



TITLE V, PART B HANDBOOK

RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE



OKLAHOMA
Education

Updates Tracking Sheet

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook is designed for small and rural Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that meet the eligibility requirements to receive the Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) grant directly from the United States Department of Education (USDE) or the Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) allocation from the Office of Federal Programs. It is intended to serve as a resource guide to assist rural schools administrators of LEAs that may use or receive funds under this program.

Title V, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, authorizes the Rural Education Initiative, which comprises of two formula grant programs:

Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) grant [ESEA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 1] Direct Grant, Project 588

Rural and, Low-Income Schools (RLIS) grant [ESEA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 2] State Administrated Grant, Project 587

The purpose of these supplemental formula grant programs is to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently:

1. lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants; and
2. receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes. *[ESSA, Section 5202. [20 U.S.C. 7341a]*

CHAPTER 1: Eligibility – Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) Program

To be eligible to participate in the SRSA grant program and its component for flexibility, Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA), an LEA must-

1. have a total average daily attendance (ADA) of fewer than 600 students, or be located in a county with a population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and
2. be comprised only of schools that have been assigned a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43 by the Department's National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES); or
3. be 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 the LEA is located as rural, the SEA and the USDE must agree to the rural designation before the LEA may participate in either AFUA or the SRSA grant program.

In addition, an LEA that is a member of an educational service agency¹ (ESA) is eligible to participate in SRSA, if the SEA does not receive SRSA funds, and if the LEA meets the requirements described in (1) and (2) above.

Educational service agency, as defined in Title VIII, Section 8101(18) of the ESEA, means a regional public multiservice agency authorized by State statute to develop, manage, and provide services or programs to local educational agencies.

CHAPTER 2: Eligibility – Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS)

A Local Educational Agency (LEA) shall be eligible to receive an RLIS allocation if:

- 20 percent or more of the children ages 5 through 17 years served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line as determined by the US Census Small Area Income Poverty Estimate (SAIPE) data; and
- all of the schools served by the LEA are designated with a locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the US Department of Education’s Secretary.

CHAPTER 3: Dual Eligibility

Under the “Choice of Participation” provision in ESSA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Section 5225, an LEA that met the eligibility requirement for both SRSA and RLIS is referred to as “dual-eligible”. Even though the LEA is eligible for funding under both SRSA and RLIS, it must choose one grant under which to receive funds in a given year. In order to receive an SRSA allocation from USDE, dual eligible LEAs choosing SRSA, and SRSA only eligible LEAs must submit an application through USDE. All dual-eligible LEAs may exercise the Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA), regardless of which grant they choose. *[ESSA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 1, Section 5221(a) & (c)].*

CHAPTER 4: Rural Definition

As part of the eligibility requirements for the SRSA and RLIS programs, all of the schools in the LEA must meet the eligible school locale code criteria, **or** the Secretary must determine, based on a demonstration by the LEA and with the concurrence of the SEA, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a State governmental agency.

Oklahoma’s definition of rural - A rural local education agency is one which is located within an incorporated or unincorporated place which has a district resident population of less than 2,500, or has a population center less than 1,000 persons, and is characterized by sparse, widespread populations.

CHAPTER 5: School Locale Codes Defined

School locale codes are assigned to LEAs by the United States Department's National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) and describe where the LEA is located, ranging from a town that is distant or remote or a rural area that is on the fringe, distant or remote from an urbanized area.

- 32 - Town, Distant
- 33 - Town, Remote
- 41 - Rural, Fringe
- 42 - Rural, Distant
- 43 - Rural, Remote

CHAPTER 6: SRSA Allowable Program Activities

Grant funds awarded to local educational agencies under this subpart shall be used for any of the following:

1. Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)
2. Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)
3. Title III (Language Instruction English Learners and Immigrant Students)
4. Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
5. Title IV, Part B (21st-Century Community Learning Centers)

CHAPTER 7: SRSA Examples of Allowable Program Activities

Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)

- High-quality preschool or full-day kindergarten to facilitate the transition from early learning to elementary education programs.

Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)

- Teacher professional development courses to enable an LEA to offer pre-calculus or organic chemistry classes.

Title III (Language Instruction English Learners and Immigrant Students)

- Providing specialized training to English learners and their families.

Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)

- Purchase of computers, monitors, related hardware/software, smartboards, laptops, etc. for in-classroom use.

Title IV, Part B (21st-Century Community Learning Centers)

- Offering assistance to students that have been truant, suspended, or expelled to improve their academic achievement.

CHAPTER 8: Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA)

Allows SRSA-eligible LEAs greater flexibility in spending the funds they receive under Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A, to best address the LEAs particular needs.

- LEAs may use Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A, funds to pay for activities under any of the allowable programs for SRSA grant funds.
- A dual-eligible LEA may exercise this authority even if it chooses to participate in RLIS, instead of SRSA.
- Eligible LEAs do not need to apply for SRSA funds to exercise the “alternative use of funds authority. *[ESSA, Section 5211(a)]*

CHAPTER 9: RLIS Allowable Program Activities

Grant funds awarded to local educational agencies under this subpart shall be used for any of the following:

1. Activities authorized under Part A of Title I.
2. Activities authorized under Part A of Title II.
3. Activities authorized under Title III.
4. Activities authorized under Part A of Title IV.
5. Family and parent engagement activities.

