

Chapter 1607 Sunset Training

February 2016

1. Background

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2016 ended the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) on November 25, 2015, for new school enrollments. Due to Congressional mandate, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can only grant REAP eligibility to those enrolled in school on November 24, 2015, or during their school's last term, quarter, or semester ending prior to that date.

2. Continued Eligibility

- In order to retain eligibility for REAP, the claimant must have been enrolled in the term, quarter or semester "immediately preceding" November 25, 2015.
 - o The term spanned 11-25-15 OR
 - o The term ended prior to 11-25-15 and there were no subsequent terms
 - o In order to determine "immediately preceding", the VCE will refer to the school's academic calendar or call the SCO for clarification
- Claimants that retain eligibility may continue to use REAP until 11-25-19 or until their delimiting date (whichever occurs first)
- Buffalo will adjudicate all REAP claims and flash the TIMS file with either "REAP Retained" or "REAP Not Retained"
- Claimants who submit original applications for REAP on or after 11-25-15 will not be eligible

3. Relinquishing REAP for Ch33

- Whether or not REAP can be relinquished for Ch33 will depend upon the effective date of Ch33
- If REAP is the requested relinquished benefit, a determination will be made on whether or not the claimant was eligible for REAP on the effective date

4. Eligibility for Other Benefits

- Same eligibility requirements apply
- Duplication of benefits rule (8-1-11) applies
 - o May be able to elect Ch33 with same service if EOD is prior to 8-1-11
 - o If EOD date is on or after 8-1-11, will not be able to use same period of service for Ch33

5. Letters to Claimants

- Attachment A contains a letter paragraph to claimants that will retain REAP eligibility
- Attachment B contains a letter paragraph to claimants who do NOT retain REAP eligibility

6. **Cert Rules for Phone Agents**

LOOK FOR THE FLASH

- **If TIMS Flash states “REAP Retained”** = Cert all applicable terms
- **If TIMS Flash states “REAP NOT Retained”** = Only Cert terms that begin prior to 11-25-15
- **If No TIMS Flash** = Only Cert terms that begin prior to 11-25-15

7. **SCO Actions**

SCOs should continue processing enrollment certifications, VA Form 22-1999s and 22-1999bs for REAP students. VA will determine if the claimant is eligible to continue using REAP and notify the student.

8. **References (located in REAP Sunset Folder under Training Resources on ECC Index)**

- Procedural Advisory: Retention of Eligibility for Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Benefits, January 14, 2016
- Procedural Advisory: Processing Requests for Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Benefits in lieu of Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), January 14, 2016
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- VA’s Implementation of Section 555 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016
Education Call Center Q&A Script