



COLORADO

Department of Education

RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (REAP)

December 7, 2015

Agenda

- **Intent and purpose of VIB**
- **Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA)**
- **Alternative Uses of Funds**
- **Rural Low-Income Schools Program (RLIS)**
- **Use of Funds**
- **Monitoring & Evaluation**
- **Contacts**

Intent & Purpose

- Part B of Title VI of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 establishes three separate Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) initiatives.
- Each initiative is designed to help rural districts that may lack the personnel and resources to compete effectively for federal competitive grants and that often receive grant allocations in amounts that are too small to be effective in meeting their intended purpose.

REAP Initiatives

- **The Small, Rural School Grant Program (SRSA)**
- **The Alternative Uses of Funds Authority**
- **The Rural and Low-income School Program (RLIS)**

Basics of SRSA Eligibility

To be eligible for an SRSA Grant and to make use of REAP-Flex authority, a LEA must be both “small” and “rural”

1. To be SMALL, an LEA must:

- Have an 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. To be RURAL, an LEA must;

- Serve only Schools that have a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) school locale code of 7 or 8, or
- Be located in an area of the state defined as rural by a governmental agency of the state.

SRSA Application Process

- **Who can apply for SRSA?**
 - Eligible LEAs apply directly to the U.S. Department of Education via the G5 electronic grants system web site: <https://www.g5.gov>
 - Only eligible LEAs who have never applied before need to submit an SRSA grant application
- **SRSA Funds are a direct grant that flow from the USDE to the LEA. CDE does not oversee these funds.**

Alternative Uses of Funds Authority

- **The Alternative Uses of Funds Authority is a flexibility provision that allows eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to combine funding under certain programs to carry out local activities under other specified Federal programs.**
- **LEAs are allowed to use up to 100% of funds under Title II, Part A, Title II, Part D, Title IV, Part A and Title V for activities authorized under Title I, Title II, Part A, Title II, Part D, Title IV, Part A and Title V.**

Alternative Uses of Funds Authority Eligibility Basics

- The criteria for eligibility is the same as the Small Rural School Achievement Program. A list of Colorado districts and award amounts may be accessed at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/eligibility.html?src=mr>

Basics of RLIS Eligibility

An LEA is eligible for an allocation under the Rural Low Income School (RLIS) program if:

1. 20% or more of the children age 5 to 17 served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line; and
2. 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)
3. The LEA is **NOT** eligible to participate in the SRSA program.

RLIS Application Process

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is a pass-through agency and provides Title VIB funds as sub-awards to local educational agencies (LEAs)
- LEAs apply for Title I-A, I-D, II, III, III-SAI, and VI-B through the Consolidated Application

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/consapp/index>

Changes in Eligibility

Changes in eligibility for SRSA & RLIS may happen for the following reasons:

SRSA	RLIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missing rural definition• Locale Code Changes• ADA Changes• Population Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty changes• Locale Code Changes• ADA Changes• Changes to SRSA
Questionable Values	
Average Daily Attendance Allocations (Title Programs)	

Uses of Funds

- **Supplement, Not Supplant**

- Funds received under this subpart shall be used to supplement, but not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.

Use of Funds

■ Allowable Expenditures of Title VI, Part B funds

■ Activities authorized under:

- Title I, Part A:
 - Improving basic programs operated by local educational agencies
 - Activities for schools identified as priority or focus
- Title I, Part D Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A Teachers and Principals Training and Recruitment Fund
- Title II, Part B Mathematics and Science Partnership
- Title II, Part D Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III Language instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Youth
- Title IV, Part A Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs
- Title VI, Part B Rural Education Initiative

Use of Funds

- **Title VI, Part B funds for both RLIS and SRSA can be used flexibly and in various ways to support any activities authorized under ESEA, including, but not limited to:**
 - Parental Involvement activities (Title I, Part A)
 - Recruitment and retention of teachers, including use for signing bonuses and other initiatives (Title II, Part A)
 - Professional development of teachers, including programs that train teachers to utilize technology to improve instruction or work with students with special needs (Title II, Part A)
 - Educational technology, including software and hardware (Title II, Part D)

Monitoring & Evaluations

- CDE does not monitor the use of Title VI, Part B, SRSA funds. SRSA Funds are direct grants from the USDE to qualifying LEAs.
- There are no Federal reporting requirements for school districts receiving SRSA funds, although school districts must report certain information to their States (such as average daily attendance, uses of funds under REAP-Flex, etc.). Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Education conducts monitoring calls and may examine records or conduct an audit, so it is important to maintain good records, complete with dates, account codes, etc.

Monitoring & Evaluations

- **RLIS funds are allocated through CDE and, as with other federal formula programs administered by CDE are monitored to ensure that:**
 - 1) every child has a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education;
 - 2) programs comply with federal requirements that are most closely related to positive outcomes for students; and
 - 3) taxpayer dollars are administered and used in accordance with how Congress and the United States Department of Education (USDE) intended.

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