

State-by-State Results



Priority Ranking

2

Leading

Alabama

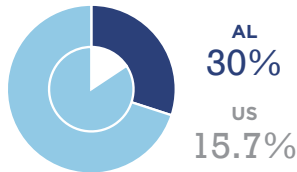
As the second highest priority state, key factors converge to present persistent challenges for rural education in Alabama. Nearly half of the state's schools are rural, and only three states spend less per student to educate rural students. Almost one in five of Alabama's children experiences poverty and one in ten has changed residences in the past year. Nearly one in five lacks access to broadband at home. Rural school

districts in Alabama are particularly noteworthy for their large size: fewer than two percent are small. Accordingly, Alabama ranks among the top 10 of all states in transportation costs relative to instruction. Students in Alabama schools demonstrate low achievement relative to the median scores of test takers in other states in both reading and math.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				AL 45.5% RANK 16
Percent small rural districts				AL 1.6% RANK 43
Percent rural students				AL 30.0% RANK 13
Number of rural students				AL 223,532 RANK 11
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				AL 31.6% RANK 13

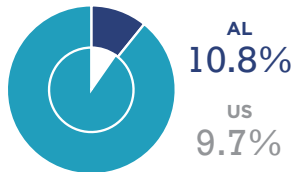
RANK 17



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural household mobility



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				AL 35.5% RANK 19
Poverty level in rural school communities				AL 241% RANK 11
Percent of rural students with IEP				AL 13.3% RANK 39
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				AL 17.0% RANK 10
Percent of rural household mobility				AL 10.8% RANK 10

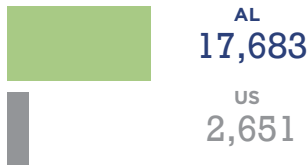
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GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				AL \$5,566 RANK 4
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				AL \$8.90 RANK 8
Median organizational scale (x100)				AL 17,683 RANK 7
State revenue to schools per local dollar				AL \$2.29 RANK 39
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				AL \$77,300 RANK 28

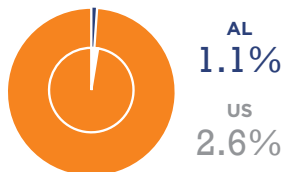
RANK 6



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				AL 22.6 RANK 16
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				AL 16.8 RANK 27
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				AL -0.291 RANK 4
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				AL -0.164 RANK 5
HS grad rate rural advantage				AL 1.1% RANK 14

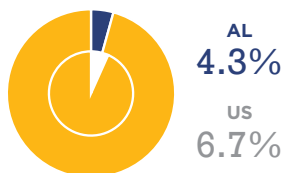
RANK 7



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				AL 391 RANK 8
Percent of rural households without broadband access				AL 18.9% RANK 3
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				AL 4.3% RANK 36
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				AL 32.5% RANK 24
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				AL 51.1% RANK 30

RANK 14



Priority Ranking

25

Major

Alaska

Nearly one in five of Alaska's students attends a rural school, and seven in ten rural districts in Alaska are small. Rural school communities have some of the highest rates of poverty in the United States. Rural districts in Alaska receive around \$4 from the state for every \$1 raised locally. Alaska's rural graduation rate is more than 10 percentage points lower than the non-rural graduation rate—

the largest disparity of any state. While Alaska's teachers receive some of the highest salaries in the United States, student access to school psychologists or school counselors is a critical need in the state with ratios approaching 450 students per professional. The state urgently needs more attention to access to supports for learning and development.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



AK
71.4%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
20



	AK	RANK
Percent rural schools	59.8%	6
Percent small rural districts	71.4%	10
Percent rural students	19.2%	25
Number of rural students	24,900	45
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	28.1%	18

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Poverty level in rural school communities



AK
233%
US
291%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
26



	AK	RANK
Diversity index	26.7%	25
Poverty level in rural school communities	233%	6
Percent of rural students with IEP	12.9%	43
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	14.2%	18
Percent of rural household mobility	8.1%	36

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



AK
\$29.98
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
49



	AK	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$13,397	48
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$29.98	49
Median organizational scale (x100)	530	44
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$4.14	48
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$108,778	48

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



AK
-10.6%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
N/A



	AK	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	NA	NA
HS grad rate rural advantage	-10.6%	1

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Students per psychologist/school counselor



AK
433
US
310

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
4



	AK	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	443	4
Percent of rural households without broadband access	13.2%	22
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	9.3%	8
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	37.5%	32
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	40.0%	1

Priority Ranking

2

Leading

Arizona

Arizona's rural students are more racially diverse on average compared to other rural students in the United States. The state ranks in the top 10 of all states for its diversity. Rural school communities in Arizona are characterized by high poverty rates, high rates of uninsured children, and high student mobility. More than one in eight students change residences each year and only rural students in Alaska experience a higher disparity in graduation rates compared to their

non-rural peers. The *Educational Policy Context* gauge indicates a crucial need for attention. Arizona has the seventh lowest per pupil spending on instruction in rural schools among all states. Specifically, rural students receive about \$1,200 on average less per student than their peers in other states. Only four states spend proportionally more on transportation relative to instructional costs. Achievement in both math and reading is among the lowest in the United States.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



AZ
77.5%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

41

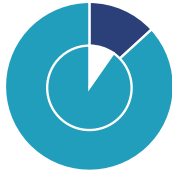


	AZ	RANK
Percent rural schools	19.0%	39
Percent small rural districts	77.5%	4
Percent rural students	5.7%	46
Number of rural students	50,807	39
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	6.0%	44

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural household mobility



AZ
13.2%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

1



	AZ	RANK
Diversity index	47.6%	8
Poverty level in rural school communities	231%	5
Percent of rural students with IEP	16.3%	18
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	17.6%	8
Percent of rural household mobility	13.2%	2

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



AZ
\$5,643
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

5



	AZ	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,643	7
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$8.55	5
Median organizational scale (x100)	758	39
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.92	15
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$71,362	15

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



AZ
-7.7%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

8



	AZ	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	9.7	40
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	24.1	7
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.176	9
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.087	12
HS grad rate rural advantage	-7.7%	2

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



AZ
11.8%
US
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

1



	AZ	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	385	12
Percent of rural households without broadband access	13.4%	20
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	11.8%	3
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	26.3%	13
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	46.9%	4

Priority Ranking

34

Significant

California

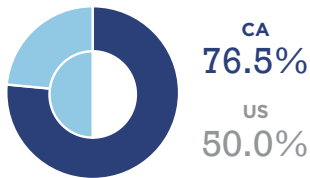
Over 180,000 children in California attend public school in a rural community, but only about 12% of all schools in the state are rural. State spending on rural education is strong as a proportion of the state's total spending on education, and state funding is almost double local funding. Only three states pay teachers better. Yet, California is among the top 10 priority states where rural high school students are less likely to graduate

than non-rural high school students. Only about one in five children in California is enrolled in public preschool and student access to school counselors or school psychologists is dire at one professional per more than 400 students. In rural California communities, one in eight students experiences poverty, one in ten has changed residences in the past year, and one in ten households has no broadband access.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				
Percent small rural districts				
Percent rural students				
Number of rural students				
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				

CA	RANK
11.7%	48
76.5%	6
3.4%	48
183,050	16
3.7%	49

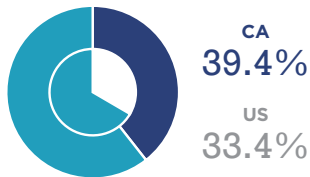
RANK
39



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				
Poverty level in rural school communities				
Percent of rural students with IEP				
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				
Percent of rural household mobility				

CA	RANK
39.4%	15
281%	23
12.3%	45
12.9%	22
10.5%	11

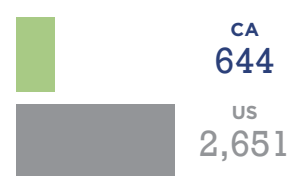
RANK
18



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				
Median organizational scale (x100)				
State revenue to schools per local dollar				
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				

CA	RANK
\$8,076	33
\$14.57	43
644	42
\$1.85	36
\$96,618	46

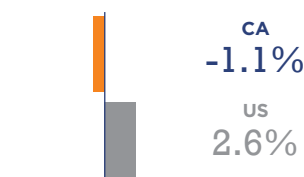
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47



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				
HS grad rate rural advantage				

CA	RANK
NA	NA
NA	NA
NA	NA
NA	NA
-1.1%	9

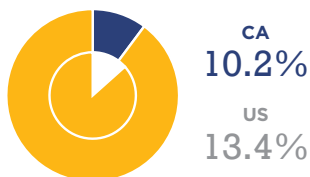
RANK
N/A



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				
Percent of rural households without broadband access				
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				

CA	RANK
427	6
10.2%	38
4.1%	39
20.9%	4
50.6%	26

RANK
20



Priority Ranking

32

Significant

Colorado

Over 50,000 students attend rural schools in Colorado, most of whom are in small districts. Teacher salaries in the state are very low; only three states pay less. Colorado's rural students are some of the most racially diverse in the United States. The percentage of rural students who experience poverty is low relative to most other states, but more than one in twenty school age children in the state are uninsured. Almost one in eight rural Colorado students changes residences each year, significantly higher than the U.S. norm

of one in ten. Achievement data suggests that the impact of poverty on learning is acute for Colorado's students. Rural math eighth-grade NAEP scores suggest pressing equity concerns. Colorado's students who live in lower income households were significantly outscored by rural eighth-grade students from more affluent households, and only Louisiana has a bigger gap. As a whole, Colorado's rural students tend to fare well on measures of high school graduation.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent state education funds to rural districts



CO
7.9%
US
16.2%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
38



	CO	RANK
Percent rural schools	24.7%	35
Percent small rural districts	74.5%	7
Percent rural students	6.0%	43
Number of rural students	51,452	38
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	7.9%	41

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



CO
40.6%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
16



	CO	RANK
Diversity index	40.6%	13
Poverty level in rural school communities	286%	24
Percent of rural students with IEP	NA	NA
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	7.6%	42
Percent of rural household mobility	12.4%	5

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



CO
\$64,832
US
\$76,374

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
24



	CO	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,656	21
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$12.05	34
Median organizational scale (x100)	460	45
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.95	16
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$64,832	4

