

## Georgia Department of Education FY21 Rural Education Initiative Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Guidance

### **Title V, Part B**

In December 2015, Congress re-authorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. This re-authorization is known as Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA (PL114-95). Under the re-authorization, Title VI, Part B was renamed to Title V, Part B. It is referred to as the Rural Education Initiative as well as the Rural Education Achievement Program.

### **RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Title V, Part B of Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, provides funding to address the unique needs of rural local education agencies (LEAs) that:

1. Lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants.
2. Receive formula grant allocations often too small to be effective in meeting their intended purpose.

There are two separate grant programs within Title V, Part B:

- The Small Rural School Achievement Grant Program (SRSA) (Section 5211) is funded directly by the U.S. Department of Education (US ED).
- The Rural and Low-Income School Program (RLIS) (Section 5221) provides federal funds to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) which allocates funds to rural LEAs serving concentrations of poor students.
- Under ESSA, LEAs may be found eligible for both programs and must select either SRSA or RLIS.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT**

Under the Rural and Low-Income School Program, the Georgia State Board of Education (SBOE) awards sub-grants to eligible LEAs on a formula basis. An LEA is eligible if:

1. Twenty percent or more of the children ages 5 through 17 years served by the LEA are from families with income below the poverty line.
2. All the schools served by the agency are designated with a locale school code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43 by the US ED's National Center for Education Statistics or the US ED has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the SBOE, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a government agency of the state.

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### ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

Title V, Part B may fund activities authorized under any of the following federal formula grants including parent involvement activities:

- Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)
- Title II, Part A (Improving Teacher Quality)
- Title III (Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students)
- Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
- Parent Involvement Activities

### CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION -- PROGRAM INFORMATION TAB

There are two tabs contained within the Program Information Tab on the Consolidated Application:

- Rural Education Initiative Tab and
- Data Collection Tab (Annual Evaluation Report)

The Rural Education Initiative Tab is completed during the budget process and aligns with the budget. The Data Collection tab, which comprises the Annual Evaluation Report, is completed and submitted when the FY20 program completion report is submitted by the LEA and reports the final expenditures for 2019-2020 via the FY21 Consolidated Application.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION PAGE — DATA COLLECTION TAB ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

All districts that implemented Title V, Part B activities during the 2019-2020 school year are required to complete the Annual Evaluation Report via the FY21 Consolidated Application. This includes districts that did not receive an allocation in FY20, but that implemented activities using FY19 carryover funds. The Title V, Part B program must first be added to the district's programs in the Consolidated Application. To access the Annual Evaluation Report, click on the Program Information tab, then the Data Collection tab.

- **Data Collection Tab**
  - **Title V, Part B REAP Evaluation Tab**
    - The data for this report must reflect the 2019-2020 school year.
    - **The activities reported must match the activities reported on the Rural Education Initiative tab located under the Program Information Page submitted with the FY20 approved budget or the most recently approved budget amendment if applicable.**
    - Choose "yes" or "no" for each of the five activities indicating whether the LEA participated.

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- For each activity the LEA implemented, choose “yes”, enter the dollar amount spent on that particular activity.
- The total amount expended must match the Title V, Part B Program Completion Report; therefore, it is important to work with the LEA’s Finance Office to ensure accurate reporting of expenditures. Including FY19 carryover funds and FY20 allocations, report the amount expended for each activity that the LEA implemented.
- Performance data for each LEA will be provided by the GaDOE.
- When completed, the Coordinator must submit the report by clicking on the “Submit” button at the top of the form. The tab will then open up for the Superintendent to review and submit.
- The Superintendent will then click on the “Submit” button at the top of the form to submit the report to the GaDOE. **The report has not been submitted until the Superintendent has clicked on the “Submit” button.**
- The status of the report can be viewed under the Audit Trail tab by selecting the Data Collection Audit Trail tab. All activity on the tab is time stamped. **Be sure to check back on the status as the report will be returned for revision if there are errors.**
- Information submitted in this report is aggregated to obtain statewide data to report to the United States Department of Education.

The **deadline for submission** of the Title V, Part B Annual Evaluation Report is **October 30**.

### TITLE V, PART B BUDGET – FY21 CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION

- There are no limitations on carryover amount for Title V, Part B funds. LEAs should spend 100% of any FY19 carryover funds by September 30, 2020.
- **The budget submission deadline for FY21 budgets is October 1, 2020.**
- **Title V, Part B funds must supplement and not supplant all local, state and other federal funds.**

### PROGRAM INFORMATION PAGE—RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE TAB

- **Rural Education Initiative Tab**
  - The information requested on this tab reflects the five activities allowable under ESSA for Title V, Part B.
  - The Rural Education Initiative tab, located under the Program Information tab, must be completed, must align with the budget, and represents the LEAs anticipated budget amounts for each chosen activity.
  - Based on the FY21 budget, enter the amount of anticipated expenditures for each activity the LEA will implement.
  - The information on this page must be revised and updated with each budget amendment submitted throughout the year.

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### BUDGET PAGE

- Budgeted items must be for allowable activities addressed in the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) as identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and must be reasonable and necessary.
- Expenditures must have a direct link to increasing student academic achievement. The budget line item description must include whether the strategy/intervention is supported by strong, moderate, or promising evidence base or demonstrates a rationale that is documented by a logic model on file with LEA. This requirement applies to budget function codes: 1000, 2100, 2210, 2213, 2400, 2900. This includes software, class size reduction, reading programs, instructional coaches, professional learning, etc. Expenditures that do not require an evidence base include program administration, recruitment, personnel benefits, supplies, technology hardware, etc.
- **Detailed, specific but concise** budget descriptions must be provided for each budget line item.
- Figures in the budget must align with the anticipated expenditures on the Rural Education Initiative tab.
- Descriptions must be specific and cannot be general in nature so that it is unclear how the funds will be used.
- Open ended statements or the words “such as” or “etc.” are not allowed in the descriptions.
- Budget for audit cost in the original budget to alleviate amendments solely for the purpose of budgeting audit cost. Audit cost should be budgeted in 2300-300.

### FROM THE FEDERAL PROGRAMS HANDBOOK

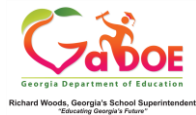
#### ***Budget Requirement:***

LEAs must specify in the budget line item description whether the strategy/intervention is supported by a strong, moderate, or promising evidence base or demonstrates a rationale that is documented by a logic model on file with the LEA. This requirement applies to these budget function codes: 1000, 2100, 2210, 2213, 2400, 2900.

#### ***Budget Acknowledgements:***

Establishing an evidence-based Intervention often applies to strategies and interventions (software, class size reduction, reading programs, instructional coaches, professional learning, etc.).

The GaDOE also realizes that certain expenditures do not require an evidence base (program administration, recruitment, personnel benefits, etc.)



**Georgia Department of Education**  
**FY21 Rural Education Initiative**  
**Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) Guidance**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Please send notification via email to Cathy Buescher at [cbuesche@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:cbuesche@doe.k12.ga.us) if there is any change in the Title V, Part B Coordinator for the district by sending the name, email address and telephone number of the new Coordinator. This is important to ensure that the LEA continues to receive updates and important information.
- OR**
- Please make the change online at the following link. Be sure to choose Title V, Part B as the federal program in the dropdown menu. <https://form.jotform.com/202156250202034>

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