

TITLE VI, PART B

RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) is designed to assist rural school districts in using federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement. REAP consists of two separate programs: the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program and the Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) program.

SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT (SRSA)

The SRSA program provides LEAs with greater flexibility in using the formula grant funds that they receive under certain State-administered Federal programs. The US Department of Education calculates the SRSA grant allocations for an eligible LEA on the basis of a statutory formula and makes the SRSA grant allocations directly to the eligible local educational agencies (LEAs). SRSA funds do not flow through the Georgia Department of Education. It also authorizes formula grant awards directly to these LEAs for a wide range of local activities that support student achievement. REAP-Flex program provides flexibility to eligible rural LEAs to use specific Federal formula funds to support local activities under an array of Federal programs in order to assist them in addressing local academic needs more effectively. To be eligible to participate in the SRSA grant and REAP-Flex program, an LEA must:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Serve only schools that have an NCES school locale code of 7 or 8 (assigned by the US 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.

RURAL AND LOW INCOME SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The RLIS program is an initiative that provides grant funds to rural LEAs that serve concentrations of children from low-income families. An LEA is eligible to receive funds under the RLIS program if:

- (1) Twenty percent or more of the children age 5 to 17 served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line.
- (2) All schools served by the LEA have a **school locale code** of 6, 7, or 8 (assigned by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics).
- (3) The LEA is not eligible to participate in the Small Rural School Achievement Program.

Eligible systems apply for the RLIS funds through the Consolidated Application.

USE OF FUNDS

An eligible 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;
7. Activities authorized under Title III.

CARRYOVER FUNDS

Eligible LEAs may obligate Title VI, Part B funds during the federal fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated and during the succeeding federal fiscal year. The “Tydings period”, gives the eligible LEAs 27 months to obligate their funds [EDGAR at 34 CFR 76.709 (b)]. (REAP Guidance, 6/13/03, III C-8) It is the expectation of the U.S. ED that Title VI, Part B REAP funding be expended during the year in which it is allocated.

While there are no provisions for the reallocation of Title VI, Part B funds, LEAs with carryover funds in excess of 25% of their allocation will be monitored. Technical assistance will be provided to LEAs with an excessive amount of carryover funds.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability requirements apply to both the SRSA and RLIS programs. Each year an LEA receives a grant under the SRSA program or exercises REAP-Flex authority, or receives a grant under the RLIS program, the LEA must administer an assessment that is consistent with the assessment requirements in Section 1111 of NCLB. Once an LEA has received three or more years of funding under either REAP grant program, or has exercised REAP-Flex authority for three or more years, or a combination thereof, specific accountability requirements take effect. The Georgia Department of Education must examine whether the LEA is making AYP as defined in Section 1111 (b) (2) of NCLB.

If the LEA makes AYP after 3 years of participation:

- LEA continues to receive funds or exercise REAP-Flex if eligible.
- LEA continues broad flexibility.

If the LEA does not make AYP for only the last year after 3 years of participation:

- LEA continues to receive funds or exercise REAP-Flex if eligible.
- LEA is not yet in improvement but all funds must be used to address the specific weaknesses that resulted in the LEA's failure to make AYP through the support of research based activities.

If the LEA does not make AYP for the last two years after 3 years of participation:

- LEA continues to receive funds or exercise REAP-Flex if eligible.
- Such an LEA is in needs improvement status and all funds must be spent in accordance with the LEA's improvement plan under section 1116 of NCLB.