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



CO
28.2
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
31



	CO	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	28.2	2
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.039	23
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.236	42
HS grad rate rural advantage	4.2%	37

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



CO
7.5%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
36



	CO	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	246	38
Percent of rural households without broadband access	7.5%	45
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	6.1%	21
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	36.6%	31
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.1%	9

Priority Ranking

45

Notable

Connecticut

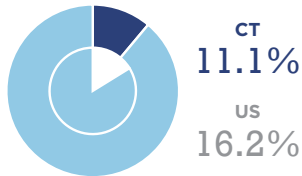
Just seven states have a lower percentage of rural schools than Connecticut, and only 14 states educate fewer rural students. Connecticut's 56,000 rural students graduate high school at a much higher rate than their non-rural peers. When test scores for those who experience poverty are combined with those who do not, Connecticut students earn some of the highest scores in the United States on the grade 4 and 8 NAEP reading tests. However, on the eighth-grade test of reading,

rural Connecticut eighth-grade students living in lower income households score significantly lower than rural students from more affluent households above the poverty line. Only three states (Illinois, Mississippi, and Virginia) have a larger gap. A slightly smaller, but still noteworthy gap separates the scores of students from homes with lower incomes from their wealthier counterparts in the state on Connecticut's eighth-grade math tests, despite rural per pupil spending exceeding \$12,000.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent state education funds to rural districts



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
40

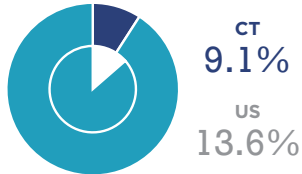


	CT	RANK
Percent rural schools	16.2%	43
Percent small rural districts	52.2%	21
Percent rural students	12.0%	35
Number of rural students	56,520	35
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	11.1%	36

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
32

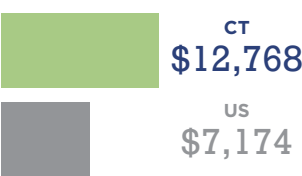


	CT	RANK
Diversity index	34.9%	20
Poverty level in rural school communities	532%	49
Percent of rural students with IEP	16.7%	14
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	9.1%	38
Percent of rural household mobility	9.9%	20

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
34

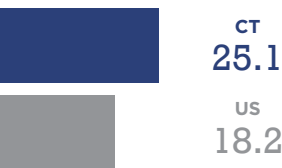


	CT	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$12,768	47
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.38	22
Median organizational scale (x100)	3,190	21
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.42	3
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$93,492	44

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
41

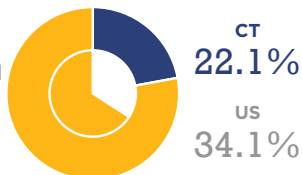


	CT	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	22.1	19
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	25.1	4
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.419	47
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.380	44
HS grad rate rural advantage	6.1%	45

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
46



	CT	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	167	47
Percent of rural households without broadband access	5.2%	50
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.5%	45
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	22.1%	6
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	53.5%	39

Priority Ranking

28

Significant

Delaware

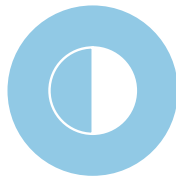
Although the total number of rural students in Delaware is very small at 17,141, rural schools in Delaware are the most diverse in the United States. Delaware's diversity index is nearly double the average for all states. If you randomly choose a student in a rural Delaware district, then randomly select another student from this school, there is more than a 60% chance the students would be of different races or ethnicities. Since *Why Rural Matters* 2018-2019, Delaware grew even more diverse and saw its child poverty rate increase by

50%. NAEP achievement in Delaware is Urgent on most measures. On the eighth-grade NAEP math test in particular, rural students living in lower income households score much lower than rural students from more affluent households. Only three states (Louisiana, Colorado, and South Carolina) have a larger gap between economic classes on the math test. Delaware has the second lowest rate of public preschool enrollment and rural students are slightly less likely to graduate from high school than their non-rural peers.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



DE
0.0%

US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
45



	DE	RANK
Percent rural schools	17.8%	41
Percent small rural districts	0.0%	46
Percent rural students	14.0%	33
Number of rural students	17,141	47
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	12.5%	35

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



DE
61.3%

US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
4



	DE	RANK
Diversity index	61.3%	1
Poverty level in rural school communities	26.4%	18
Percent of rural students with IEP	18.5%	4
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	12.8%	23
Percent of rural household mobility	NA	NA

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



DE
18,706

US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
38



	DE	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$8,433	37
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.98	18
Median organizational scale (x100)	18,706	5
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$3.31	45
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$86,367	38

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



DE
-0.9%

US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
6



	DE	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	26.1	4
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	18.1	24
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.122	13
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.080	13
HS grad rate rural advantage	-0.9%	11

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



DE
14.7%

US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
39



	DE	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	242	39
Percent of rural households without broadband access	8.9%	42
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.2%	37
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	14.7%	2
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	NA	NA

Priority Ranking

14

Major

Florida

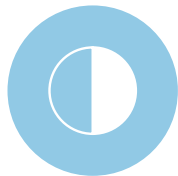
Florida's 163,000 rural students attend some of the largest schools and school districts in the United States. Only Maryland, Georgia, and North Carolina have larger rural school organizations, and there are no rural school districts in Florida having an enrollment below the U.S. median. These large and very large schools and districts are some of the most diverse in the United States. Florida's rural students are the most mobile in the United States, with more than one in seven

students changing residences each year. Rural per pupil spending is extremely low at under \$5,500 (only two states spend less) and teachers are paid 7% less than the U.S. rural average. Only one in four students attends a public preschool and the rural high school graduation rate is lower than the non-rural rate, unlike most other states. Access to supports for learning and development, as well as student and family diversity measures are of urgent concern in Florida.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



FL
0.0%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

44

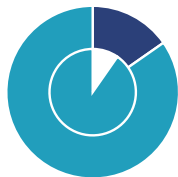


	FL	RANK
Percent rural schools	14.0%	46
Percent small rural districts	0.0%	46
Percent rural students	5.8%	45
Number of rural students	162,290	19
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	6.6%	43

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



FL
15.3%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

5



	FL	RANK
Diversity index	48.8%	6
Poverty level in rural school communities	291%	27
Percent of rural students with IEP	16.4%	17
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	15.3%	16
Percent of rural household mobility	15.3%	1

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



FL
28,989
US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

2



	FL	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,484	3
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.47	31
Median organizational scale (x100)	28,989	4
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.03	20
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$70,908	13

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



FL
0.0%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

30



	FL	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	16.5	33
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	17.1	26
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.103	29
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.078	29
HS grad rate rural advantage	0.0%	12

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



FL
25.0%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

8



	FL	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	387	10
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.0%	40
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	8.0%	14
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	25.0%	8
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.5%	15

Priority Ranking

16

Major

Georgia

Only Texas and North Carolina educate more rural students than Georgia. Rural Georgia schools and districts are among the largest and most diverse in the United States. Georgia teachers are paid slightly less than the U.S. rural adjusted average and teach in communities where nearly one in six school aged children lives in a household with an income below the federal poverty line. The ratio of state to local school funding in Georgia exceeds

the U.S. rural average. The state provides \$1.33 in funding to rural districts for every \$1.00 sourced from local tax revenue, which is a little more than 10% higher than the rural U.S. average. Georgia's rural students experience nearly double the U.S. rural advantage graduation rate and are enrolled in public preschool at rates more than 10 percentage points higher than the U.S. rural average.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Number of rural students



GA
468,932
US
94,593
(MEDIAN)

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

19

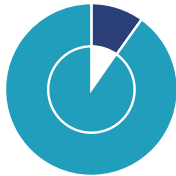


	GA	RANK
Percent rural schools	33.0%	28
Percent small rural districts	6.6%	36
Percent rural students	27.6%	16
Number of rural students	468,932	3
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	30.3%	16

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



GA
9.9%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

13



	GA	RANK
Diversity index	48.5%	7
Poverty level in rural school communities	259%	17
Percent of rural students with IEP	13.6%	36
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	15.9%	13
Percent of rural household mobility	9.9%	20

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



GA
36,766
US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

15

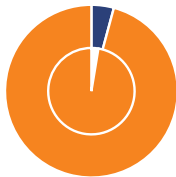


	GA	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,559	19
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.53	32
Median organizational scale (x100)	36,766	2
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.33	29
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$74,094	24

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



GA
4.2%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

18



	GA	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	24.2	11
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	19.5	18
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.074	16
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.038	20
HS grad rate rural advantage	4.2%	37

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



GA
44.8%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

28



	GA	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	368	15
Percent of rural households without broadband access	14.7%	14
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	6.3%	19
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	44.8%	42
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	52.6%	37

Priority Ranking

N/A

Hawaii

Schools in Hawaii belong to one non-rural school district and so there is no district-level data. However, more than one in seven of Hawaii's schools are rural. Children attending Hawaii's rural schools experience some of the highest rates of poverty in the United States. Only Kentucky and New Mexico have a greater percent of their rural children between ages 5 and 17 living in households with incomes

below the poverty line. Rural NAEP scores are extremely low for math and reading in grades four and eight. Only students in New Mexico and West Virginia underperform Hawaii's rural children on these tests. Educational outcomes are urgent for the state's rural children. Hawaii is excluded from three of the five gauge rankings and is thus not part of the overall state ranking.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



HI
15.3%
us
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
N/A



	HI	RANK
Percent rural schools	15.3%	45
Percent small rural districts	NA	NA
Percent rural students	NA	NA
Number of rural students	NA	NA
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	NA	NA

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



HI
22.2%
us
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
N/A



	HI	RANK
Diversity index	NA	NA
Poverty level in rural school communities	NA	NA
Percent of rural students with IEP	NA	NA
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	22.2%	3
Percent of rural household mobility	NA	NA

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

N/A

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
N/A



	HI	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	NA	NA
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	NA	NA
Median organizational scale (x100)	NA	NA
State revenue to schools per local dollar	NA	NA
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	NA	NA

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)



