

Introduction – Small, Rural School Achievement Program and Rural and Low-Income School Program

The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) is authorized under Part B of Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

REAP includes two separate formula grant programs that target funds to rural school districts –

- the Small, Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA) (ESEA section 5212) authorizes the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to make formula grant awards directly to local educational agencies (LEAs) to support a wide range of local activities that support student achievement. It also provides eligible LEAs with greater flexibility in using the formula grant funds they receive under certain State-administered Federal programs. This flexibility is better known as “REAP-Flex”.
- the Rural and Low-Income School Program (RLIS) (ESEA section 5221), awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs), which, in turn, award sub grants to eligible LEAs on a formula basis.

As part of USED’s efforts to ensure valid and reliable data for determining awards, to reduce data collection burden, and to improve the grant award processes for awarding SRSA and RLIS grants, it is modifying its processes for collecting eligibility- and allocation-related data. For FY 2019 and future year allocations, USED intends to collect REAP data in the fall of each year, instead of the spring. This will enable USED to disburse the funds awarded to LEAs no later than July 1.

- **The most significant change under ESSA is that all SRSA eligible LEAs will be required to submit a new SRSA application in order to receive the funds.**
- LEAs eligible for RLIS will continue to apply through the ESEA Consolidated application in ePeGS.

REAP Eligibility

Small, Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA)

To be eligible to participate in REAP-Flex and the SRSA grant program, an LEA must –

1. have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of fewer 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; and
2. serve only schools that have been assigned a school locale code of 41,42, or 43 by USED’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), or be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a State governmental agency. In instances in which a State agency defines the area in which an LEA is located as rural, the SEA and USED must agree to the rural designation before the LEA may participate in either REAP-Flex or the SRSA grant program.

Rural and Low-Income School Program (RLIS)

To be eligible to participate in the RLIS grant program, an LEA must meet the follow criteria –

1. 20 percent or more of the children ages 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 been assigned a school locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43 by NCES, or are located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State. In instances in which a State agency defines the area in which an LEA is located as rural, the SEA and USED must agree to the rural designation before the LEA may participate in the RLIS grant program.

Dual Eligibility

As part of the reauthorization of Title V, Part B of the ESEA, an LEA that meets the eligibility criteria for both the SRSA program and the RLIS program (referred to as “dual eligible”) may choose to participate in either SRSA or RLIS. Section 5225(b) requires an LEA with dual eligibility to notify USED of its preference to participate in either SRSA or RLIS.

An LEA with dual eligibility will notify USED of its choice based on whether or not it submits an SRSA application. If the dual eligible LEA applies for SRSA in accordance with the application submission procedures it will receive an FY 2019 SRSA award. If the dual eligible LEA chooses not to submit an SRSA application or its application is not submitted in accordance with the application submission procedures, it will be included automatically in the list of RLIS-eligible LEAs USED provides to SEAs. The final list of RLIS eligible LEAs will be used to determine SEA RLIS allocation amounts. A dual eligible LEA may exercise the REAP-Flex authority even if the LEA chooses to participate in RLIS instead of SRSA. An LEA that is only eligible for RLIS, may not participate in REAP-Flex.

Hold Harmless-LEAs

As part of the reauthorization of Title V, Part B of the ESEA, LEAs that were eligible and received an FY 2015 SRSA award, but are no longer SRSA-eligible because of amendments the ESSA made to the locale code designations referenced in section 5211(b)(1)(A)(ii), may continue to receive FY 2017, 2018, and 2019 SRSA awards at a reduced rate. LEAs that are not SRSA-eligible for other reasons will not receive an award. LEAs under hold harmless may not participate in REAP-Flex.

Determination of Allocation Amounts -- USED allocates funds under the two rural grant programs on the following basis –

- *Small, Rural School Achievement Program* -- Under this program, the USED awards funds directly to eligible LEAs on the following basis:
Initial Amount = (\$20,000 + (\$100 * (# of Average Daily Attendance students ADA – 50))
(NOTE: Initial amount may not exceed \$60,000)
Estimated Allocation = Initial Amount – the amount of funds the LEA received in fiscal year 2017 under the Title II.A Supporting Effective Instruction and Title IV.A Student Support and Academic Enrichment programs.
- *Rural and Low-Income School Program* -- Under this program, participating States receive an allocation based on their proportionate number of ADA in eligible LEAs. The State Department (DESE) will award grants to LEAs according to a formula based on the number of students in average daily attendance served by the eligible local educational agencies.

Because the data entries on this form will affect all State and LEA allocations, USED has urged us to provide LEAs with an opportunity to review the data on the Excel spreadsheet. If you have questions, please contact Pat at Pat.Kaiser@dese.mo.gov or call 573-751-8643 by **December 12, 2018**.

Spreadsheet Column-by-Column Explanations and Instructions

The headings listed below refer to the respective columns on the Excel worksheet. DESE has provided the data in columns E, F, and K-Q. Data in the other columns were entered by the USED. Please check all items for accuracy. E-mail Pat at Pat.Kaiser@dese.mo.gov with any questions or comments.

A. LEA ID (*Data entered by USED*): The county/district code number assigned by DESE.

B. District Name (*Data entered by USED*): The district name as it appears in the CCD.

C. Locale codes of schools in an LEA on the CCD list (*Data entered by USED*): This column lists the different school locale codes that have been assigned to school buildings in the LEA, but does not identify the locale code of each individual building. Additional information is available at https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/rural_locales.asp.

The Locale codes are:

11 - City, Large: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population of 250,000 or more.

12 - City, Midsize: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.

13 - City, Small: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 100,000.

21 - Suburb, Large: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population of 250,000 or more.

