



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

# Flexibility and Resources for Rural Districts

# Rural Districts in North Dakota

- Approximately 85% of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in North Dakota (ND) are considered rural according to federal REAP regulations
- Many rural LEAs are not eligible for all federal Title programs
- Rural LEAs have unique needs
- Rural LEAs have limited funding

Therefore, there is a strong need for flexibility

# Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)

This webinar will address the following topics for rural districts:

- REAP
  - Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA)
  - Rural Low Income Schools (RLIS)
- Consolidated Application Flexibility

# REAP

- This program provides additional funding for rural LEAs through two formula grant programs
  - SRSA
  - RLIS
- All LEAs eligible for these grants must apply annually

# Allowable Use of Funds for REAP (RLIS/SRSA)

- ESSA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Section 5222(a)
  - Title I, Part A (Improving basic programs operated by LEAs), Part C (Migrant Education), Part D (Neglected & Delinquent)
  - Title II, Part A (Improving teacher quality state grants)
  - Title III (Language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students)
  - Title IV, Part A (Student support and academic enrichment), Part B (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Programs)
  - Parent and Family Engagement Activities

# Examples of Allowable Activities for REAP (RLIS/SRSA)

Guidance	RLIS	SRSA	Example
Title I, Part A	X	X	High-quality preschool to facilitate the transition from early learning to elementary education programs
Title II, Part A	X	X	Teacher professional development courses to enable an LEA to offer pre-calculus or organic chemistry classes
Title III	X	X	Providing specialized training to English learners and their families
Title IV, Part A	X	X	Offering assistance to students that have been truant, suspended, or expelled to improve their academic achievement
Title IV, Part B 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC After School Program		X	Provide an after school program
Parent and Family Engagement	X	X	Engage parents and family members through parent nights at school to support academic learning

# REAP (RLIS/SRSA) Dual Eligibility

- If an LEA meets the eligibility criteria for both REAP programs, they are considered Dual Eligible and may choose to participate in either SRSA or RLIS
- If the dual eligible LEA does not submit an SRSA application or an application is submitted but the formula allocation is \$0, it will be placed in the RLIS funding cohort
- The final list of RLIS eligible LEAs will be used to determine RLIS allocation amounts. State Educational Agencies (SEAs) have the option to award RLIS grants to eligible LEAs on a competitive basis or according to a formula. ND grants RLIS funds through a formula process based on a per-pupil method

# REAP (RLIS/SRSA) Timeline

- November 16, 2018
  - SEA receive eligibility spreadsheet from REAP team
  - SEAs submit ADA, FY17 Title IIA and IVA allocations
- January 28, 2019
  - Eligibility spreadsheet posted
  - LEAs review spreadsheet
  - Corrections submitted if applicable
- February 20 – April 26, 2019
  - SRSA application period
- May – June, 2019
  - REAP team identifies SRSA and RLIS cohorts
  - REAP team notifies SEAs of all RLIS-eligible LEAs
- July 2019
  - SRSA grants awarded
- August – September 2019
  - RLIS application period
- October 1, 2019
  - RLIS grants awarded



# SRSA Grant Opportunity

# SRSA Eligibility

- Total number of students in average daily attendance (ADA) at all schools served by the LEA is fewer than 600 or each county in which a school served by the LEA is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 people per square mile
- All schools served by LEA have a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) locale determination of 41, 42, or 43
- New column on the eligibility spreadsheet indicates which LEAs are anticipated to receive an allocation if they apply:  
[www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SSI/TitleVreap/](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SSI/TitleVreap/)

# SRSA Application

- Application submitted to USDE on Grants.gov: [www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppld=313089](http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppld=313089)
- Application is open now and will close April 26
- Pre-Application:
  - Ensure DUNS number is active and registered in SAM
  - Register in Grants.gov
  - Create Workspace Profile in Grants.gov
- Application package consists of the following forms:
  - Application
  - Ed GEPA 47 Form
  - USDE Budget Information Non-Construction Programs
  - Assurances for Non-Construction Programs
  - ED SF-424 Supplement
  - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
  - Grants.gov Lobbying Form
- USDE conducted detailed webinars that walked LEAs through every step of the application process
  - April 10, 3:30-4:30 pm EST
  - <https://educateevents1.webex.com/educateevents1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e481002b22dafa6e3e19ebc51bfb18262>

# RLIS Grant Opportunity

# RLIS Eligibility

- Twenty percent or more of children aged 5 to 17 in average daily attendance must be from families with incomes below the poverty line as determined by the small area income poverty estimate data
- All schools served by LEA must have an NCES locale determination of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43

# RLIS Application

- Applications submitted to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Applications accepted August/September
- Application includes:
  - Activities
  - Narrative
  - Budget
  - Assurances



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# Flexibility for Rural Districts in the Consolidated Application

# Transferability Under ESSA

- Under the ESSA, the ability to transfer funds from one program to another is called Transferability
- Transferability allows LEAs greater flexibility to target federal funds to programs that most effectively address their unique needs
- LEAs wishing to participate in this flexibility must complete specific sections of the consolidated application



# Transferability Clarification

- LEAs can only Transfer into a program in which they receive an allocation
- For example: LEAs not eligible for Title IV can't Transfer Title II funds into Title IV
- This is highly problematic for many LEAs that do not receive Title I or IV funding

# Transferability Title V Solution

- There is flexibility available to rural LEAs regarding Transferability in the consolidated application
- This provision will allow rural LEAs the flexibility to Transfer their Title II and IV funding
- This flexibility is available to LEAs that are eligible (not necessarily receiving) for the SRSA and/or RLIS grants

# Requirements for Transfer of Funds

- Any transferred funds are subject to requirements of the programs to which they are transferred
- An LEA that wants to Transfer funds must indicate this on its Consolidated Application for Federal Title Program Funds
- An LEA must consult with the nonpublic schools in its district before a Transfer is requested, if applicable
- If an LEA chooses to Transfer, they must transfer all funds from all programs that are allowed to be Transferred (this will eliminate the district having to manage multiple budgets)

# What Does This Flexibility Mean?

- This flexibility allows eligible LEAs (SRSA/RLIS) to combine their Title II and IV funds into one pool to be used for allowable activities under any of the federal Title programs
- Programs for allowable use of funds
  - Title I, Part A (Improving basic programs operated by LEAs)
  - Title II, Part A (Improving teacher quality state grants)
  - Title III (Language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students)
  - Title IV, Part A (Student support and academic enrichment)
  - Parent and Family Engagement Activities

# How Will This Flexibility Work?

- The Title V federal REAP has been built into the consolidated application process
- Validations added:
  - LEAs can only transfer funds into a program that already has an allocation
- Warning Added:
  - If an LEA intends to transfer into Title V, they must be eligible for a 2019-2020 federal REAP (RLIS/SRSA) grant

# New for 2019-2020 Consolidated Application Process

- Title V specific page
- LEAs need to address:
  - Staff
  - Description
  - Evidence-based
  - Programs supported with Title V flexibility

# Where Can I Learn More?

- Updated consolidated application guidance will be released in May 2019 and will have information on this flexibility
- REAP flexibility will be readdressed in the Consolidated Application webinar

# REAP Questions and Contact Information

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