



Q & A on NEW REAP/TRANSFERABILITY FLEXIBILITY

1. Why is this new flexibility regarding REAP/Transferability suddenly available for the 2015-2016 school year?

When *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) was first enacted in 2002, there were multiple programs funded that have since been eliminated (Title II-D Technology, Title IV Safe & Drug Free, and Title V Innovative Education).

A provision within NCLB allows districts to move funds from one federal program into another program to target the funds to where a district needs them (i.e., REAP/Transferability option). Years ago, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) received written notice from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) that stated when a program's funding is eliminated, districts may no longer REAP or transfer funds into that program. Therefore, the option was removed for districts to transfer funds into Title II-D, Title IV, or Title V within the consolidated application, as each program was eliminated.

A few months ago, the NDDPI had a conversation with the program officer at the USDE, who oversees the Rural programs which includes the federal REAP program that provides additional funds to small, rural schools across the nation, as well as the REAP/Transferability option. During the course of the conversation, it was discovered the department received inaccurate information and that districts can, in fact, REAP/Transfer their funds into programs that have been eliminated and use their federal Title funds for the purpose of those programs. Therefore, staff in the Office of Federal Title Programs worked with our technology department to reactivate the REAP/Transfer budgets within the consolidated application for the 2015-2016 school year.

Bottom line, this new understanding will give school districts increased flexibility to target their funds to areas that will best reflect the needs of a particular district.

2. What are the benefits of using the REAP/Transferability option?

This initiative allows eligible school districts to utilize funding under Title II-A, Section 2121 Teacher Principal Training and Recruitment, to support initiatives within the following six programs:

- Title I-A Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards
- Title II-A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment
- Title II-D Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
- Title IV-A Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Title V-A Innovative Strategies

The following are a few examples of how districts could utilize this flexibility option:

- A targeted assistance school is limited to using their Title I funds for Title I students. Under the REAP/Transferability option, a district operating as a targeted assistance school could transfer their Title II-A funds into Title V (Innovative Strategies) and operate a summer school program, afterschool program, or preschool program for ALL students, not just Title I students.
- Technology is a need for many districts. Under the REAP/Transferability option, districts can transfer their Title II-A funds into Title IID to purchase technology.
- Another option is to REAP Title II-A into Title V-A (Innovative Strategies) and implement STEAM/STEM activities. STEAM activities can be implemented throughout grades Pre-K through 12. The websites below can provide ideas for districts on how to utilize funds. If districts have questions on possible activities, please contact Beth Larson-Steckler at esteckler@nd.gov or (701) 328-3544.
 - www.uastem.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2014-UA-STEM-Problem-Solving.pdf
 - <http://stemcollaborative.org/additionalResources.html>

3. Are there limitations for districts wanting to utilize the REAP/Transferability option?

School districts must have an average daily attendance of less than 600 and a Locale Code of 7 or 8 to be eligible for the REAP initiative. Districts above 600 can participate in the Transferability option.

However, school districts identified for corrective action or alternative governance may not participate in the Transferability option.

4. Will districts be allowed to use this REAP/Transferability option in subsequent years?

Once the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is reauthorized, districts will no longer be able to utilize the REAP/Transferability option as those programs will no longer exist. It is unknown at this time whether the ESEA will be reauthorized this year.

5. Where can I get additional information regarding REAP/Transferability?

The revised consolidated application guidance outlines additional requirements regarding the REAP/Transferability option. All consolidated application information is posted on the department's website by navigating the following links: Home – Administrators – Federal Title Programs – Resources – Consolidated Application.

The *Authorized Activities* document outlines the allowable activities that can be funded for each of these additional programs.

6. Who can I contact in the NDDPI to address questions regarding the REAP/Transferability option?

If you have questions regarding the REAP/Transferability options, communicate with your contact person in the Division of Student Support & Innovation or contact Division Manager Laurie Matzke at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284.