

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. The rest of the slide is white.

Rural and Low-Income Schools (RLIS) FY26 May Cadre

Division of School and Program Improvement
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Welcome!
Thanks for your participation!

Please mute your microphones and turn your cameras off

Questions during the presentation?

Please feel free to use the chat feature on Teams.

In case you missed it...

January's Cadre:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of your district's Title V program
 - [January 2026 RLIS Cadre](#) and [January 2026 PowerPoint](#)
- Coordinator's Corner
 - Josh Mabry/Carter County and Kim Hawkins/Allen County

Introduction/Overview of Today

- Summer tasks for Title V Coordinators
- Processes to establish in case your district is chosen for monitoring
 - Issues from Fiscal Year (FY)26 Consolidated Monitoring
- Coordinator's Corner
- Helpful resources

Each webinar will be posted on the [Title V, Part B - Rural Education Achievement Program \(REAP\)](#) Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) website shortly after its conclusion.

Summer Tasks for Title V Coordinators

- Schedule a quarterly meeting with the district's finance officer.
- Review time and effort documentation.
- Double-check your eligibility status on the current [Master Eligibility Spreadsheet](#).
 - Additional information is available in the [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\) FAQs](#).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your use of funds from the previous year (review January's cadre information).

Processes to Establish for Consolidated Monitoring

- It is the responsibility of the Title V Coordinator in each district to maintain appropriate documentation of program compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Benefits of following established processes and procedures:
 - Documentation of compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Uniform Grant Guidance and Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)
 - Supports the consistent administration an effective Title V program.
 - Ensures you are prepared to share evidence of program compliance in the event that your district is monitored.
- All guidance in today's webinar will be based upon the [RLIS Consolidated Monitoring Checklist](#) available on KDE's [Title V, Part B website](#).

Annually Assess your Needs

The district annually assesses its needs in order to identify how to target RLIS funds using evidence-based strategies, including an evaluation of current activities. [See ESSA 5224(3).]

- Documentation to maintain:
 - Needs assessment
 - Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)/Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)
 - Detailed documentation of meeting(s) to develop the needs assessment, CDIP/CSIP
- FY2026 Monitoring Issues: Not listing Title V on the CDIP/CSIP; meetings are held but not documented or do not list Title V as an item of discussion.

Beginning of the School Year Meeting with the District's Finance Officer

Expenditures are allowable and meet the intent of RLIS and are consistent with the types of expenditures in the approved application. [See 34 CFR 76.700]

- Provides a safeguard against spending that is not in the approved Title V application.
- Provides checks and balances and an alert when revisions to the Grant Management Application and Planning (GMAP) application may be needed throughout the school year.
- Documentation to maintain:
 - Evidence of activities and programs supported with Title V, Part B funds as they occur.
 - Detailed meeting documentation
- FY2026 Monitoring Issues: Unallowable purchases; Enterprise ERP (EERP) spending not aligned with GMAP budget.

Quarterly Meetings with the District Finance Officer

The district has a process in place to review and revise the RLIS budget regularly to ensure timely spending that aligns with the activities in the approved application. [See 34 CFR 76.700]

- Documentation to maintain:
 - Current EERP budget reports showing all project budgeting and expenditures for all open Title V applications.
 - Up-to-date applications for all open years.
 - Strong documentation for the monitoring of timely expenditure of funds.
- FY2026 Monitoring Issues: Timely spending not occurring; informal meetings with no documentation; EERP spending not aligned with GMAP budget.

Stay Current on Changes to other Title Programs

RLIS funds are being used to supplement and not supplant the regular program of instruction. [See ESSA 5232.]

- Hold regular meetings with the coordinators of other Title programs to discuss how Title V can support to discuss needs.
- Supplanting is presumed if program funds were used for:
 1. An activity required by another federal program or those required by state law.
 2. An activity that was paid for with state or local funds in the prior year.
 3. Providing the same services to eligible students while state and local funds are used to provide the same services to non-eligible students.
- Documentation to maintain:
 - Detailed meeting documentation
- FY2026 Monitoring Issue: None observed

Set up Reminders to Collect Time and Effort Documentation

The district maintains documentation for any employees paid in full or in part with RLIS funds to support the allocability, veracity and accuracy of the work performed. [See [2 CFR 200.430\(g\)\(1\)](#).]

- Set up reminders to document time and effort in accordance with the district's procedures.
- Develop internal controls (such as written procedures) that ensure time and effort documentation accurately reflects the work performed and is reported after-the-fact.
- Documentation to maintain:
 - District-specific time and effort procedures (see [KDE's Title V Handbook](#) pp. 7-9)
 - Time and effort documentation information (see Appendices A and B of the Title V Handbook)
- FY2026 Monitoring Issues: No internal controls for time and effort reporting, time and effort documentation is missing or not after-the-fact

Maintain Allowability Procedures

The district has standard allowability procedures in place and uses them for purchasing. The procedures, at minimum, address whether purchases are reasonable, allocable, necessary and documented. [See [2 CFR 200.302\(b\)\(7\)](#).]

- Documentation to maintain:
 - The district's allowability procedures (see [KDE's Title V Handbook](#) pp. 11-12 and Appendix C)
 - Approved GMAP application aligned with EERP budget and actual spending
- FY2026 Monitoring Issues: No district-specific procedures; no mention of reasonable, allocable, necessary and documented (RAND) in the procedures

Maintain Inventory of Items Purchased with Title V Funds

The district adequately safeguards all assets purchased with RLIS funds to ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes. Internal controls, including an inventory of Title V purchases where applicable, are in place. [See [2 CFR 200.302\(b\)\(4\)](#).]

- Documentation to maintain:
 - District-specific written procedures that outline the steps taken to safeguard the assets
 - Current record of all applicable items (spreadsheet, tagging, etc.)
 - [KDE's Title V Handbook](#) p. 12 and Appendix D
- FY2026 Monitoring Issue: No written procedures

Coordinator's Corner

- Goal: Let you hear from other coordinators across the state about how they are using Title V funds in their district effectively.
- Today's guests: Christel Nall from Hickman County
- Please reach out to let us know the great things your district is doing in a future webinar.
 - shashawna.dotson@education.ky.gov

Discussion and Questions

- How do you ensure your district is meeting the Title V requirements?
- What is something from the presentation today that you'd like to start incorporating into your Title V processes?
- Questions?

Helpful Resource Spotlight

- ESEANow
 - Subscription provided to all districts by KDE.
 - Emails twice a week with helpful information about all title programs.
 - Contact your district's Title I coordinator to begin receiving these emails.
- Helpful articles related to district concerns shared during monitoring:
 - [Find 8 tips for increasing teacher recruitment, retention](#) (March 31, 2026)
 - [Long-term oversight, coaching prevents PD from going to waste](#) (April 9, 2026)
 - [Merge family engagement with attendance plans to squash chronic absenteeism](#) (April 10, 2026)
 - [3 tips to improve Title I student outcomes in SY 2026-27](#) (April 30, 2026)
 - [Staff over stuff: Federal director avoids layoffs using creative funding solutions](#) (May 5, 2026)