HI
-0.546
us
0.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
9

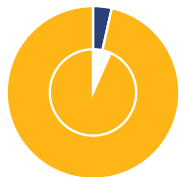


	HI	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	7.8	41
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	21.5	12
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.546	2
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.288	3
HS grad rate rural advantage	NA	NA

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



HI
3.5%
us
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
43



	HI	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	NA	NA
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.3%	37
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.5%	45
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	27.7%	16
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	NA	NA

Priority Ranking

23

Major

Idaho

Compared to spending on non-rural districts, Idaho allots disproportionately less funding to rural districts as a share of all state education revenue. At less than \$5,000 per rural student, the state's rural instructional expenditures for its 75,000 rural students are the lowest in the United States. Idaho's greatest challenge comes in the area of Access to Supports for

Learning and Development. With the exception of reasonable rates of broadband access, four of five the indicators are in the top 10 for priority. Idaho has one of the smallest differences between rural students in lower income households and their wealthier rural peers on eighth-grade reading NAEP scores.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



ID
40.5%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
21



	ID	RANK
Percent rural schools	40.5%	20
Percent small rural districts	61.0%	19
Percent rural students	26.1%	18
Number of rural students	74,884	31
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	25.8%	19

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



ID
9.6%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
21



	ID	RANK
Diversity index	30.9%	21
Poverty level in rural school communities	239%	10
Percent of rural students with IEP	11.2%	48
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	9.6%	36
Percent of rural household mobility	12.2%	6

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



ID
\$3.09
US
\$1.18

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
19



	ID	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$4,908	1
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.22	29
Median organizational scale (x100)	2,210	26
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$3.09	44
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$70,971	14

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



ID
9.6
US
18.2

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
38



	ID	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	21.4	22
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	9.6	39
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.095	28
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.025	21
HS grad rate rural advantage	4.7%	39

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



ID
47.2%
US
50.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
2



	ID	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	387	10
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.6%	33
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	9.9%	5
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	25.6%	10
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	47.2%	7

Priority Ranking

29

Significant

Illinois

Slightly more than one in five schools in Illinois are rural. Over 160,000 rural students attend rural schools in the state, but rural students represent only about 9% of all students in the state. Rural Illinois teachers are paid, on average, \$10,000 less than rural teachers in other states and about \$16,000 less than their non-rural peers. On the eighth-grade NAEP test of reading, rural Illinois students living in lower income households have the lowest scores compared

to their peers from wealthier households. The poverty gap in eighth-grade reading is 43% greater than the rural United States average, suggesting significant inequities in the extent to which eighth-grade children from lower income households are learning. Rural districts in Illinois receive only 86 cents of state funding for every dollar of local revenue they raise, ranking 12th in priority for inequitable school funding.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



IL
62.3%
us
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
34



	IL	RANK
Percent rural schools	20.9%	37
Percent small rural districts	62.3%	18
Percent rural students	8.6%	38
Number of rural students	160,902	20
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	8.5%	38

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



IL
21.1%
us
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
39



	IL	RANK
Diversity index	21.1%	36
Poverty level in rural school communities	318%	37
Percent of rural students with IEP	16.5%	15
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	11.6%	27
Percent of rural household mobility	7.3%	42

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



IL
\$66,189
us
\$76,374

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
13



	IL	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,969	32
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.20	12
Median organizational scale (x100)	949	36
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.86	12
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$66,189	8

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



IL
26.1
us
18.2

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
24



	IL	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	15.9	34
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	26.1	1
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.109	30
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.088	30
HS grad rate rural advantage	NA	NA

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



IL
47.6%
us
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
23



	IL	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	389	9
Percent of rural households without broadband access	13.7%	18
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.5%	30
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	47.6%	44
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.6%	17

Priority Ranking

11
Leading

Indiana

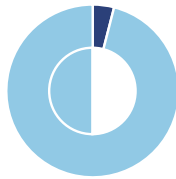
Indiana falls just outside of the top 10 in terms of priority. Almost one in four students in the state attends rural schools, and the state has one of the largest populations of rural students in absolute numbers. These students generally attend large schools and districts, with only one in 25 of the districts classified as small. At less than \$6,000 per rural student, instructional spending is very low. Only four states spend less to educate their rural learners, and Indiana districts' spending on

transportation is high relative to instructional costs, ranking third among states. The *Access to Supports for Learning and Development* gauge rank is Urgent, particularly the ratio of school counselors and school psychologists to the number of students served in rural schools. On average, there are 500 rural Indiana students to just one mental health professional—only rural Michigan students have less access.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



IN
4.0%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
22

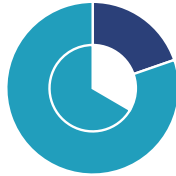


	IN	RANK
Percent rural schools	38.2%	22
Percent small rural districts	4.0%	38
Percent rural students	24.2%	19
Number of rural students	238,590	8
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	23.2%	23

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



IN
19.7%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
28



	IN	RANK
Diversity index	19.7%	39
Poverty level in rural school communities	289%	26
Percent of rural students with IEP	17.5%	11
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	10.7%	33
Percent of rural household mobility	9.6%	24

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



IN
\$5,582
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
1



	IN	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,582	5
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$7.89	3
Median organizational scale (x100)	6,140	15
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.85	36
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$68,029	11

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



IN
22.3
US
18.2

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
29



	IN	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	20.2	24
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	22.3	9
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.289	43
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.106	32
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.3%	17

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Students per psychologist/school counselor



IN
501
US
310

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
3



	IN	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	501	2
Percent of rural households without broadband access	13.7%	18
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	9.4%	7
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	33.8%	27
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.4%	12

Priority Ranking

40

Notable

Iowa

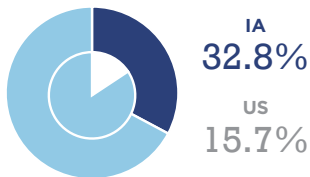
Attention to Iowa's rural schools and communities is notably important. Slightly more than half of Iowa's schools are rural and nearly one in three of the state's public PK-12 learners lives in a rural community. The percent of Iowa children attending rural districts is more than double the U.S. average. The schools are some of the most racially homogeneous in the United States, and school community and child poverty levels are relatively

low in comparison to other states. The ratio of state support to local funding is nearly one-to-one, and per pupil funding for rural education ranks exactly in the middle of all states, though slightly below average. The state has one of the highest rural enrollments in public preschool but ranks well below the U.S. median for students' access to school psychologists and counselors.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				
Percent small rural districts				
Percent rural students				
Number of rural students				
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				

IA	RANK
50.2%	11
37.7%	28
32.8%	9
167,689	17
30.4%	15

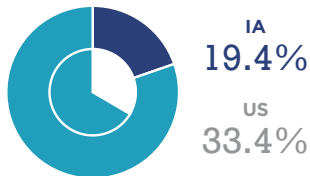
RANK 10



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				
Poverty level in rural school communities				
Percent of rural students with IEP				
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				
Percent of rural household mobility				

IA	RANK
19.4%	41
319%	38
12.7%	44
8.0%	41
8.6%	29

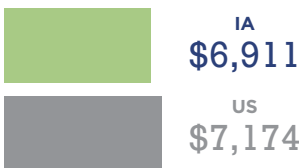
RANK 48



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				
Median organizational scale (x100)				
State revenue to schools per local dollar				
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				

IA	RANK
\$6,911	25
\$13.61	40
1,587	27
\$0.98	17
\$79,491	33

RANK 37



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				
HS grad rate rural advantage				

IA	RANK
19.6	25
18.9	22
0.177	37
0.119	34
2.9%	30

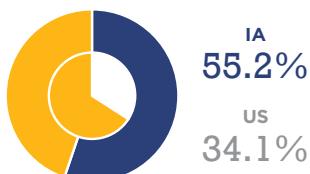
RANK 36



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				
Percent of rural households without broadband access				
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				

IA	RANK
345	18
11.7%	29
4.0%	40
55.2%	48
49.6%	22

RANK 41



Priority Ranking

26

Significant

Kansas

At 46%, the percent of schools in Kansas that are rural is significantly above the U.S. average of about 30%, but the absolute number of rural public school students in the state ranks near the median. Kansas teachers make about \$10,000 less than their peers teaching in rural schools in other states, and educational outcomes for rural children are of urgent concern. On each

educational outcome indicator, Kansas scores in the most concerning half of all states. At rank six in importance, the rural poverty difference in eighth-grade math indicates a clear need for attention to the equitable education of the state's rural eighth graders. Rural girls are underrepresented in gifted education programs across the state.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



KS
46.3%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
15



	KS	RANK
Percent rural schools	46.3%	15
Percent small rural districts	68.2%	13
Percent rural students	23.7%	20
Number of rural students	114,746	24
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	24.3%	21

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



KS
7.4%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
21



	KS	RANK
Diversity index	29.0%	23
Poverty level in rural school communities	29.4%	28
Percent of rural students with IEP	16.5%	15
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	7.4%	44
Percent of rural household mobility	10.5%	11

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



KS
731
US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
43



	KS	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,367	28
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$13.38	39
Median organizational scale (x100)	731	40
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$2.44	40
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$66,135	7

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



KS
25.3
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
13

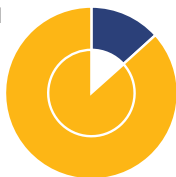


	KS	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	25.3	6
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	20.1	17
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.041	24
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.077	14
HS grad rate rural advantage	2.5%	25

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



KS
13.3%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
33



	KS	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	254	34
Percent of rural households without broadband access	13.3%	21
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.5%	30
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	47.4%	43
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.2%	10

Priority Ranking

6

Leading

Kentucky

A strength of rural education in Kentucky is its relative success at equitably identifying girls for gifted education. This is not the case in some states, where rural girls make up as few as 40% of the students on gifted education rosters. Another bright spot is Kentucky's success in graduating rural students from high school relative to non-rural students. However, given that Kentucky ranks Crucial and Urgent on two

of five gauges, it's unsurprising that Kentucky ranks 6 overall in rural priority. The state has nearly double the U.S. average number of rural students, but these students receive just 35% of the state's education funding. Community poverty levels are dire and more than one in five students live in homes where the household income is below the federal poverty line of \$30,000 for a family of four.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



