under the RLIS program, the U.S. Department of Education awards funds by formula to State Education Agencies (SEAs) to provide subgrants to eligible LEAs to support a range of authorized activities to support student achievement in order to meet the State's definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP).

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 (as determined by the 2000 Census).

All schools served by the LEA have a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8 (assigned by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics).

The LEA is not eligible to participate in the Small Rural School Achievement Program.

Use of Funds

An LEA may use RLIS funds for:

- (1) Teacher recruitment and retention, including the use of signing bonuses and other financial incentives.
- (2) Teacher professional development, including programs that train teachers to use technology to improve teaching and to train teachers of students with special needs.
- (3) Educational technology, including software and hardware, that meets the requirements of Part D of Title II.
- (4) Parental involvement activities.
- (5) Activities authorized under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants program.
- (6) Activities authorized under Part A of Title I (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged).
- (7) Activities authorized under Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students).

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

Georgia Department of Education

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

Each LEA must annually submit a report to the SEA describing how the LEAs and schools used RLIS funds. This report is in the form of the annual survey and is found within the data collections tab of Title VI, Part B on the Georgia Consolidated Application.