



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Application Deadline for Fiscal Year 2025; Small, Rural  
School Achievement Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA)  
program, the U.S. Department of Education (Department)  
awards grants on a formula basis to eligible local  
educational agencies (LEAs) to address the unique needs of  
rural school districts. In this notice, we establish the  
deadline and describe the application process for the  
fiscal year (FY) 2025 SRSA grant.

All LEAs eligible for FY 2025 SRSA funds must apply  
electronically via the process described in this notice by  
the deadline listed below.

**DATES:**

Applications Available: May 14, 2025.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 13, 2025.

Application Technical Assistance: The Department will  
announce via email application technical assistance  
opportunities for applicants when the application becomes  
available.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leslie Poynter, Rural  
Education Achievement Program (REAP) Group Leader, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW,  
Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 401-0039. Email:  
reap@ed.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech  
disability and wish to access telecommunications relay  
services, please dial 7-1-1.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Assistance Listing Number:* 84.358A.

*OMB Control Number:* 1810-0646.

I. AWARD INFORMATION

*Type of Award:* Formula grant.

*Available Funds:* \$110,000,000.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$0 - \$60,000.

*Note:* The amount of an LEA's award depends on the number  
and makeup of eligible LEAs that complete the SRSA  
application, and the amount Congress appropriates for the  
program. Some eligible LEAs may receive an SRSA allocation  
of \$0 due to the statutory funding formula and, in that  
case, will not be invited to submit an application.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 4,200.

II. PROGRAM AUTHORITY AND ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

*Under what statutory authority will FY 2025 SRSA grant  
awards be made?*

The FY 2025 SRSA grant awards will be made under title  
V, part B, subpart 1 of the Elementary and Secondary  
Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. 7345-7345a.

*Which LEAs are eligible for an award under the SRSA program?*

For FY 2025, an LEA (including a public charter school that meets the definition of LEA in section 8101(30) of the ESEA) is eligible for an award under the SRSA program if it meets both of the criteria below:

(a) The total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the LEA is fewer than 600, or each county in which a school served by the LEA is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; and

(b) All of the schools served by the LEA are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43 by the Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), or the Secretary has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the State educational agency, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

The Department provides an eligibility spreadsheet listing each LEA eligible to apply for FY 2025 SRSA grant funds. The spreadsheet is available on the Department's website at: <https://data.ed.gov/dataset/reap-fy-2025-master-eligibility-spreadsheet/resources>.

If an LEA on the Department's list of LEAs eligible to apply for an FY 2025 SRSA award will close prior to the

2025-2026 school year, that LEA is not eligible to receive an FY 2025 SRSA award and should not apply.

Note: The "Choice of Participation" provision under section 5225 of the ESEA gives an LEA eligible for both SRSA and the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program, which is authorized under title V, part B, subpart 2 of the ESEA, the option to participate in either the SRSA program or the RLIS program. 20 U.S.C. 7351d. An LEA eligible for both SRSA and RLIS is henceforth referred to as a "dual-eligible LEA."

*Which eligible LEAs must submit an application to receive an FY 2025 SRSA grant award?*

Under 34 CFR 75.104(a), the Secretary makes a grant only to an eligible entity that submits an application.

In FY 2025, each LEA eligible to receive an SRSA award is required to submit an SRSA application in order to receive SRSA funds, regardless of whether the LEA received an award or submitted an application in a previous year. For example, if a rural community has two distinct LEAs--one composed of its elementary school(s) and one composed of its high school(s)--each distinct LEA must submit its own SRSA application. This requirement applies to all eligible LEAs, including each dual-eligible LEA that chooses to participate in the SRSA program instead of the RLIS program and each SRSA-eligible LEA that is a member of an educational service agency (ESA) that does not receive

SRSA funds on the LEA's behalf. In the case of an SRSA-eligible LEA that is a member of an SRSA-eligible ESA, the LEA and ESA must coordinate directly with each other to determine which entity will submit an SRSA application on the LEA's behalf, as both entities may not apply for or receive SRSA funds for the LEA. As noted above, pursuant to section 5225 of the ESEA, a dual-eligible LEA that applies for SRSA funds will not receive an RLIS award.