KY
31.1%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

12



	KY	RANK
Percent rural schools	42.0%	19
Percent small rural districts	5.8%	37
Percent rural students	31.1%	12
Number of rural students	203,149	13
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	35.1%	10

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



KY
22.6%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

6



	KY	RANK
Diversity index	18.2%	42
Poverty level in rural school communities	217%	2
Percent of rural students with IEP	17.8%	9
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	22.6%	2
Percent of rural household mobility	10.1%	19

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



KY
\$8.96
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

17

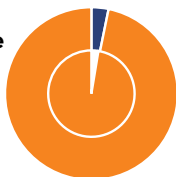


	KY	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,217	16
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$8.96	9
Median organizational scale (x100)	9,143	12
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$2.88	42
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$77,925	31

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



KY
3.2%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

16



	KY	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	21.5	21
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	21.5	12
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.160	10
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.051	18
HS grad rate rural advantage	3.2%	32

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



KY
16.1%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

25



	KY	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	314	22
Percent of rural households without broadband access	16.1%	8
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.0%	28
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	34.3%	28
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	52.3%	36

Priority Ranking

6

Leading

Louisiana

Louisiana's school population is characterized by high diversity and especially high poverty. Of all states with available data, Louisiana has the most concerning performance in math education for eighth-grade students eligible for free or reduced meals. Transportation costs are an outsized expense in rural districts in the

state, with only three states having less favorable ratios than Louisiana. One of the state's most promising indicators is the high adjusted rural teacher salaries, but at almost 500 children to each mental health professional, rural children lack equitable access to school counselors and school psychologists.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



LA
34.3%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
35



	LA	RANK
Percent rural schools	34.3%	26
Percent small rural districts	3.7%	39
Percent rural students	13.8%	34
Number of rural students	83,991	26
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	15.1%	34

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Poverty level in rural school communities



LA
219%
US
291%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
8



	LA	RANK
Diversity index	39.9%	14
Poverty level in rural school communities	219%	4
Percent of rural students with IEP	13.3%	39
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	21.7%	4
Percent of rural household mobility	10.4%	14

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



LA
\$6,434
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
7



	LA	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,434	17
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$8.09	4
Median organizational scale (x100)	13,933	10
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.26	26
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$77,770	30

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



LA
30.8
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
4



	LA	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	30.8	1
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	21.4	14
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.260	5
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.056	17
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.1%	14

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Students per psychologist/school counselor



LA
489
US
310

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
22



	LA	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	489	3
Percent of rural households without broadband access	17.2%	6
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.4%	32
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	36.0%	29
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	59.7%	47

Priority Ranking

21

Major

Maine

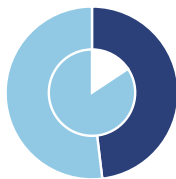
Maine ranks first in the *Importance* gauge and 21st overall. Nearly one in two students in Maine lives in a rural community. Only three states have proportionally more rural schools: South Dakota, Montana, and Vermont. Although 68% of Maine's schools are rural, less than 50% of the state's education funds goes to rural districts, making Maine a top priority for equitable state funding for

rural schools. Likewise, the ratio of state funding to local funding for rural schools skews far to local sources of funds, contributing to the issue of unequal school funding. Maine ranks just outside the top 10 states where transportation costs are high relative to spending on instruction. Poverty-based performance gaps in grade 8 math and reading fall around the middle of all 50 states.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



ME
48.1%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

1

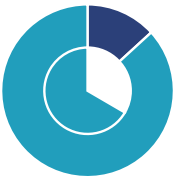


	ME	RANK
Percent rural schools	67.5%	4
Percent small rural districts	71.5%	8
Percent rural students	48.1%	3
Number of rural students	81,911	28
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	49.4%	3

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



ME
13.2%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

31



	ME	RANK
Diversity index	13.2%	48
Poverty level in rural school communities	299%	31
Percent of rural students with IEP	18.3%	6
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	13.2%	20
Percent of rural household mobility	8.4%	31

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



ME
\$9.20
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

18



	ME	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$8,123	34
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.20	12
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,527	28
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.70	9
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$77,665	29

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)



ME
-0.119
US
0.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

15



	ME	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	19.3	27
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	17.7	25
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.104	14
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.119	9
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.2%	16

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



ME
28.4%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

35



	ME	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	260	32
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.2%	38
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	6.1%	21
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	28.4%	18
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	51.4%	32

Priority Ranking

45

Notable

Maryland

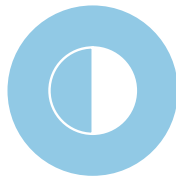
Every rural school district in Maryland is large and just under one in six schools are rural. No state has larger rural schools and districts than Maryland, and its rural students are some of the most diverse in the United States. Maryland's almost 60,000 rural students rank 33rd as compared to total enrollment numbers of rural students in other states, and they account for about 7% of the state's total population

of school-aged children. As compared to the graduation rates of their non-rural peers, the state is one of the best at graduating rural students from high school—students in rural Maryland schools are almost 6 percentage points more likely to graduate than their non-rural peers, an advantage that is significantly above the rural graduation advantage U.S. average of 2.6 percentage points.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



MD
0.0%

US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
46



	MD	RANK
Percent rural schools	16.1%	44
Percent small rural districts	0.0%	46
Percent rural students	6.8%	42
Number of rural students	59,577	33
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	7.1%	42

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



MD
8.4%

US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
42



	MD	RANK
Diversity index	49.1%	5
Poverty level in rural school communities	419%	44
Percent of rural students with IEP	12.2%	46
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	8.5%	39
Percent of rural household mobility	8.4%	31

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



MD
71,488

US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
20

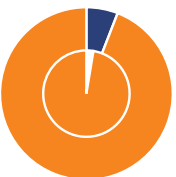


	MD	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$8,816	38
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.89	16
Median organizational scale (x100)	71,488	1
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.11	21
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$86,516	39

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



MD
5.9%

US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
45



	MD	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.111	31
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.232	41
HS grad rate rural advantage	5.9%	44

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



MD
25.1%

US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
40



	MD	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	252	36
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.9%	31
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.7%	42
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	25.1%	9
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	51.7%	33

Priority Ranking

48

Notable

Massachusetts

Although there are few rural schools in Massachusetts, rural schools serve around 74,000 rural students. The state is marked by very low rates of poverty, both on measures of poverty rates in rural school communities as well as on measures of the percentage of the state's school age children who live in homes with incomes below the poverty line. No state

has fewer uninsured rural children. NAEP scores for rural fourth and eighth graders are some of the best in the United States. Rural students in the state benefit from the rural graduation advantage and are almost 6 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school than their non-rural peers. This is more than double the rural U.S. average of 2.6 percentage points.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



MA
11.3%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
42

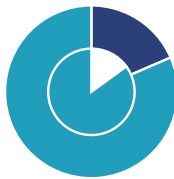


	MA	RANK
Percent rural schools	11.3%	49
Percent small rural districts	37.7%	28
Percent rural students	8.6%	38
Number of rural students	73,828	32
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	8.5%	38

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural students with IEP



MA
18.5%
US
15.0%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
38



	MA	RANK
Diversity index	26.7%	25
Poverty level in rural school communities	526%	48
Percent of rural students with IEP	18.5%	4
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	6.6%	45
Percent of rural household mobility	8.6%	29

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



MA
4,290
US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
33

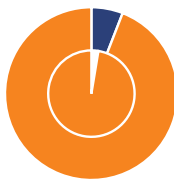


	MA	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$11,165	43
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.44	23
Median organizational scale (x100)	4,290	18
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.64	6
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$93,499	45

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



MA
5.8%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
47



	MA	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.305	44
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.579	47
HS grad rate rural advantage	5.8%	43

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



MA
49.4%
US
50.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
48



	MA	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	210	43
Percent of rural households without broadband access	6.5%	47
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	1.1%	50
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	42.0%	40
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	49.4%	21

Michigan

At nearly a quarter million students, Michigan serves a very large absolute number of rural students, but they make up less than one in five of the total student population. Only six states have a greater disparity between the proportional size of the rural enrollment and the proportional funding that goes toward educating rural students—18.2% of Michigan's students are in rural districts, but only 16.9% of the state funding goes to rural districts. The most pressing indicator for Michigan

in this report is rural student access to school psychologists and school counselors. Across rural school districts in the state, on average, one school counselor or school psychologist serves 571 students. This is 84% worse than the rural average and the lowest professional-to-student ratio among all states. Achievement data for fourth and eighth-grade rural students experiencing poverty and all rural students ranks in the middle compared to other U.S. states.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



MI
38.3%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
28



	MI	RANK
Percent rural schools	28.7%	31
Percent small rural districts	38.3%	27
Percent rural students	18.2%	27
Number of rural students	226,003	10
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	16.9%	33

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



MI
9.0%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
36



	MI	RANK
Diversity index	22.3%	33
Poverty level in rural school communities	277%	22
Percent of rural students with IEP	13.5%	38
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	11.4%	29
Percent of rural household mobility	9.0%	28

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



MI
\$6,613
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
35

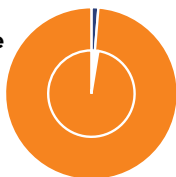


	MI	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,613	20
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$12.41	36
Median organizational scale (x100)	2,651	25
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.65	34
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$75,431	25

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



MI
1.3%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
22



	MI	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	20.5	23
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	15.3	30
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.033	22
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.013	25
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.3%	17

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Students per psychologist/school counselor



MI
574
US
310

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
34



	MI	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	574	1
Percent of rural households without broadband access	12.5%	26
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.4%	32
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	38.7%	35
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	58.6%	46

Priority Ranking

38

Notable

Minnesota

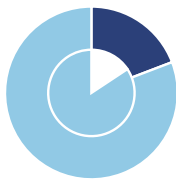
The percentage of Minnesota's children who attend rural schools is above the U.S. average. Minnesota provides proportionally less funding to rural districts relative to the size of its rural student enrollment and is one of 14 states with the most disparity. The state is marked by low rates of poverty, both on measures of poverty rates in rural school communities as well as on measures of the percentage of the state's school age

children who live in homes with incomes below the poverty line. Students living in lower income households face particularly strong educational barriers as evidenced by their lower NAEP scores in reading and math compared to their rural peers who live in higher-income households. Rural student access to school counselors and school psychologists is critical at an average ratio of 400 students to one professional.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



