

GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE ON THE TITLE V, PART B RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM-
RURAL, LOW-INCOME SCHOOLS PROGRAM (REAP-RLIS)



New York State Education Department

Office of ESSA-Funded Programs

August 2019

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.....	4

Guidance on the Title V, Part B Rural Education Achievement Program- Rural, Low-Income School Program (REAP-RLIS)

INTRODUCTION

This guidance provides Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with information about topics related to the Title V, Part B Rural Education Achievement Program, Rural, Low-Income School Program (REAP-RLIS). This guidance reflects the requirements in Title V, Part B, Sections 5101-5102 and Sections 5221-5225 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the New York State ESSA Plan.

Although this document provides examples of how LEA's may spend REAP-RLIS funds, the examples provided should not be regarded as exhaustive or limiting. LEAs should allocate REAP-RLIS funds based on local needs within the allowability of expenditures guidelines.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q 1. What is the Rural Education Achievement Program- Rural, Low-Income School Program (REAP-RLIS)?

A 1. The Rural Education- Rural, Low-Income School Program provides grant funds to rural LEA's that have concentrations of children from low-income families. The United States Department of Education (USDE) awards RLIS funds to the New York State Education Department (NYSED), which in turn allocates grant funds to LEAs based on the LEA's average daily attendance.

An LEA may use these funds to assist students in meeting New York State's challenging academic standards under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) through activities that either improve teaching and learning in the classroom or improve equity in the classroom for students that are typically disadvantaged in the classroom (students in poverty, minority students, English Language Learners and students with disabilities, for example).

Q 2. What are the eligibility criteria to receive RLIS funds?

A 2. An LEA is eligible for an allocation under the RLIS program if –

- (1) 20 percent or more of the children age 5 to 17 served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the federal poverty line;
- (2) all schools served by the LEA are designated as Rural as determined by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics; and
- (3) the LEA does not participate in the Small, Rural Schools Achievement Program (SRSA) administered directly by USDE.

Q 3. What is the timeline for determining RLIS eligibility for a school year?

A 3. USDE determines which LEAs are eligible for both the SRSA and RLIS programs in January of each year for the next school year. LEAs may qualify for both programs, but may only participate in one program in any given school year.

Those LEAs that are eligible for both must decide which program they are participating in by either filing an SRSA application with USDE during the SRSA application period (usually January-February) or not filing an SRSA application which then places the LEA in the RLIS cohort.

For LEAs that are not dual-eligible, USDE automatically determines which LEAs are eligible for RLIS. NYSED notifies LEAs of RLIS eligibility and their allocation in July.

Q 4. Once an LEA is determined to be RLIS eligible and has an allocation, how does the LEA apply for funds?

A 4. An LEA that has received notice from NYSED that they have been allocated RLIS funds can apply for those funds through the NYSED Consolidated Application for ESSA-Funded Programs. As part of that application, LEAs will need to provide basic information about the planned program and supply NYSED with an FS-10 budget and budget narrative.

Q 5. For what activities may an LEA use its RLIS funds?

A 5. An LEA may use its RLIS funds for the following:

- 1) Activities authorized under ESSA Title I, Part A.
- 2) Activities authorized under ESSA Title II, Part A.
- 3) Activities authorized under ESSA Title III.
- 4) Activities authorized under ESSA Title IV, Part A.
- 5) Parental involvement activities.

Q 6. Does the RLIS program have a “Supplement, Not Supplant” provision?

A 6. Yes. Section 5232 of ESSA states that Title V funds (which includes RLIS) be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State and local funds. If RLIS funds are budgeted for items for required core programs, it is considered supplanting and will not be allowed by NYSED.

Q 7. Are RLIS funds subject to equitable participation requirements with private schools?

A 7. No, RLIS funds are not subject to equitable participation requirements with private schools. However, LEA’s may sub-allocate RLIS funds to private schools within their attendance areas if they wish to do so.

Q 8. Is there a consultation/collaboration requirement for the use of RLIS funds?

A 8. Yes. ESSA Section 1112(a)(1)(A) requires that an LEA engage in timely and meaningful consultation with representatives from several stakeholder groups, including:

- Teachers;
- Administrators (School and/or District);
- Other school personnel (including paraprofessionals); and
- Parent

The LEA must provide evidence of consultation in the Consolidated Application for ESSA-Funded Programs to receive RLIS funds.

Q 9. What are the carryover limits and timeframes for the RLIS funds?

- A 9.** An LEA can carryover up to 100% of allocated funds into the following school year. The period of availability for RLIS funds is 27 months. The funds must be obligated and expended in either the year of allocation or the succeeding year. Otherwise, the LEA risks “excessing funds” which would mean the unused funds after 27 months would be returned to NYSED.