



### ***Who should I contact if I have questions about the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)?***

Contact your [state REAP coordinator](#) or your state's [federal REAP program officer](#) in the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary & Secondary Education.

### ***Where can I get more information about REAP flexibility?***

Information is available on the [USED website](#) for the REAP program; the [USED Informational Document on the Rural Education Achievement Program \(REAP\)](#); and from your state education agency. When using the USED website, be sure to click on each of the programs shown on the home page (SRSA & RLIS) as well as clicking through the links on the right-hand sidebar. The USED website includes [REAP FAQ](#).

### ***Which funds are eligible for this flexibility?\****

Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A. An SRSA-eligible LEA may use some or all of its Title II, Part A and IV, Part A funds for activities authorized under certain other Federal programs (see Question 4). Please note that in order to receive its funds under Titles II, Part A or IV, Part A, an LEA must meet the relevant application and eligibility requirements, regardless of whether it intends to use the funds for alternative uses under AFUA.\*

### ***Can two or more eligible LEAs submit a joint application to an SEA for an RLIS subgrant?\****

Yes. Section 8305(e) of the ESEA permits two or more eligible LEAs, a consortium of eligible LEAs, or an Educational Service Agency (ESA) on behalf of eligible LEAs to apply for one or more programs covered by the State's consolidated State plan (including RLIS) on a consolidated basis, if each eligible LEA elects to participate in the joint application or chooses to allow the ESA to apply on its behalf.\*

### ***How does the option for a joint application help two or more districts leverage their RLIS funds?***

One possible scenario is when two small, single school districts (K-8) feed into a larger LEA (consolidated HS) and both of these small schools are RLIS eligible districts, that the two small districts agree to submit a joint application combining funds which expands their purchasing power. This action supports aligning services or resources across the districts.

### ***Is the Alternative Fund Use Authority (AFUA) limited to SRSA eligible districts?***

Yes. AFUA is limited to SRSA eligible districts and is not an option for districts that are only eligible for the RLIS program. However, if a district is dual-eligible and elects to opt for the RLIS program rather than SRSA, that school district is still able to exercise AFUA.



### *Do I have to notify my state if I intend to exercise AFUA?*

Yes. An LEA that meets the SRSA program eligibility requirements may exercise AFUA without the approval of either its SEA or the Department. However, an eligible LEA must notify its SEA each year of its intent to exercise AFUA by the notification date established by the SEA.

### *If SRSA is managed at the federal level, why do I have to notify the state of my intent to use AFUA?*

The state REAP coordinator will need to notify the other title program coordinators who review applications because the district application is going to look very different and without knowing there's AFUA involved, it is likely that the application won't be understood or approved. Secondly, each year the USED asks states to report on how many districts requested AFUA, so states need the information to be able to report back to USED.

### *How is AFUA different from the transfer of funds between federal programs?*

AFUA does not authorize the transfer of funds from one program to another. Rather, it gives an LEA more options for spending its Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A formula funds. AFUA is meant to provide additional flexibility.

### *What are an LEA's responsibilities for providing equitable services under this authority?\**

Exercising AFUA does not relieve an LEA of its responsibility to provide equitable services for private school students and teachers if it receives Title II, Part A or IV, Part A funds. An LEA exercising AFUA with its Title II, Part A and/or Title IV, Part A funds must reserve for equitable services to private school students and teachers the proportion of its Title II, Part A and IV, Part A funds that is equal to the expenditures (including those under AFUA authority) for the public school program, taking into account the number and educational needs of the children to be served, as required in ESEA section 8501.\*

For more information about [equitable services](#), please see the [guidance document Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services Requirements under the ESEA, as amended by ESSA \(issued 2016, section V on Equitable Services\)](#).

\*Questions and answers replicated from the [US ED Informational Document on the Rural Education Achievement Program \(REAP\)](#), January 19, 2021.

