

*Elementary and Secondary
Education Act of 1965 (ESEA),
as Amended by the
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB)
P. L. 107-110*

**Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2,
Rural and Low-Income School Program**

Individual Application

Guidelines ♦ Instructions ♦ Assurances

**Application Submission Date:
July 1, 2016**

**ESEA Grant Award Period:
July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017**

**Virginia Department of Education
Division of Instruction
Office of Program Administration and Accountability
P. O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218-2120**

Application Guidelines

Purpose of Program and General Use of Funds

The purpose of Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural and Low-Income Program is to support the provisions outlined under each principle in Virginia's approved ESEA flexibility plan, including the following:

- Supporting student mastery of K-12 college-and-career ready reading and mathematics standards, and attainment of proficiency or better on corresponding assessments;
- For high schools with a graduating class, supporting student completion of graduation requirements in a timely fashion; and
- Ensuring that students are taught by effective teachers meeting Virginia licensing and professional teaching requirements and providing meaningful professional development and support to promote effective instruction to increase student achievement.

This grant provides funds to rural school divisions that serve concentrations of children from low-income families. These funds may be used to support a broad array of local activities to enhance student achievement through one or more of the following seven categories:

- (1) Recruitment and retention of teachers includes the use of signing bonuses and other incentives;
- (2) Professional development for teachers includes programs that train teachers to utilize technology to improve teaching and to train teachers of students with special needs;
- (3) Educational technology, including software and hardware, as described in Title II, Part D.
- (4) Parental involvement activities.
- (5) Activities authorized under Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs under Title IV, Part A.
- (6) Activities authorized under Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies.
- (7) Activities authorized under Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Youth.
- (8) Activities for schools identified as priority or focus receiving Title I, Part A, funds.

Application Submission and Approval Deadline

- The consolidated or individual application submission date is by Friday, July 1, 2016; the application may be submitted prior to July 1.
- A school division that submits an approvable application by July 1, 2016, will have the 2016-2017 funds available on a reimbursement basis as of July 1, 2016. A school division that submits an approvable application after July 1, 2016, will have the 2016-2017 funds available on a reimbursement basis as of the date the application is received at the Department.
- The division should make every effort to submit program applications by the due date.
- Failure to adhere to the submission deadline indicates that the division may not have a process in place to ensure that it implements only approved programs and services and that funds are allocated only on approved activities.

Submission to the Virginia Department of Education

- Applications are submitted through the OMEGA system. Instructions for the electronic application completion and submission process are explained on page 3.
- The application cover page signed by the division superintendent and the local school board chairperson should be retained and filed at the division level. The signed application cover page **should not be submitted** to the Virginia Department of Education, but be **retained at the local level.** **The online certification by the superintendent will indicate compliance with application assurances.** Additional information on assurances is included in the "General Assurances and Program Specific Assurances" section on page 7-8.

Revisions and Amendments to Applications

- Revisions are changes that are necessary to the program application, or budget *before* approval can be granted. Revisions to the application are made after the original submission, only if the application is denied.
- Amendments are changes that are made to the program application or budget *after* the approval of the application. If the amendment involves only programmatic changes, a budget transfer request is not required. If the amendment involves programmatic and budget changes or just a budget change, a budget transfer must be submitted first.
- The division should make every effort to submit revisions and amendments in a timely manner.
- **NOTE: Any changes to the program budget should first be reflected in an amended application, followed by a budget transfer within 7 business days of approval of the amended application. Budget transfers are no longer accepted without an approved amended application reflecting budget changes.**
- Revisions and amendments should be identified on the first page of the application in the upper right-hand corner. Indicate whether a revision or an amendment is being submitted and include the date. Next, select the “Explain” link. A section will be displayed where details about the changes to the application should be provided. Please be specific. Provide the number and date of the revision or amendment.
- All changes, whether submitted in a revision or amendment, should be made to the original or most recently approved version of the application. The file should then be resubmitted using OMEGA in a similar manner as was used for the original submission of the application file. Additional information on a revision or an amendment submission is available in the OMEGA modules located at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/applications/index.shtml.

Release of Federal Funds and Grant Award Period

- At the conclusion of the approval process, Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, funds are available to eligible school divisions on a reimbursement basis. The grant award period is July 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. Under the Tydings Amendment, school divisions have until September 30, 2018, to encumber 2016-2017 funds, if necessary.
- Final reimbursements must be submitted to the Department by November 15, 2018. Reimbursements are submitted using the OMEGA system.
- If the 2016-2017 allocation amounts are not available to school divisions by the application submission date, the 2015-2016 Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, allocation may be used as the estimated amount for budget purposes. When the eligible school division’s final 2016-2017 Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, federal allocations have been received, applicants must follow the electronic revision or amendment process as outlined in the OMEGA modules located at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/applications/index.shtml.

