

TITLE V—STATE INNOVATION AND LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

Sec. 5003. Rural Education Initiative.

- Currently Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) funds can be expended for local activities authorized under a number of other Title programs. ESSA removes two Title programs from the list of approved types of funding. They are Title II, Part D (Educational Technology State Grants) and Title V, Part A (State Grants for Innovative Programs) (pp. 647-648).
- One criteria for qualifying for REAP funds is the locale code which is assigned to schools by the National Center for Education Statistic (NCES). The locale codes in NCLB for REAP are no longer used by NCES. ESSA updates the locale codes to the ones NCES currently uses to identify rural schools. This update will provide more transparency to school districts and the public (p. 648).
- Retains rural education initiative but updates references.
- Increases minimum grant amount to \$25,000 and maximum to \$80,000 (p. 650).
- A hold harmless provision has been added (p. 651).

Sec. 5225. Choice of Participation.

- Currently if a school district qualifies for both Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) and Rural and Low-income School Program (RLIS) they must take the SRSA grant (p. 656). This section allows the district to choose which grant they want, SRSA or RLIS.