



Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

Fwd: Roads Between 03 - White House Executive Order on Reopening

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 1:50 PM

February Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools** <execdir@airssedu.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 1:44 PM
Subject: Roads Between 03 - White House Executive Order on Reopening
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>



**The Association
of Illinois Rural
and Small Schools**

R O A D S

B E T W E E N

*A Newsletter for Rural
Education Policy*

Executive Order on Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers

President Biden has signed an Executive Order concerning the reopening of schools. Please click the link below to read more.

Read the Executive Order

Important REAP Information

The following message is forwarded from the U.S. Department of Education, and includes important information about REAP.

The upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 SRSA Application's New Features and Reminders

The annual application for the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) grant will be available to more than 4,000 SRSA-eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) in February 2021. Each LEA eligible to apply will receive an email, directed to the LEA's **Authorized Representative** listed on the FY 2021 Master Eligibility Spreadsheet, which will be posted [here](#) when available. To ensure the appropriate LEA staff member receives the application link, the Authorized Representative can be changed by emailing REAP@ed.gov or the link can be forwarded to another staff member.

Last year, the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) implemented grantee-provided feedback to reduce the application completion time, now estimated at 30 minutes. Although 96 percent of applicants approved of the FY 2020 SRSA application, the REAP team remains committed to continuous program improvements based on grantee feedback. To further streamline the application process, an **LEA's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number** will now auto-populate into their FY 2021 SRSA application. The REAP team also encourages LEA's to check their System for Award Management (SAM) registration status prior to applying by entering the LEA's DUNS number into the [SAM Status Tracker](#).

All applicants will be required to submit a current **General Education Provision Act (GEPA) statement**. If the LEA submitted a GEPA statement on the FY 2020 SRSA application, it will auto-populate into the FY 2021 SRSA application and the statement can be updated if needed. If the LEA did not include a GEPA statement on the FY 2020 SRSA application, the field will be blank on the FY 2021 SRSA application and a new statement must be submitted. Please note the GEPA statement is the LEA's explanation of how it will use SRSA funds to address barriers to access and participation in SRSA programs based on any federally protected categories, such as race, gender, national origin, socioeconomic status, disability, or age. A guide on writing

GEPA statements, which includes GEPA statements previously submitted to the Department by SRSA grantees that were reviewed and determined to be sufficient, can be found [here](#).

As always, you may direct any questions regarding REAP to REAP@ed.gov. Please send other questions to Kim Watkins-Foote (Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov) or Adam Honeysett (Adam.Honeysett@ed.gov).

ROADS ----- BETWEEN **Have your read our first two entries in ROADS BETWEEN?**

ROADS BETWEEN is an AIRSS newsletter that brings you the latest news on policy at the state and federal level concerning rural education. Check out our first two entries using the links below, and look for future editions!

[RB01 - USA Today Discusses COVID's Rural Impact](#)

[RB02 - Biden Transition Team](#)

Please support AIRSS in 2021.

- **Your district should have a 2021 membership information brochure.**
- The packet will include a membership information form to return to AIRSS.
- Memberships will be for the **calendar year 2021.**

AIRSS needs you, your support and your involvement! The stronger our collective coalition of supporting members becomes, the stronger our representation becomes and the likelihood **our voice will be heard.**

If your district does not receive a packet, please contact info@airssedu.org to check that we have the correct mailing address. You may also [click here to download a fillable, printable form](#) and support AIRSS today.



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