MN
19.2%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
27



	MN	RANK
Percent rural schools	34.2%	27
Percent small rural districts	40.8%	26
Percent rural students	19.2%	25
Number of rural students	152,930	21
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	19.1%	27

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



MN
24.1%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
41



	MN	RANK
Diversity index	24.1%	30
Poverty level in rural school communities	322%	40
Percent of rural students with IEP	17.1%	13
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	7.5%	43
Percent of rural household mobility	8.3%	33

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



MN
\$7,712
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
41



	MN	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,712	30
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.76	15
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,507	29
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$2.71	41
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$82,814	35

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



MN
22.6
US
18.2

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
19



	MN	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	23.5	14
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	22.6	8
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.143	36
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.031	26
HS grad rate rural advantage	2.2%	22

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Students per psychologist/school counselor



MN
400
US
310

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
36



	MN	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	400	7
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.8%	32
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	4.4%	32
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	47.9%	46
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	50.7%	27

Leading

For two decades of this report, Mississippi has been the leading priority state in *Why Rural Matters* except for 2009 when it ranked number three. Over half of the public schools in Mississippi are located in a rural area, and over half of public-school students in Mississippi attend school in a rural school district. Resource equity is a serious issue given that Mississippi spends on average \$2,000 less on the education of a rural student than other states. Teacher salaries are \$13,000 below the U.S. rural average and over \$17,000 below the average

for all teachers in the United States, even after adjusting for local wage differences. Compounding disadvantage, over one in five rural Mississippi households lack basic internet access, and almost 7% of rural school aged children are uninsured. While these conditions should be balanced by greater mental health support to Mississippi's rural children, there is only one psychologist or counselor for every 436 children, the fifth most concerning ratio in the United States.

MS
51.0%

US
16.2%

NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL	
			MS	RANK
Percent rural schools			50.2%	11
Percent small rural districts			1.3%	45
Percent rural students			50.3%	2
Number of rural students			219,613	12
Percent of state education funds to rural districts			51.0%	2

7



MS
256%

US
291%

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
		MS	RANK
Diversity index		38.1%	17
Poverty level in rural school communities		256%	14
Percent of rural students with IEP		15.3%	22
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty		21.7%	4
Percent of rural household mobility		6.1%	45

14



MS
\$5,278
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
		MS	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil		\$5,278	2
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures		\$10.80	26
Median organizational scale (x100)		12,837	11
State revenue to schools per local dollar		\$1.35	31
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE		\$63,562	3

3



MS
25.7

US
18.2

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT	
			MS	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)			22.7	15
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)			25.7	2
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)			-0.125	12
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)			-0.025	21
HS grad rate rural advantage			2.5%	25

10



MS
20.6%

US
13.4%

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT	
			MS	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor			436	5
Percent of rural households without broadband access			20.6%	2
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance			6.6%	17
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool			33.6%	25
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female			50.8%	28

5



Priority Ranking

5

Leading

Missouri

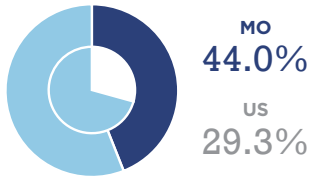
Over 180,000 rural students attend public PK-12 schools in Missouri. This number is almost double the rural U.S. average. Exactly 44% of the state's schools are rural and they serve more than one in five of Missouri's students. Missouri spends less than \$6,000 per rural pupil, which is only 81% of the rural U.S. average. Rural Missouri students attend schools in communities with high poverty rates. Only seven states have higher rates of school community poverty. Even though

rural school communities are likely to have high rates of poverty, schools are disproportionally funded by local sources of revenue. Rural teacher salaries are critically low. Missouri teachers make almost \$14,000 less than their rural peers in other states—only Arkansas pays teachers less. Rural NAEP scores for fourth and eighth graders are low for reading (ranking 15) and middle for math (ranking 25).

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				
Percent small rural districts				
Percent rural students				
Number of rural students				
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				

MO	RANK
44.0%	17
64.4%	16
21.2%	23
183,200	15
23.8%	22

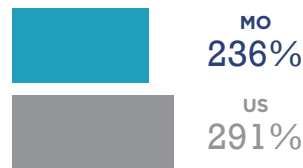
RANK
15



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Poverty level in rural school communities



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				
Poverty level in rural school communities				
Percent of rural students with IEP				
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				
Percent of rural household mobility				

MO	RANK
16.8%	44
236%	8
14.7%	27
15.0%	17
9.9%	20

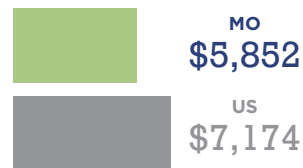
RANK
18



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				
Median organizational scale (x100)				
State revenue to schools per local dollar				
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				

MO	RANK
\$5,852	10
\$10.04	19
921	37
\$0.75	10
\$62,487	2

RANK
4



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				
HS grad rate rural advantage				

MO	RANK
15.5	37
19.5	18
0.048	25
-0.067	15
2.4%	24

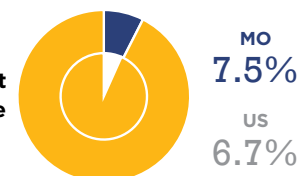
RANK
25



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				
Percent of rural households without broadband access				
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				

MO	RANK
287	23
15.8%	9
7.5%	15
44.6%	41
48.3%	11

RANK
13



Priority Ranking

24

Major

Montana

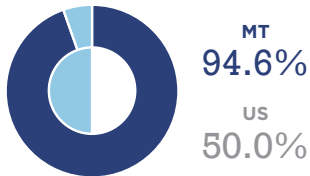
Only South Dakota has a higher proportional share of rural schools than Montana, but only nine states have fewer rural students than Montana's total of just under 50,000. Montana's rural student population is about half of the median for all 50 states (94,593). While the percentage of rural children who live in homes with household incomes below the poverty line is relatively low at just over one in ten, student mobility is high with one in ten students changing residences per year. Rural

student NAEP scores for reading and math rank about in the middle of all 50 states, but the scores of Montana's rural eighth graders living in lower-income households are far less robust, ranking 10th in priority for math achievement and 20th for reading. Access to key supports is mixed, with the ninth highest rate of uninsured children along with two other indicators above the midpoint of states and the other two indicators below.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

5

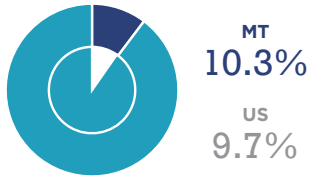


	MT	RANK
Percent rural schools	73.8%	2
Percent small rural districts	94.6%	1
Percent rural students	33.0%	8
Number of rural students	49,168	40
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	36.4%	9

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

35

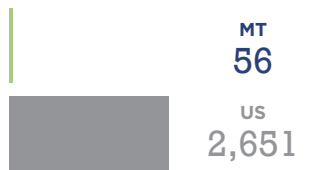


	MT	RANK
Diversity index	21.7%	35
Poverty level in rural school communities	267%	19
Percent of rural students with IEP	13.2%	42
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	11.1%	30
Percent of rural household mobility	10.3%	17

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

36

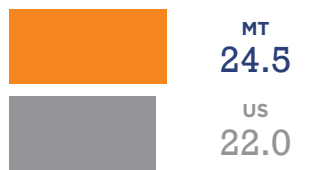


	MT	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,918	31
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.36	21
Median organizational scale (x100)	56	49
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.98	17
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$74,047	23

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

21

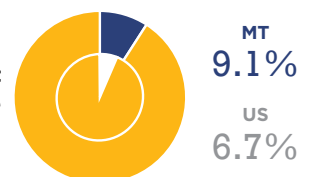


	MT	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	24.5	10
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	19.4	20
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.049	26
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.038	27
HS grad rate rural advantage	3.1%	31

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

17



	MT	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	253	35
Percent of rural households without broadband access	12.8%	24
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	9.1%	9
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	28.3%	17
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	49.1%	19

Priority Ranking

44

Notable

Nebraska

Just over half of Nebraska's schools are rural and most are small. These schools serve about 77,000 public PK-12 students which is substantially less than the median of about 95,000 for all U.S. states. Nebraska has the highest percentage of rural children enrolled in public preschool of any state. Fewer than 6% of rural school-aged children live in homes with incomes below the federal poverty line; only Rhode Island and Utah have lower rates. Poverty rates in rural school

communities are relatively low as well, ranking 35th. Nebraska has the greatest disparity of funding given the percent of rural students in the state relative to the percent of state expenditures that goes to rural districts. Likewise, the ratio of state-to-local funding to educate rural students is critical at \$0.28 of state support to \$1.00 of local funding. No other state relies as heavily on local funding to educate its rural students.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



NE
77.9%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

11



	NE	RANK
Percent rural schools	51.5%	8
Percent small rural districts	77.9%	3
Percent rural students	23.6%	21
Number of rural students	77,163	29
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	17.8%	29

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



NE
5.7%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

46



	NE	RANK
Diversity index	20.2%	38
Poverty level in rural school communities	311%	35
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.3%	31
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	5.7%	48
Percent of rural household mobility	7.9%	38

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



NE
\$0.28
US
\$1.18

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

44

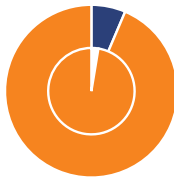


	NE	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$8,970	39
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$16.69	45
Median organizational scale (x100)	421	46
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.28	1
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$82,523	34

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



NE
6.4%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

44



	NE	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	19.2	28
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	12.8	36
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.306	45
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.133	36
HS grad rate rural advantage	6.4%	46

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



NE
57.8%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

42



	NE	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	236	40
Percent of rural households without broadband access	12.8%	24
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.9%	23
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	57.8%	50
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	50.0%	25

