

## Title V, Part B – Rural Education and Achievement Program Alternative Fund Use Authority

The Rural Education and Achievement Program (REAP) is designed to assist rural local educational agencies (LEAs) in using federal resources more effectively to improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement. REAP consists of two separate programs: the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program and the Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) program. REAP assists eligible LEAs in addressing local academic needs more effectively by giving them greater flexibility in the use of limited federal resources. Programs under subparts 1 and 2 are designed to address the unique needs of rural LEAs that frequently -

1. Lack the personnel and resources to compete effectively for federal competitive grants; and
2. Receive formula allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes.

The programs are designed to supplement funding to help rural local educational agencies (LEAs) to increase student academic achievement and decrease dropout rate.

The Alternative Fund Use Authority allows **SRSA-eligible** LEAs greater latitude in spending the funds they receive under Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A to best address the LEA's particular needs. Under the Alternative Fund Use Authority, LEAs can use their Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A, funds to pay for activities under any of the allowable uses for SRSA grant funds.

LEAs may consolidate any and all Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A funding for allowable activities permissible under REAP eligible Title programs to carry out local activities authorized under any of the following:

- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title III, Part A
- Title IV, Part A
- Title IV, Part B

LEAs must notify the Tennessee Department of Education (department) of intention to implement the flexibility by emailing a letter of intent to [Deborah.Thomason@tn.gov](mailto:Deborah.Thomason@tn.gov) and [Brinn.Obermiller@tn.gov](mailto:Brinn.Obermiller@tn.gov). This letter should also be uploaded to the ePlan LEA Document Library in the Consolidated Funding Application Documents folder. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) § 5211[c][1][2] requires that LEAs notify the state of the intention to exercise Alternative Fund Use Authority at least 30 days before the transfer of funds takes place. Therefore, the effective date for the transfer is 30 days after the ePlan stamp-in date of the letter of intent.