

1 **H. Title V, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural and Low-Income School Program**  
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3 **1. Outcomes and Objectives (ESEA section 5223(b)(1)): Provide information on program objectives**  
4 **and outcomes for activities under Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, including how the SEA will use funds**  
5 **to help all students meet the challenging State academic standards.**  
6

7 **Ohio’s Rural Strategy:**

8 Ohio is committed to implementing a coherent approach to support rural schools that leverages the  
9 opportunities in ESSA. Ohio will support its rural schools through targeted and coordinated regional  
10 efforts to build school and district capacity and align resources. School improvement initiatives will be  
11 strengths-based and culturally sensitive to meet the unique needs of each district.

12 Though Ohio has 231 rural districts (124 with high levels of poverty) serving more than 280,000 students,  
13 Ohio’s rural strategy will focus specifically on districts in the southeastern region of the state where the  
14 majority of high-poverty rural districts are located. Education issues in Southeastern Ohio are embedded  
15 in a culture where schools are respected institutions, relationships are highly valued and residents have a  
16 desire to remain in the region. At the same time, geographic isolation, high rates of poverty and depressed  
17 economies have long presented unique challenges for educators. Southeastern Ohio districts face  
18 challenges that are cultural, persistent and systematic.

19 Southeastern Ohio includes 26 of Ohio’s 88 counties, has 11 educational service centers and is served by  
20 four state support team regions as follows:

- 21 • Region 12 (Guernsey, Muskingum, Belmont, Perry, Monroe, Morgan, Holmes, Coshocton,  
22 Harrison, Jefferson, Noble, Tuscarawas and Carroll counties);
- 23 • Region 14 (Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette and Highland counties);
- 24 • Region 15 (Ross, Pike, Scioto, and Lawrence counties); and
- 25 • Region 16 (Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Perry, Vinton and Washington counties).

26 In the current 2016-2017 school year, Region 12 has three Focus Schools, Region 14 has one Focus  
27 School, Region 15 has four Focus Schools, and Region 16 has two Focus Schools. Focus schools each  
28 receive \$65,000. However, the region has no Priority schools or schools receiving School Improvement  
29 Grants (SIG).

30 Ohio’s rural strategy uses a strengths-based approach that is focused on solvable problems. Using this  
31 existing infrastructure and developing coordinated partnerships within the region, Ohio’s rural strategy  
32 will build capacity to effectively align resources, plan and implement improvement activities and increase  
33 opportunities for additional funding.

34 Education infrastructure can be developed and augmented through resource collaboration with  
35 universities, educational service centers, teacher partners and district leadership teams. Districts may  
36 leverage partnerships to lead community engagement activities, provide instructional support, conduct  
37 program evaluation and facilitate professional development — all in a local context. Higher education can  
38 play a pivotal role in improvement efforts while engaging the broader community and integrating college  
39 and career readiness into a culture that values family, place and common sense and staying close to home  
40 presents a challenge to educators.

41 **Activities**

42 As part of Ohio’s continuous improvement structure, districts conduct a needs assessment using state and  
43 local data to identify opportunities for improvement. Informed by the needs assessment, districts choose  
44 evidence-based interventions and identify areas to align and strategically target local, state and federal  
45 funding sources. Ohio’s State System of Support assists rural districts with strategically aligning funding  
46 to evidence-based interventions and the implementation of the chosen strategies.

47 Specifically, Ohio will support rural education improvement through the following actions and activities:

- 48 • Developing partnerships in the Appalachian region of the state and building a peer-to-peer
- 49 network to connect high-performing districts with similar districts to model and share effective
- 50 professional development, curriculum, instruction and school improvement activities;
- 51 • Designating a rural education liaison in the Office of Improvement to coordinate school
- 52 improvement initiatives;
- 53 • Leveraging Title II for professional development to support the needs of educators in rural
- 54 schools;
- 55 • Targeting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grants to rural schools; and
- 56 • Providing technical assistance in selecting evidence-based improvement strategies;

57 **Title V, Part B, Subpart 2 Program Objectives and Outcomes:**

58 Ohio has three objectives and two outcomes related to the Rural and Low-Income School Program:

59 **Objective 1:** Ohio will increase the capacity of districts to engage in effective school improvement planning  
60 and implementation.

61 **Objective 2:** Ohio will help rural districts competitively apply for available grant dollars and leverage all  
62 funding streams to maximize impact of funds on school improvement and student achievement.

63 **Objective 3:** Ohio will provide technical assistance and information about evidence-based effective rural  
64 strategies.

65 **Outcome 1:** Increase the percentage of rural/low-income districts and schools that reach or exceed a  
66 graduation rate of an “A” on Ohio’s report card.

67 **Outcome 2:** Increase the percentage of rural/low-income districts and schools that reach or exceed a “C,” 70  
68 percent level on the state’s Performance Index measure on Ohio’s report card.

69 **Outcome 3:** Increase the percentage of rural/low-income districts and schools that reach or exceed a “C,” 34  
70 percent level on the state’s Prepared for Success measure on Ohio’s report card.

71 **Table: Percentage of Districts by District Typology, 4-year Graduation Rate; Performance Index; and**  
72 **Prepared for Success**

	<b>Rural/Small Town: High Poverty</b>	<b>Rural/Small Town: Not High Poverty</b>	<b>Suburban</b>	<b>State</b>
4-year Graduation Rate:	52.8%	58.5%	76.4%	54.2%

93% or higher				
Performance Index: 70% or better	49.6%	66.0%	93.5%	62%
Prepared for Success: 34% or better	31.7%	48.1%	90.2%	52.4%

73 **Table: Percentage of Schools by District Typology, 4-year Graduation Rate; Performance Index; and**  
74 **Prepared for Success**

	<b>Rural/Small Town: High Poverty</b>	<b>Rural/Small Town: Not High Poverty</b>	<b>Suburban</b>	<b>State</b>
4-year Graduation Rate: 93% or higher	52.3%	58.5%	75.5%	47.0%
Performance Index: 70% or better	46.6%	59.7%	87.8%	50.0%
Prepared for Success: 34% or better	32.8%	48.1%	87.4%	44.0%

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76 **2. Technical Assistance (ESEA section 5223(b)(3)): Describe how the SEA will provide technical assistance**  
77 **to eligible LEAs to help such agencies implement the activities described in ESEA section 5222.**

78 Ohio has a multi-tiered system of technical assistance based on a continuum of supports for districts. This  
79 system is described under Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies  
80 of this application. Each district is assigned a Federal Programs consultant at the Department who works with  
81 districts to coordinate the use of all federal funds through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement  
82 Planning (CCIP) system. Funding coordination will include Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)  
83 funds. State technical assistance also includes assisting districts with improvement plan development  
84 including identifying needs, goals, strategies, action steps and resources and choosing appropriate evidence-  
85 based strategies; strategically aligning and targeting resources; and identifying and building partnerships in  
86 the southeastern region of Ohio. In addition, technical assistance for the rural and low-income school program  
87 includes the following:

- 88 • Online Resources: Ohio maintains a variety of online resources of value to rural and low-income  
89 districts. These include Ohio’s Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) webpage found [here](#);
- 90 • Training: Training focused on the needs of rural and low-income districts is provided during the  
91 Ohio Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (OAASFEP)  
92 conferences in the spring and fall, the National Forum conference and various regional meetings;
- 93 • Assistance from Regional Organizations: The state support teams, educational service centers and  
94 informational technology centers in rural parts of the state provide regional supports for the  
95 development, alignment and implementation of improvement plans and other technical assistance for  
96 the state’s rural initiatives.