[ESSA, Section 5222 [20 U.S.C. 7351a]]

CHAPTER 10: RLIS Examples of Allowable Program Activities

Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)

- Example: High-quality preschool or full-day kindergarten to facilitate the transition from early learning to elementary education programs.

Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)

- Example: Teacher professional development courses to enable an LEA to offer pre-calculus or organic chemistry classes.

Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)

- Example: An LEA offers an afterschool enrichment program for English learners.

Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment)

- Example: An LEA purchases bully prevention materials for all schools.

Parental Involvement Activities

- Example: Creation of a parental review committee to provide input on the LEA’s curriculum development.

CHAPTER 11: Frequently Asked Questions

11.1 Q: How are Small Rural Schools Achievement (SRSA) allocation made?

A: The US Department of Education calculates the SRSA grant allocation of an eligible LEA on the basis of a statutory formula. (See Appendix A)

11.2 Q: How do I access my SRSA funds?

A: You can access your SRSA funds through our grants website, G5 (www.G5.gov). You will need a username and password, and to register a bank account. If you need help with G5, call the G5 technical hotline at 888-336-8930 (Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. EST to 6:00 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday).

11.3 Q: If an LEA is a dual eligible-LEA (eligible for both the SRSA and RLIS programs), which program should it choose?

A: An LEA should research the requirements and provisions of both the SRSA and the RLIS program to determine which program best meets its needs. While the Department cannot tell an LEA on which program to choose, it has put together a list of factors an LEA should consider when making its decision. This information is available at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/eligibility.html>.

11.4 Q: How are Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) allocations made?

A: The US Department of Education allocates RLIS funds to States by formula. The amount of funding a State receives is based on its proportionate share of children in average daily attendance in all LEAs eligible to participate in the RLIS program. (See Appendix B)

11.5 Q: Can a dual-eligible LEA exercise Alternative use of Funds Authority?

A: Yes, all dual-eligible LEAs may exercise the Alternative Use of Fund Authority, regardless of which grant they choose. *[ESSA, Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Section 5221(a) & (c)].*

11.6 Q: What does the US Department of Education use to determine if an LEA meets the 20 percent poverty threshold?

A: The US Department of Education uses the most recent US Census Bureau Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) in determining district poverty eligibility for the RLIS program.

11.7 Q: What if there are no Census poverty data for an LEA?

A: A State may provide the US Department of Education with the adjusted poverty data that it uses to make its allocations to LEAs under Part A of Title I to determine the eligibility of LEAs for which Census poverty estimates are unavailable.

11.8 Q: Must an LEA use SRSA or RLIS funds only to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local education funds?

A: Yes, funds made available under subpart 1 or subpart 2 shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, any other federal, state, or local education funds. *[ESSA, Section 5232]*

GLOSSARY

ADA- Average Daily Attendance, [ESSA, Section 5231 (a)(1)(2)]

AFUA- Alternative Fund Use Authority

ESA- Educational Service Agency

LEA- Local Education Agency

NCES- National Center of Educational Statistics

Period of Performance- The period of performance of federal funds is 27 months, beginning July 1 of the current fiscal year and extending to September 30, of the second following fiscal year.

Poverty Line- The term “poverty line” means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget based on the most recent data available from the Bureau of the Census. Section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act

RLIS- Rural and Low-Income Schools

SAIPE- Small Area Income Poverty Estimate

SEA- State Education Agency

SRSA- Small, Rural Schools Achievement

RESOURCES

FY2019-2020 SRSA LEAs [Download the list of LEAs eligible for SRSA/ REAP here](#)

USDE Resources: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/resources.html>

USDE Contact: Staci Cummins, Education Program Specialist, Rural Education Achievement Program, anastasia.cummins@ed.gov

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SRSA Allocation Formula

[ESSA, Title V, Part B, Section 5212 (b)(2)(3)]

To project your SRSA supplemental allocation, the LEA will need to know its average daily attendance (ADA) and the amount of Title II-A and Title IV-A funding the LEA received in the prior fiscal year.

Take the number of students in average daily attendance (ADA)	432
Subtract 50	$432 - 50 = 382$
Multiply the total by \$100	$382 \times \$100 = \$38,200$
Add \$20,000 to the sum	$\$38,200 + \$20,000 = \$58,200$
If the total above \$60,000, this amount is capped at \$60,000	
From the amount above, subtract the sum of the allocation received by the LEA during the prior fiscal year under Title II-A and Title IV, Part A.	Title II-A allocations = \$12,500
This is your projected SRSA grant allocation	\$45,700

NOTE: The projected amount may be ratably reduced or increased, depending on the amount appropriated by Congress for the program, and the number of eligible LEAs.

APPENDIX B: RLIS Allocation Formula

Per student amount times the LEA's Average Daily Attendance