

Title V, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural and Low-Income School Program

A. Title V, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural and Low-Income School Program

1. Outcomes and Objectives (ESEA section 5223(b)(1)): Provide information on program objectives and outcomes for activities under Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, including how the SEA will use funds to help all students meet the challenging State academic standards.

CFDA Number: 84.358B

Program Type: Formula Grants

Title V, Part B of the ESEA, as amended in ESSA, authorizes The Rural Education Achievement Program's (REAP) formula grant program for the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program. The purpose of the RLIS program is to provide technical and financial assistance to eligible rural districts, assisting them so that their students meet the state's challenging academic standards. The RLIS program targets rural local educational agencies (LEAs)—districts, charters, intermediate districts, education cooperatives—that serve large numbers of rural low-income students to promote effective implementation of the challenging state academic standards through state and local innovations. Awards are issued annually via formula to eligible LEAs that meet all statutory eligibility requirements.

An LEA is eligible to receive an award under the RLIS program if the following criteria are met: **Low-Income criterion:** 20 percent or more of the children aged 5 to 17 served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the federal poverty line; **Rural criterion:** All schools served by the LEA have a locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42 or 43 as assigned by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); or the secretary of education has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the SEA, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by the state. Minnesota Statutes, section 126C.10, subdivision 28 Equity Region defines a rural district as "District whose administrative offices on July 1, 1999, not located in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington County are part of the rural equity region. LEAs outside of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington County that have a (NCES) locale code of 32 or 33 and any other locale code and LEAs with a local code of 41, 42, or 43 alone are excluded from the definition of rural for the purposes of this federal program."

Types of Projects – RLIS funding is intended to provide flexibility in using funds under authorized Titles - Title I, Part A (Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged), Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment), Title III (English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement), Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants), and Parent, Family and Community Engagement activities. Additionally, the funding is intended to meet the unique needs of rural LEAs that frequently lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for federal competitive grants and receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in addressing their intended purpose.

LEAs primarily use the RLIS funds for activities to increase the academic achievement of students. As part of the annual application, LEAs are required to provide a description of how the RLIS funds are linked to student achievement, and the budgeting for funds must reflect the information of those programmatic descriptions. Thus, the program objective for improved performance by students in rural and low-income schools will be to measure the academic achievement of students as described in the accountability system.

2. Technical Assistance (ESEA section 5223(b)(3)): Describe how the SEA will provide technical assistance to eligible LEAs to help such agencies implement the activities described in ESEA section 5222.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will provide technical assistance to LEAs, assisting them in implementing approved projects, program activities and tie fiscal decisions to improved student achievement. Ongoing technical assistance may be offered through webinars, conference presentations, email support and telephone conference calls and may include one-on-one assistance to LEA staff by MDE staff.