Priority Ranking

19

Major

Nevada

Nevada has the lowest absolute number of rural students among all states with available data. Its rural students are some of the most racially diverse and more than one in ten rural students have changed residences in the past year. The ratio of transportation expenses to instructional expenditures is at a critical level; only West Virginia has a more burdensome transportation cost. About one in five of Nevada's preschool aged children is enrolled in public preschool—only two states

have lower public preschool enrollment. Eighth-grade NAEP scores for rural students who live in lower income households are very low relative to the scores of their wealthier peers. This economic disparity shows up in reading, ranking 5th in priority, and in math, ranking 13th. In Nevada, rural high school students are 3 percentage points less likely to graduate from high school than their non-rural peers in the state.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



NV
50.0%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
48



	NV	RANK
Percent rural schools	18.0%	40
Percent small rural districts	50.0%	22
Percent rural students	1.9%	49
Number of rural students	8,048	49
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	3.8%	48

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



NV
11.3%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
11



	NV	RANK
Diversity index	51.7%	4
Poverty level in rural school communities	256%	14
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.8%	26
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	11.0%	32
Percent of rural household mobility	11.3%	8

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



NV
\$6.96
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
10



	NV	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,453	29
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$6.96	2
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,338	32
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.98	17
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$72,202	18

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



NV
-3.0%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
10



	NV	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	23.9	13
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	24.7	5
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.036	19
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.132	35
HS grad rate rural advantage	-3.0%	3

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



NV
20.3%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
18



	NV	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	NA	NA
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.5%	35
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	8.9%	11
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	20.3%	3
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	52.9%	38

Priority Ranking

37

Significant

New Hampshire

Over half of New Hampshire's schools are rural, serving about a third of the state's children. New Hampshire's rural schools are disproportionately funded by local sources of income—only three other states rely more on the local tax bases for school funding. Likewise, the state ranks eighth in priority regarding the share of the state's budget (about 37%) that is spent to educate New Hampshire's rural children. Per pupil

instructional spending, however, is relatively high at almost \$12,000, well above the United States average of \$7,174. Of critical importance is the underrepresentation of girls in gifted education programs in rural schools. The participation rate of rural New Hampshire girls in gifted education programming is more than 9 percentage points lower than the rate for boys.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



NH
32.4%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

9



	NH	RANK
Percent rural schools	50.4%	10
Percent small rural districts	66.1%	14
Percent rural students	32.4%	10
Number of rural students	53,247	36
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	36.8%	8

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



NH
14.6%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

45



	NH	RANK
Diversity index	14.6%	46
Poverty level in rural school communities	435%	45
Percent of rural students with IEP	17.9%	8
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	8.1%	40
Percent of rural household mobility	7.7%	40

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



NH
\$0.45
US
\$1.18

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

39



	NH	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$11,624	45
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.38	30
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,406	30
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.45	4
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$84,935	37

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



NH
24.1
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

39



	NH	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	24.1	12
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	15.1	33
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.120	33
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.207	40
HS grad rate rural advantage	3.8%	33

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



NH
45.4%
US
50.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

30



	NH	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	149	48
Percent of rural households without broadband access	7.9%	44
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.0%	28
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	24.1%	7
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	45.4%	2

Priority Ranking

47

Notable

New Jersey

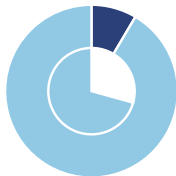
Given New Jersey's proximity to some of the largest urban centers in the United States, it is no surprise that only one in 12 schools is located in a rural area and only one in 17 students attends school in a rural district. These districts are more likely than not to be small, racially diverse, and serve a relatively affluent population. Over one in

five rural students qualifies for special education services, and per pupil spending on instruction is among the highest in the United States. Overall, New Jersey's rural students receive some of the best access to supports for learning and development and perform well on standardized tests in both reading and math.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



NJ
8.5%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
43

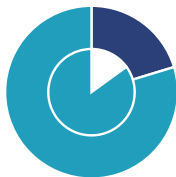


	NJ	RANK
Percent rural schools	8.5%	50
Percent small rural districts	56.2%	20
Percent rural students	5.9%	44
Number of rural students	75,248	30
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	5.9%	45

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural students with IEP



NJ
20.3%
US
15.0%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
28



	NJ	RANK
Diversity index	43.8%	11
Poverty level in rural school communities	502%	47
Percent of rural students with IEP	20.3%	2
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	6.5%	46
Percent of rural household mobility	9.5%	27

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



NJ
\$10.94
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
31

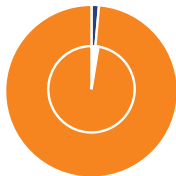


	NJ	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$12,399	46
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.94	27
Median organizational scale (x100)	3,642	20
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.69	8
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$79,376	32

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



NJ
1.4%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
43

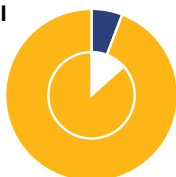


	NJ	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.409	46
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.413	45
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.4%	19

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



NJ
5.8%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
50



	NJ	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	193	44
Percent of rural households without broadband access	5.8%	48
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	2.6%	47
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	41.8%	39
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	55.1%	40

Priority Ranking

14

Major

New Mexico

New Mexico's rural school districts are characterized by their small size, extreme levels of poverty at both the student and school community level, and an ongoing connectivity crisis where one in five students still lack basic internet access. Given these substantial barriers, it is no surprise that these rural students finish last in the United States on standardized math and reading tests. Although educational

outcomes are low in general, poverty compounds the challenges in math and reading for New Mexico's rural students—many of whom identify as Native American. Students in such conditions are in the most need of support and yet there are over 350 students sharing each psychologist or counselor and one in 13 rural students lacks health insurance coverage.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



NM
70.9%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

32



	NM	RANK
Percent rural schools	37.8%	23
Percent small rural districts	70.9%	11
Percent rural students	15.0%	32
Number of rural students	44,820	42
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	16.9%	31

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



NM
24.4%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

9



	NM	RANK
Diversity index	26.7%	25
Poverty level in rural school communities	185%	1
Percent of rural students with IEP	15.6%	20
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	24.4%	1
Percent of rural household mobility	8.3%	33

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



NM
\$6,197
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

40



	NM	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,197	14
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.67	25
Median organizational scale (x100)	624	43
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$3.34	46
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$73,897	21

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)



NM
-0.591
US
0.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

1



	NM	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	22.6	16
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	24.6	6
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.591	1
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.440	1
HS grad rate rural advantage	0.6%	13

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



NM
21.4%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

7



	NM	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	359	16
Percent of rural households without broadband access	21.4%	1
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	6.9%	16
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	36.4%	30
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	49.2%	20

Priority Ranking

43

Notable

New York

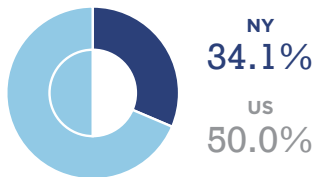
Although only one in nine students in New York attends school in a rural district, this still results in nearly 300,000 rural students. Instructional spending on these students is the highest in the U.S. but transportation costs are also high, and one in seven of these students lives in a household with an income below the federal poverty line. Rural students living in lower income households appear to need more

support in reading than they do in math, at least relative to their rural peers in other states. New York's rural students receive some of the best access to supports for learning and development in the country—this may explain in part why their rural students graduate at a rate over 5 percentage points higher than New York's non-rural students.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				
Percent small rural districts				
Percent rural students				
Number of rural students				
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				

NY	RANK
16.6%	42
34.1%	30
11.6%	36
276,293	6
22.0%	24

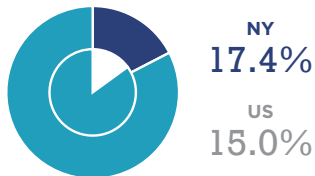
RANK 31



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural students with IEP



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				
Poverty level in rural school communities				
Percent of rural students with IEP				
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				
Percent of rural household mobility				

NY	RANK
25.4%	29
34.3%	43
17.4%	12
13.3%	19
7.9%	38

RANK 32



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				
Median organizational scale (x100)				
State revenue to schools per local dollar				
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				

NY	RANK
\$14,731	49
\$8.85	7
3,086	22
\$1.19	23
\$109,665	49

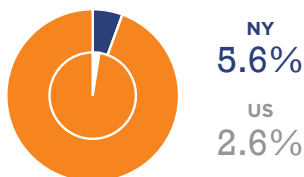
RANK 41



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				
HS grad rate rural advantage				

NY	RANK
15.6	36
21.1	16
-0.035	20
0.098	31
5.6%	42

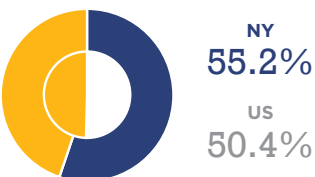
RANK 35



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				
Percent of rural households without broadband access				
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				

NY	RANK
186	45
10.6%	33
4.4%	32
31.8%	23
55.2%	42

RANK 45



Priority Ranking

10

Leading

North Carolina

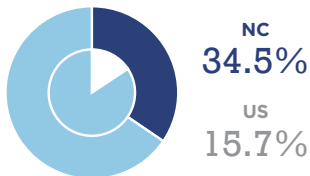
Even with changes from our last report in the indicators measuring the health of its rural education system, North Carolina continues to rank among the states most in need of critical examination. With over one in three students attending school in a rural district, North Carolina's total rural student enrollment is second only to Texas. Compared to their rural peers in other states, these students are much more likely to live in a household with an income below the federal

poverty line, attend a racially diverse school in a poorer community, and move residences often. Schools and districts are large, instructional spending on students is low, and the state is one of the few places where rural students graduate high school at a lower rate than their non-rural peers. Access to supports is on par with peers in other states, except for low enrollment in public preschool and inadequate internet connectivity.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

8

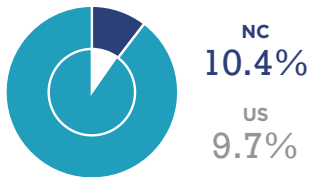


	NC	RANK
Percent rural schools	42.1%	18
Percent small rural districts	2.7%	41
Percent rural students	34.5%	7
Number of rural students	481,044	2
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	37.3%	7

