



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JAN 09 2020

Dear Chief State School Officer:

I am writing to share my excitement regarding a new application process for school districts eligible for the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program under Title V, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). Considering the strategic goals outlined by Secretary DeVos to streamline application procedures for educational institutions, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) closely evaluated the SRSA application process and determined that the applicant burden could be significantly reduced while maintaining appropriate accountability in our grantmaking procedures.¹ As a result, based on feedback from small, rural school district superintendents and other rural stakeholders, the Department will unveil a much simpler application process on **February 3, 2020** for the 2020-2021 school year. In order to prepare for the new SRSA grant application, I hope you will share the information included in this letter with small, rural superintendents, business managers, and other related personnel in your State.

Application Process

- The new quick and easy process relies on a single platform – OMB Max Survey – to gather school district information. The previous process required school districts to navigate three sites and took three hours to complete an application. The new application process is estimated to take no more than 30 minutes to complete.
- Eligible school districts will access the application through a unique link that the Department will send via email invitation to school district contacts, which will be provided to the Department by State educational agencies. The Department will also provide the approximately 2,500 school districts that are eligible for both the SRSA and Rural Low-Income School (RLIS) program enhanced guidance on how to choose between SRSA and RLIS, including award estimates for both RLIS and SRSA in the email invitation. This will help ensure that school districts are more informed when they choose between SRSA and RLIS.
- In order to complete the SRSA application, the school district contact will need to confirm or provide the following:
 1. School district name and contact information;
 2. Authorized Representative contact information;
 3. Secondary contact information;
 4. Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number;
 5. General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) statement information; and

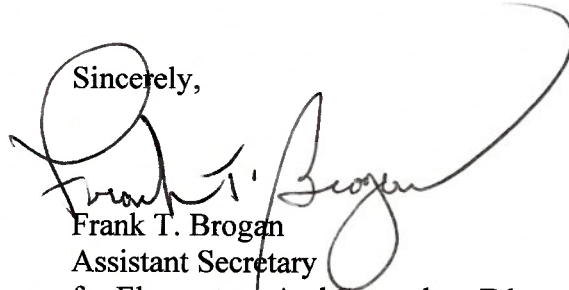
¹ See Strategic Goal 4 of the U.S. Department of Education Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022 at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/strat/plan2018-22/strategic-plan.pdf>.

6. Assurances.

- After an application has been submitted, each school district will receive a confirmation email that includes the PR/award number and a summary of the school district's SRSA application responses to keep for its records. Additionally, the school district contact will be directed to the System for Award Management (SAM) at SAM.gov to update its DUNS status.
- The Department will conduct webinars for school district staff on February 4, March 19, and April 2, 2020 to demonstrate the new quick and easy process for submitting the SRSA application (webinar invitations are forthcoming). The application process will also be demonstrated at the National ESEA Conference on February 6, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia (for additional details see <https://www.eSeanetwork.org/sched/E20/session/quick-and-simple-the-new-small-rural-school-achievement-grant-application-process>).

Thank you again for the work that you continue to do to implement the ESEA and provide a high-quality education to all students. If you have any questions or need additional information about the new SRSA application process, please contact our State and Grantee Relations Office, using the State mailbox that corresponds to the State in which your organization operates using the format [statename].OESE@ed.gov (for example, Michigan.OESE@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank T. Brogan", written over a large, light-colored circular scribble or watermark.

Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary
for Elementary And Secondary Education