General Assurances and Program Specific Assurances

- Assurances represent policies, procedures, and activities that must be developed by the school division to carry out the provisions of the law. The “General Assurances and Program Specific Assurances” are located in Appendix A of this document and must be retained at the division level.
- **The superintendent’s/designee’s and board chairperson’s signatures on the application cover page certify that the local educational agency will implement the general and program specific assurances. The signed original of the application cover page must be retained at the division level.**

Instructions for Electronic Completion and Submission of Application

The application has been created in a Microsoft Excel format. Users can enter information in the white cells. Use the “Tab” key to move from cell to cell. **Do not** use the “Enter” key to advance to the next cell.

- The completed application must be saved as an Excel document with the following name: “XXXTitleVIB16-17.xls” (The “XXX” should be replaced by the three-digit LEA/Payee Code for your particular division). For example, Accomack County’s Title VI, Part B,

- Subpart 2, application should be saved as “001TitleVIB16-17.xls” in the electronic files for the school division. **The file name cannot exceed 50 characters.**
- The completed application should be uploaded to the OMEGA system by selecting the appropriate options to indicate the type of application (individual or consolidated). Then, indicate the appropriate federal program(s) in the application(s). Print copies will not be accepted.
 - OMEGA can be accessed through the Virginia Department of Education’s (VDOE’s) Single Sign-on for Web System (SSWS) located at:
<https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/ssws/login.page.do>
 - A log-in ID and password are necessary to access the system.
 - Additional information and guidance regarding the submission of the application using OMEGA can be found in the [technical assistance document](#) and in the OMEGA modules at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/applications/index.shtml. If additional technical support is needed, please e-mail OMEGA.Support@doe.virginia.gov or call (804) 371-0993.
 - All other correspondence should be directed to Gabie Frazier, Title I specialist, at Gabie.Frazier@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 225-2907.

Instructions for Completing the Application

A. Cover Page (Individual Application Information Tab Pages 1-2)

1. Complete the school division information section. Select the drop down box that appears at the end of the Applicant (Legal Name of Agency) cell and locate your school division name. Select your school division name. This feature will automatically insert your school division name and number throughout the application.
2. The local school board must review and approve the application prior to submission to the Virginia Department of Education.
3. The designated division representative should complete the Local Educational Agency Certification by securing all appropriate signatures and by indicating the date of the school board meeting.
4. The 2015-2016 Title VI, Part B funding allocation will appear in the column labeled 2015-2016 Allocation. Please indicate whether or not you submitted a consolidated application for 2015-2016 by selecting “yes” or “no” from the drop down list in the column marked 2015-2016 Consolidated Application.
5. After completing step 1 above, in the far right column labeled 2016-2017 Allocation Total, enter your school division’s allocation for Title VI, Part B. If you do not know your 2016-2017 allocation, use the 2015-2016 amount.
6. Complete the Revisions and Amendments section, as necessary.

B. Uses of Funds (Page 3)

These funds may be used for one or more of the eight categories listed below. Please indicate the areas by placing an “X” in the corresponding box. These categories must align with the measurable objectives indicated in the application and must support the goals of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended by *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*, Act of 2001.

- (1) Recruitment and retention of teachers includes the use of signing bonuses and other incentives;
- (2) Professional development for teachers includes programs that train teachers to utilize technology to improve teaching and to train teachers of students with special needs;
- (3) Educational technology, including software and hardware, as described in Title II, Part D.
- (4) Parental involvement activities.
- (5) Activities authorized under Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs under Title IV, Part A.
- (6) Activities authorized under Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies.

- (7) Activities authorized under Title III Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Youth.
- (8) Activities for schools identified as priority or focus receiving Title I, Part A, funds.

C. Program Overview (Pages 4-5)

1. Describe the programs, services, or activities to be provided under the categories selected in Section C.
2. Include the targeted population(s). (Examples: ESEA subgroups of students, homeless and migrant students, instructional and administrative staff, paraprofessionals, parents, etc.)
3. Discuss how the division's programs will contribute to the achievement of the ESEA goals.

D. Coordination Of Services (Page 6)

Describe the partnership within your division between this program and other federal, state, and/or local programs in the delivery of services to the targeted population(s). Describe the collaboration of program staffs, parents, and the community to provide services and activities that will contribute to the attainment of the measurable objectives in the application.

E. Measurable Objectives (Pages 7-9)

1. State five or fewer measurable objectives that will guide the development of the programs to be funded with the requested federal funds. Measurable objectives may be revised from the previous year with an adjusted time period or new measurable objectives may be indicated.
2. Describe the scientifically-based research services and activities (programs, models, instructional methods, and techniques) that will be implemented to achieve each objective and that will be supported by the requested funds.
3. A definition and examples of measurable objectives are listed below.