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

6

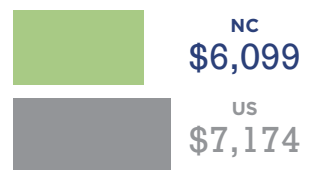


	NC	RANK
Diversity index	52.7%	3
Poverty level in rural school communities	257%	16
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.2%	32
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	17.2%	9
Percent of rural household mobility	10.4%	14

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

29

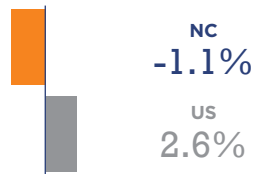


	NC	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,099	12
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$15.14	44
Median organizational scale (x100)	33,884	3
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$2.90	43
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$76,041	27

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

20

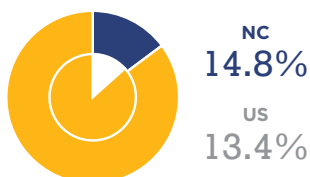


	NC	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	18.0	31
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	15.3	30
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.032	21
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.064	16
HS grad rate rural advantage	-1.1%	9

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

16



	NC	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	281	24
Percent of rural households without broadband access	14.8%	13
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.3%	27
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	27.5%	15
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	49.8%	24

North Dakota

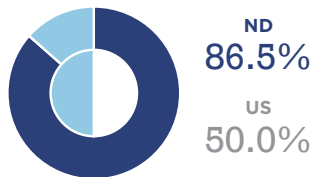
Despite having a relatively small total rural student population, North Dakota is one of the most rural states. Two out of three schools are located in a rural area, and five out of six rural districts are smaller than the median U.S. rural district. These smaller districts do not have the level of diversity and poverty as the rural areas of many other states, but nearly one in seven rural North Dakota students has moved within the last

year—presenting challenges to both students and teachers. Reasonable amounts of funding are provided for student instruction, but North Dakota's rural teachers are among the lowest paid in the United States. Educational outcomes and access to key supports are all on par with other states, except for the high number of rural children who are uninsured.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



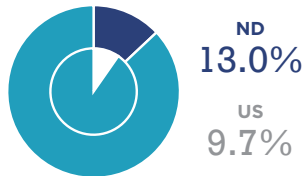
	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				ND 67.5% RANK 4
Percent small rural districts				ND 86.5% RANK 2
Percent rural students				ND 36.4% RANK 6
Number of rural students				ND 42,473 RANK 43
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				ND 39.5% RANK 6



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



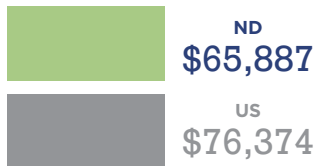
	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				ND 19.5% RANK 40
Poverty level in rural school communities				ND 326% RANK 41
Percent of rural students with IEP				ND 13.3% RANK 39
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				ND 10.5% RANK 34
Percent of rural household mobility				ND 13.0% RANK 3



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				ND \$8,244 RANK 35
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				ND \$9.37 RANK 14
Median organizational scale (x100)				ND 268 RANK 47
State revenue to schools per local dollar				ND \$1.28 RANK 27
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				ND \$65,887 RANK 6



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



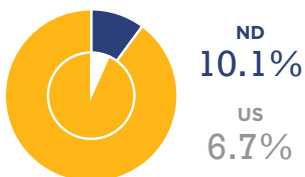
	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				ND 19.5 RANK 26
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				ND 15.2 RANK 32
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				ND 0.113 RANK 32
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				ND -0.024 RANK 23
HS grad rate rural advantage				ND 1.8% RANK 20



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of school-aged children without health insurance coverage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				ND 276 RANK 25
Percent of rural households without broadband access				ND 13.1% RANK 23
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				ND 10.1% RANK 4
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				ND 40.9% RANK 37
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				ND 49.7% RANK 23



Priority Ranking

31

Significant

Ohio

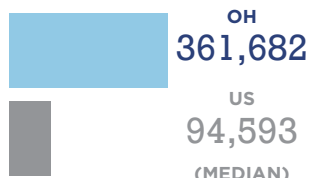
More than 360,000 Ohio students are enrolled in rural school districts, the fourth largest absolute rural student enrollment in the U.S. The rural student population is relatively homogeneous, ranking below or near the U.S. median on every diversity indicator. Educational policy issues are a concern, with inequitable funding, large schools and districts, and high transportation costs. Equity in the distribution of educational outcomes

of rural students is near or below the median on all measures (with the rural poverty difference in grade 8 math meriting concern at a rank of 20th). Access to learning and development supports is an urgent concern, with among the highest state rates of uninsured rural children (10th highest), rural families without broadband access (16th highest), and ratio of students per psychologist/school counselor (19th highest).

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Number of rural students



NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools			
Percent small rural districts			
Percent rural students			
Number of rural students			
Percent of state education funds to rural districts			

OH	RANK
30.2%	30
8.1%	35
23.5%	22
361,682	4
24.9%	20

RANK

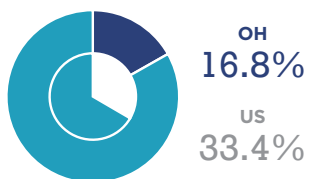
23



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index			
Poverty level in rural school communities			
Percent of rural students with IEP			
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty			
Percent of rural household mobility			

OH	RANK
16.8%	44
306%	33
15.3%	22
11.6%	27
6.9%	44

RANK

44



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil			
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures			
Median organizational scale (x100)			
State revenue to schools per local dollar			
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE			

OH	RANK
\$7,051	26
\$10.20	20
4,356	17
\$0.86	12
\$88,542	41

RANK

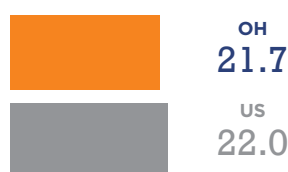
21



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)			
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)			
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)			
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)			
HS grad rate rural advantage			

OH	RANK
21.7	20
14.9	34
0.237	40
0.199	39
2.6%	27

RANK

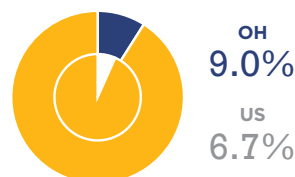
42



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor			
Percent of rural households without broadband access			
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance			
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool			
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female			

OH	RANK
339	19
14.3%	16
9.0%	10
41.0%	38
48.4%	12

RANK

12



Priority Ranking

8

Leading

Oklahoma

Oklahoma's rural districts are ranked as our eighth highest overall priority in the United States—down from fourth in *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*. More than half of all public schools serve rural communities, and its students are among the most diverse in the United States in terms of race, special education needs, poverty, and residential instability. Only five states spend less than the state's \$5,614 per rural pupil on instruction, and adjusted teacher salaries are nearly \$11,000 below

the U.S. average. Academic performance is mixed, with rural NAEP grade 4 and 8 composites among the 10 most urgent states on math and reading. Access to learning and development supports is a critical concern, with among the highest state rates of rural families without broadband access (11th highest), uninsured rural children (12th highest), and ratio of students per psychologist/school counselor (17th).

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



OK
53.4%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

3



	OK	RANK
Percent rural schools	53.4%	7
Percent small rural districts	71.5%	8
Percent rural students	29.2%	14
Number of rural students	186,457	14
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	31.4%	14

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural students with IEP



OK
19.0%
US
15.0%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

2



	OK	RANK
Diversity index	55.5%	2
Poverty level in rural school communities	245%	13
Percent of rural students with IEP	19.0%	3
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	15.5%	15
Percent of rural household mobility	10.4%	14

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



OK
\$65,514
US
\$76,374

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

27

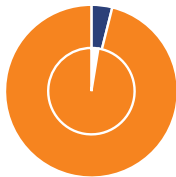


	OK	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,614	6
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$18.51	47
Median organizational scale (x100)	671	41
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.22	24
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$65,514	5

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grade rate rural advantage



OK
3.9%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

26

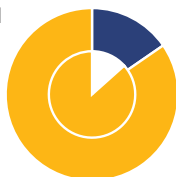


	OK	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	13.1	38
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	11.0	37
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.181	8
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.200	4
HS grad rate rural advantage	3.9%	34

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



OK
15.4%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

20



	OK	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	349	17
Percent of rural households without broadband access	15.4%	11
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	8.8%	12
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	47.7%	45
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	50.8%	28

Priority Ranking

13

Leading

Oregon

Ranking in the most concerning quartile on two of five gauges and in the next highest quartile on two others, Oregon is the 13th highest priority state in this year's report. The state's rural student population represents less than 10% of all students, but they are diverse and experience higher than average levels of poverty. The policy context is less than favorable, with lower than average instructional expenditures and teacher salaries along with the sixth heaviest transportation

expenditure burden in the United States. Oregon ranks in the highest priority quartile on each of the three outcome indicators for which data were available. Access to supports for learning and development is of greater concern than in all but nine other states—including the lowest rate of participation in public preschool, 12th lowest representation of female students receiving gifted services, and 13th highest ratio of students to school psychologists/counselors.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



OR
63.1%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

37



	OR	RANK
Percent rural schools	26.1%	33
Percent small rural districts	63.1%	17
Percent rural students	9.6%	37
Number of rural students	52,143	37
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	10.6%	37

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



OR
38.0%
US
33.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

15



	OR	RANK
Diversity index	38.0%	18
Poverty level in rural school communities	268%	20
Percent of rural students with IEP	15.3%	22
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	13.2%	20
Percent of rural household mobility	9.6%	24

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



OR
\$8.59
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

21



	OR	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,666	22
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$8.59	6
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,364	31
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.68	35
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$74,003	22

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



OR
-1.4%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

3



	OR	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.156	11
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.102	11
HS grad rate rural advantage	-1.4%	7

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



OR
11.8%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

10



	OR	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	375	13
Percent of rural households without broadband access	10.4%	36
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.4%	26
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	11.8%	1
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.4%	12

Priority Ranking

49

Notable

Rhode Island

The lowest priority state in the United States based on the *Why Rural Matters* ranking system, Rhode Island ranks in the quartile of least concern on four of five gauges. Although 8% of Rhode Island's students are enrolled in a rural district, these districts receive only 5.4% of state funding for PK-12 education. The state's rural students attend school mostly with students of the same race, in neighborhoods where the average household income is nearly 4.5 times the federal poverty threshold. Instructional spending

per rural pupil is 57.4% higher than the U.S. average, although state funding support is weak relative to local support. Educational outcomes are strong based on the three indicators for which data are available. There is high access to learning and development supports in Rhode Island (second highest rate of broadband access, highest percent of female students receiving gifted services, and third lowest rate of rural uninsured children). One exception is the fifth lowest public preschool participation in the U.S.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Number of rural students