22 - Suburb, Midsize: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.

23 - Suburb, Small: Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 100,000.

31 - Town, Fringe: Territory inside an urban cluster that is less than or equal to 10 miles from an urbanized area.

32 - Town, Distant: Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 10 miles and less than or equal to 35 miles from an urbanized area.

33 - Town, Remote: Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 35 miles from an urbanized area.

41 - Rural, Fringe: Census-defined rural territory that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an urban cluster.

42 - Rural, Distant: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban cluster.

43 - Rural, Remote: Census-defined rural territory that is more than 25 miles from an urbanized area and is also more than 10 miles from an urban cluster.

D. Does each school have a locale code of 41, 42, or 43? (*Data entered by USED*): This column indicates whether all of the schools in the LEA have a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43. LEAs that serve only schools with a locale code of 41, 42, or 43 and meet the other eligibility requirements are eligible to participate in the Small, Rural School Achievement program.

E. Is the LEA in an area defined as rural by the State? (*Data provided by DESE*): This column collects alternative data that may be used in establishing an LEA's eligibility for funds under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program if all of its schools do not have a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43. Part of the eligibility requirements for this program is that all of the schools in the LEA must have a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43, *or* the Secretary must determine, based on a demonstration of the LEA and with the concurrence of the SEA, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

F. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) (*Data provided by DESE*): ADA data (*NOTE: FY19 is based on June 2017 Core Data report*) is used to establish eligibility under both rural education programs and to make State and LEA allocations.

G. Is county population density less than 10 persons per square mile? (*Data provided by USED*): The U.S. Census Bureau's population density data determines if an LEA qualifies for the population density exception. This data was incorporated into the Eligibility Spreadsheet by NCES and is taken into account automatically when determining SRSA and RLIS eligibility.

H. Percentage of children from families below the poverty line? (*Data entered by USED*): USED has listed for each LEA on the CCD list, the percentage of school-aged children served by the LEA that are from families with incomes below the poverty line. This data is used to determine eligibility for the Rural and Low-Income School program.

I. Does LEA meet Low-Income poverty requirement? (*Data entered by USED*): USED has indicated whether an LEA on the CCD list meets the poverty requirement for the Rural and Low-Income School Program. The requirement is that an LEA have a child-poverty rate of 20 percent or more.

J. Does each school in the LEA have locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43? (*Data entered by USED*): To be eligible for the Rural and Low-Income School program, an LEA must serve only schools that have a locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43. This column indicates whether each school building in an LEA on the CCD list has that school locale code(s).

K. FY 2017 Title II.A Allocation Amount (*Data provided by DESE*): Provides the SY 2017-18 Title II.A Supporting Effective Instruction grant award for each LEA.

L. FY 2017 Title IV.A Allocation Amount (*Data provided by DESE*): Provides the SY 2017-18 Title IV.A Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant award for each LEA.

M. Is LEA eligible for Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Program? (*Data provided by DESE*): In this column, DESE made an initial determination concerning an LEA's eligibility to receive funds under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program. (After reviewing the data, the USED will make the final determination concerning an LEA's eligibility for an award.)

"SRSA" is in column M if *both* of the following conditions exist:

- *First condition:* There is an entry of "yes" in either column D ("Does each school have a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43?") or column E ("Is the LEA defined as rural by the State?"); *and*
- *Second condition:* The ADA reported in column F is less than 600 or column G has "yes" ("Is county population density less than 10 persons per square mile?").

If both of these conditions are not met, entry is blank.

N. Is LEA eligible for SRSA Hold-Harmless? (*Data provided by DESE*): This column will show "SRSA – Hold Harmless" if the LEA was eligible and received an FY 2015 SRSA award, but is no longer SRSA-eligible because of amendments the ESSA made to the locale code designations. The LEA may continue to receive FY 2017, 2018, and 2019 SRSA awards at a reduced rate.

O. Is LEA eligible for Rural and Low-Income School Grant? (*Data provided by DESE*): In this column, DESE made the initial determination concerning an LEA's eligibility to receive funding under the Rural and Low-Income School Program. . (After reviewing the data, the USED will make the final determination concerning an LEA's eligibility for an award.)

"RLIS (VI.B)" is in column O if *all* of the following conditions exist:

- *First condition:* There is an entry of "yes" in column I ("Does LEA meet Low-Income poverty requirement?") *and*
- *Second condition:* There is an entry of "yes" in column J ("Does each school in the LEA have locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43?")

P. Is the LEA Dual Eligible? (*Data provided by DESE*): In this column, USED made the initial determination concerning an LEA's eligibility for both the SRSA program and the RLIS program (referred to as "dual eligible") and may choose to participate in either SRSA or RLIS.

Q. What was the final program cohort in 2018-2019? (*Data provided by DESE*): USED provided the final program cohort in October 2018 and this data is for reference only.

Section 5225(b) requires an LEA with dual eligibility to notify USED of its preference to participate in either SRSA or RLIS. An LEA with dual eligibility will notify USED of its choice based on whether or not it submits an SRSA application.

- If the dual eligible LEA applies for SRSA in accordance with the application submission procedures it will receive an FY 2019 SRSA award.
- If the dual eligible LEA chooses not to submit an SRSA application or its application is not submitted in accordance with the application submission procedures, it will be included automatically in the list of RLIS-eligible LEAs USED provides to SEAs. The final list of RLIS eligible LEAs will be used to determine SEA RLIS allocation amounts.

A dual eligible LEA may exercise the REAP-Flex authority even if the LEA chooses to participate in RLIS instead of SRSA. An LEA that is only eligible for RLIS, may not participate in REAP-Flex.