What is a Measurable Objective?

A measurable objective has four components:

1. Subject (Who is the target or focus?);
2. Behavior (What will be changed/improved?);
3. Specific criteria for assessing improvement, readiness, or achievement; and
4. Time period for performance or assessment.

Examples:

1. In the spring of 2016, students with disabilities will demonstrate a five percent increase in the subgroup's mathematics performance on the Standards of Learning assessment.
2. By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 95% of grade 2 students will demonstrate on-grade-level reading proficiency by meeting or exceeding grade level benchmarks on the PALS assessment.

It is anticipated that 2015-2016 *student-level* Standards of Learning (SOL) test results will arrive in the school divisions prior to the application deadline. Though unofficial, schools and school divisions should examine these data for student progress trends that may be used to determine needed activities to improve student achievement.

F. Detailed Budget Breakdown (Pages 10-14)

Indicate a detailed budget breakdown of each category for Object Codes 1000-6000 and 8000.

G. Budget Summary (Page 15)

Indicate the total amount for each category in the respective object codes. The categories, amounts, and object codes specified on the Detailed Budget Breakdown pages and on the Budget Summary page must align.

H. Expenditure Accounts Description (Page 16)

This page provides the definition of object codes.

Appendix A

ASSURANCES

The assurances should be kept on file in the division.

GENERAL ASSURANCES

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
- Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
- Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund
- Title III, Part A – English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement
- Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2 – Rural and Low-Income School Program

The school division assures:

- I. Each program will be administered in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
- II. The control of funds provided under each program and title to property acquired with program funds will be in a public agency, a nonprofit private agency, institution, organization, or an Indian tribe, if the law authorizing the program provides for assistance to those entities;
- III. The public agency, nonprofit private agency, institution, or organization, or Indian tribe, will administer those funds and property to the extent required by the authorizing statutes;
- IV. It will adopt and use proper methods of administering each program, including—
 - A. The enforcement of any obligations imposed by law on agencies, institutions, organizations, and other recipients responsible for carrying out each program.
 - B. The correction of deficiencies in program operations that are identified through audits, monitoring, or evaluation and that:
 1. It will maintain fiscal effort in support of free public education;
 2. It will provide services with state and local funds that are at least comparable to services provided in schools and areas not receiving special federal funds;
 3. The majority of the resources in the school division are derived from nonfederal funds;
 4. It is in compliance with the requirements regarding school prayer as specified in P. L. 107-110, Title IX, Section 9524;
 5. It will comply with the audit requirements for each program;
 6. The federal funds are used to supplement, not supplant regular nonfederal funds;
 7. It will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation of each program conducted by or for the state educational agency, the Secretary, or other federal officials;
 8. It will use such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds paid to the applicant under each program;
 9. It will submit such reports to the state educational agency (which shall make the reports available to the Governor) and the Secretary of Education as the state educational agency and Secretary may require to enable the state educational agency and the Secretary to perform their duties under each program;
 10. It will maintain such records for five years, provide such information, and afford such access to the records as the state educational agency (after consultation with the Governor) or the Secretary may reasonably require to carry out the state educational agency's or the Secretary's duties
 11. It consulted with teachers, school administrators, parents, members of the community, nonprofit organizations and other interested parties in the development of this plan;
 12. It afforded a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the plan or application and considered such comment before the application was submitted;
 13. It is in compliance with the requirement regarding equal access to public school facilities as specified in P. L. 107-110, Title IX, Section 9525;

14. It will comply with the other application requirements outlined in Section 9501. Private School Children; Section 9502. Bypass; and Section 9521. Maintenance of Effort under Title IX – General Provisions.
 15. It will notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - a) whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - b) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
 - c) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications; and
 - d) the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
 16. It will provide information in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, be provided in a language that the parents can understand;
 17. It will ensure that funds are expended in accordance with the school division’s approved application or amended application. In the event the local division needs to expend funds in any manner other than stipulated in the approved application, the plan must be amended using the amendment process provided by the Department of Education. The application must be amended before funds can be expended for activities not approved in the original application;
- C. That it will collect and disseminate information collected under Section 1111 in a manner that protects the privacy of individuals.
- V. The division shall comply with Section 22.1-277.01, of the *Code of Virginia* that requires the expulsion for one year of any student determined to have brought a firearm to school. A description of each incident, the name of the school concerned, the number of students expelled from each school, and the type of firearm used in each instance of expulsion will be reported to the Virginia Department of Education in compliance with provisions under Section 4141 of Title IV. This agency has a policy that requires referral to the criminal justice or the juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school; and
- VI. It will participate, if selected, in the state National Assessment of Educational Progress in 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics carried out under Section 411(b)(2) of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994.