

Supplement, not Supplant At-A-Glance: Title V-B

What does it mean that federal funds must “supplement, not supplant” other funds?

Federal grant funds may be used only to supplement (add to) the educational programs generally offered with state and local funds and to provide supplemental services **that would not have been provided had the federal grant funds not been available.**

How does supplement, not supplant work under Title V-B?

In general, when considering whether a proposed V-B activity is supplemental, an LEA should determine whether it would have funded this activity with other Federal, State, or local funds if no V-B funds were available. If it is determined that no other funds are available, the LEA may be able to use V-B funds for those activities, provided they are allowable.

There are three situations when it will be presumed that supplanting has occurred:

1. If the activity is one that would ordinarily be covered with other Federal, State, or local funds (for example, in most cases, textbook purchases would ordinarily be covered with State or local funds),
2. If the LEA previously funded the activity with other Federal, State, or local funds, or
3. If the activity is State-mandated or required by Federal law (e.g., provision of certain services to English Learners required by Federal Civil Rights laws).

However, the LEA may be able to demonstrate that, because its needs have changed, it can no longer support an activity with other Federal, State, or local funds that it supported in the prior year. This requires written documentation (e.g., State or local legislative action, budget information, or other materials) that the district does not have the funds necessary to implement the activity and that the activity would not be carried out in the absence of the federal funds.

How is Title V-B different?

Title V-B provides districts with a flexibility called Alternative Funds Use Authority, or AFUA. This flexibility is specifically designed to give small, rural LEAs greater latitude to spend Federal funds in ways that best address their needs. AFUA gives eligible LEAs broad authority to spend REAP funds on activities that would be considered allowable under several ESEA programs.

REAP-Flex can be used for activities allowable under:	RLIS can be used for activities allowable under:
• Title I, Part A • Title II, Part A • Title III, Part A • Title IV, Part A • Title IV, Part B	• Title I, Part A • Title II, Part A • Title III, Part A • Title IV, Part A • Family Engagement

REMINDER: Even if an activity is not supplanting it must be [allowable](#), meaning that it is necessary, reasonable, and allocable to the program.

- [Rural Education Achievement Program \(REAP\) Informational Document](#)