*What are the Unique Entity Identification (UEI) number requirements for the SRSA program?*

As required by 2 CFR part 25, Appendix A, entities receiving funds from the Federal government, including SRSA-eligible LEAs that apply for an SRSA award, must maintain current entity information in the System for Award Management (SAM). SAM is the Federal government's primary registrant database and is managed by the General Services Administration, not the Department. The UEI, a 12-character alphanumeric code, is the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards.

Each SRSA-eligible LEA must provide its UEI on the SRSA application. An LEA must have a UEI with an active registration status in SAM to access its awarded SRSA grant funds. An LEA without a UEI may not receive an SRSA award until it has obtained and registered a UEI. Obtaining a UEI is free to LEAs and can be accomplished at [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov). LEAs may find SAM's guide helpful in understanding the

registration process, available at:

<https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>. For additional resources or technical support related to the UEI registration process please utilize the support features at [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov).

### III. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

#### *Electronic Submission of Applications Using Connect.gov:*

The Department will send an email with a unique application link on May 14, 2025, to each LEA that is eligible and estimated to receive a positive allocation (i.e., an estimated amount greater than \$0.00) for an FY 2025 SRSA grant award. The email will include detailed instructions for completing the electronic application.

An eligible LEA must submit an electronic application via *Connect.gov* by June 13, 2025, to be assured of receiving an FY 2025 SRSA grant award. The Department may consider applications submitted after the deadline to the extent practicable and contingent upon the availability of funding.

Please note the following:

- The application is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete. LEAs are encouraged not to wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process.
- Eligible LEAs will receive periodic emails during the application period containing a reminder to complete the SRSA application prior to the June 13, 2025, deadline.

- An application received by *Connect.gov* is dated and time stamped upon submission, and an applicant will receive a confirmation email after the application is submitted.

- If any applicant information changes (*e.g.*, address or contact information for the LEA) after an application has been submitted via *Connect.gov*, the applicant must contact the Department directly by emailing [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov) to update such information.

*Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues:*

If you are unable to submit an application by June 13, 2025, because of technical issues, contact the Department by emailing [reap@ed.gov](mailto:reap@ed.gov) within 5 business days and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced. The late application will be accepted as having met the deadline if the Department can confirm that a technical issue occurred with the *Connect.gov* system that affected your ability to submit the application by the deadline. As noted above, if you submit the application after the deadline and the late submission is not due to a technical issue about which you have notified the Department, the Department may consider your application to the extent practicable and contingent upon the availability of funding.

IV. OTHER PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

*System for Award Management (SAM):*

To do business with the Department, an entity must maintain an active registration in the SAM, the Federal Government's primary registrant database, using the following information:

- a. UEI.
- b. Legal business name.
- c. Physical address associated with the UEI.
- d. Taxpayer identification number (TIN).
- e. Taxpayer name associated with the TIN.
- f. Bank information to set up Electronic Funds

Transfer (EFT) (*i.e.*, routing number, account number, and account type (checking/savings)).

V. ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION AND PROGRAM AUTHORITY

*Accessible Format:* Upon request to the REAP Group Leader (using the email or phone number provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above), individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the *Federal Register*. You may access the official edition of the

*Federal Register* and the Code of Federal Regulations at <https://www.govinfo.gov/>. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other Department documents published in the *Federal Register*, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access Department documents published in the *Federal Register* by using the article search feature at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

*Program Authority:* Sections 5211-5212 of the ESEA, 20 U.S.C. 7345-7345a.

**Hayley B. Sanon,**  
*Principal Deputy Assistant  
Secretary and Acting  
Assistant Secretary,  
Office of Elementary and  
Secondary Education.*

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