RI
10,138
US
94,593
(MEDIAN)

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
49



	RI	RANK
Percent rural schools	12.8%	47
Percent small rural districts	33.3%	31
Percent rural students	8.0%	40
Number of rural students	10,138	48
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	5.4%	47

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



RI
0.8%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
49



	RI	RANK
Diversity index	17.4%	43
Poverty level in rural school communities	441%	46
Percent of rural students with IEP	13.9%	34
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	0.8%	50
Percent of rural household mobility	NA	NA

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



RI
\$0.36
US
\$1.18

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
28



	RI	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$11,293	44
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$9.96	17
Median organizational scale (x100)	3,710	19
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.36	2
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$91,121	42

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



RI
5.4%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
46



	RI	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.188	38
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.430	46
HS grad rate rural advantage	5.4%	41

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent rural enrollment in public preschool



RI
21.7%
US
34.1%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
47



	RI	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	221	41
Percent of rural households without broadband access	5.7%	49
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	1.6%	48
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	21.7%	5
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	62.4%	48

Priority Ranking

8

Leading

South Carolina

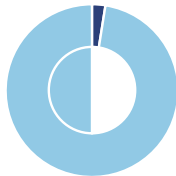
Four of every ten schools in South Carolina are located in a rural area, serving just under 17% of the state's public-school students. More than one in five of those 120,000 rural students lives below the federal poverty threshold, and households in the average rural school district neighborhood earn barely double the poverty threshold (third lowest in the United States). South Carolina's rural districts are some of the most racially diverse in the United States, and only six states have higher rural household mobility rates. Instructional spending

and adjusted teacher salaries are well below U.S. averages, and rural South Carolina schools and districts are larger than in nearly all other states. Academic outcomes are among the 10 most urgent across states on four of five indicators. Access to learning and development supports varies, with broadband access the indicator of greatest concern with the seventh highest rate of rural households lacking broadband. Only four states have a higher representation of female students receiving gifted services.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



SC
2.5%
US
50.0%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
33



	SC	RANK
Percent rural schools	40.0%	21
Percent small rural districts	2.5%	42
Percent rural students	16.7%	30
Number of rural students	123,096	23
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	17.1%	30

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Poverty level in rural school communities



SC
218%
US
291%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
3



	SC	RANK
Diversity index	47.0%	9
Poverty level in rural school communities	218%	3
Percent of rural students with IEP	15.1%	25
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	20.5%	6
Percent of rural household mobility	11.5%	7

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Median organizational scale (x 100)



SC
17,574
US
2,651

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
14



	SC	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,213	15
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$14.27	42
Median organizational scale (x100)	17,574	8
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.29	28
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$67,314	9

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



SC
26.9
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
2

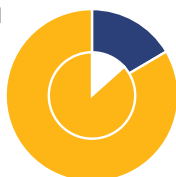


	SC	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	26.9	3
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	16.4	28
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.190	7
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.126	6
HS grad rate rural advantage	-2.2%	4

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



SC
16.5%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
26



	SC	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	267	30
Percent of rural households without broadband access	16.5%	7
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.7%	25
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	29.4%	19
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	56.4%	43

Priority Ranking

18

Major

South Dakota

South Dakota is the second most rural state in the United States, with the vast majority of schools located in a rural area and two in five students enrolled in a rural school district. Although there is not a high degree of racial diversity, rural South Dakota classrooms experience the disruption of one in six students experiencing poverty. As schools across the United States increase instructional spending on rural students, South

Dakota is one of only seven states to decrease spending. On educational outcomes, the gap between South Dakota's rural students from lower and higher income households is stark in both math and reading. Access to learning supports is fairly positive, with 40.6% (rank 36th) of South Dakota children enrolled in public preschool and 51.7% representation of female students receiving gifted services.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



SD
74.3%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

2

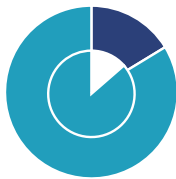


	SD	RANK
Percent rural schools	74.3%	1
Percent small rural districts	76.8%	5
Percent rural students	41.5%	4
Number of rural students	58,579	34
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	40.2%	4

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



SD
16.3%
US
13.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

30



	SD	RANK
Diversity index	22.8%	32
Poverty level in rural school communities	287%	25
Percent of rural students with IEP	15.8%	19
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	16.3%	12
Percent of rural household mobility	5.8%	47

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



SD
\$67,753
US
\$76,374

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

23



	SD	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,482	18
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$12.60	38
Median organizational scale (x100)	239	48
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.55	5
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$67,753	10

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



SD
-1.7%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

12

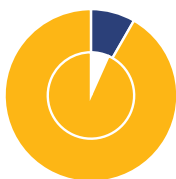


	SD	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	24.6	9
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	21.3	15
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.081	27
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.005	24
HS grad rate rural advantage	-1.7%	6

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school aged children without health insurance



SD
8.3%
US
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

29



	SD	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	269	29
Percent of rural households without broadband access	14.1%	17
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	8.3%	13
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	40.6%	36
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	51.7%	33

Priority Ranking

21

Major

Tennessee

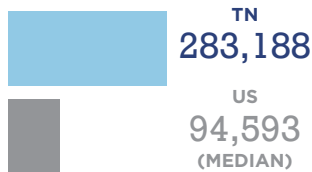
More than one-third of Tennessee public schools are located in rural areas, and the state's 283,188 students make up just under 29% of the total public-school enrollment. Rural schools and districts are large, and rural students are more likely to live well below the federal poverty threshold than rural students in other states. Instructional spending is nearly \$1,500 per rural pupil lower than the U.S. average, and teacher salaries are lower than in all but 15 other states.

Educational outcomes are mostly near or above U.S. averages, and high school graduation rates are better than the non-rural U.S. average (rank 39th). Access to supports for learning and development is a crucial concern, with the state ranking in the top 15 on three indicators, including the fifth lowest rate of female students receiving gifted services, 15.7% of households with no access to broadband, and a ranking of 14th on a ratio of students to psychologist/school counselor.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Number of rural students



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Percent rural schools				
Percent small rural districts				
Percent rural students				
Number of rural students				
Percent of state education funds to rural districts				

TN	RANK
36.1%	25
2.9%	40
28.8%	15
283,188	5
32.2%	12

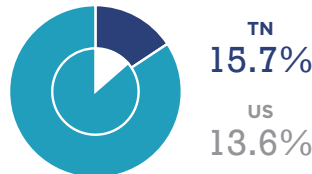
RANK
18



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Diversity index				
Poverty level in rural school communities				
Percent of rural students with IEP				
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty				
Percent of rural household mobility				

TN	RANK
26.1%	28
29.4%	28
13.6%	36
15.7%	14
9.8%	23

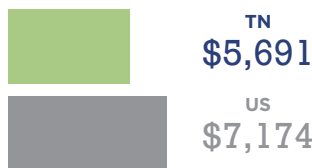
RANK
27



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



	NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil				
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures				
Median organizational scale (x100)				
State revenue to schools per local dollar				
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE				

TN	RANK
\$5,691	9
\$14.13	41
17,540	9
\$1.49	33
\$71,572	16

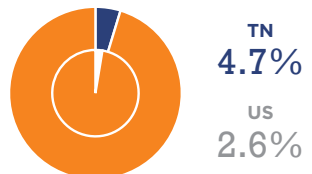
RANK
16



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)				
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)				
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)				
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)				
HS grad rate rural advantage				

TN	RANK
25.4	5
18.7	23
0.141	35
0.065	28
4.7%	39

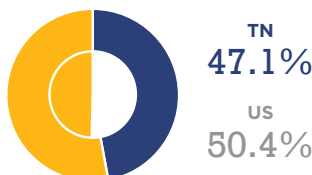
RANK
31



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



	FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
Students per psychologist/school counselor				
Percent of rural households without broadband access				
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance				
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool				
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female				

TN	RANK
373	14
15.7%	10
4.2%	37
30.2%	21
47.1%	5

RANK
8



Priority Ranking

17

Major

Texas

More than three quarters of a million students are enrolled in rural school districts in Texas, by far the largest U.S. rural student enrollment and an increase of nearly 84,000 students since *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*. Districts are racially diverse and more than one in ten rural students have changed residences in the past year, but very few students qualify for specialized education services. Instructional spending per pupil and teacher salaries are very low, and

state funding levels are inadequate to equalize differences in local wealth. Educational outcomes are mixed, with two indicators below the U.S. average and two above (along with one N/A). Access to learning and development supports is concerning, with the second highest rate of uninsured rural children in the United States and three other indicators where the state falls below the midpoint of states.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Number of rural students



TX
693,668
US
94,593
(MEDIAN)

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

25

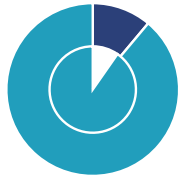


	TX	RANK
Percent rural schools	27.2%	32
Percent small rural districts	48.0%	23
Percent rural students	15.4%	31
Number of rural students	777,540	1
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	16.9%	31

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



TX
11.1%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

24



	TX	RANK
Diversity index	46.7%	10
Poverty level in rural school communities	314%	36
Percent of rural students with IEP	11.4%	47
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	12.8%	23
Percent of rural household mobility	11.1%	9

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



TX
\$0.65
US
\$1.18

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

12



	TX	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,999	11
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$18.42	46
Median organizational scale (x100)	2,850	23
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.65	7
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$68,368	12

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



TX
18.8
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

23



	TX	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	18.8	29
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	10.8	38
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.045	17
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.108	10
HS grad rate rural advantage	NA	NA

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



TX
13.5%
US
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

10



	TX	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	337	20
Percent of rural households without broadband access	11.7%	29
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	13.5%	2
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	29.6%	20
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.6%	17

Priority Ranking

41

Notable

Utah

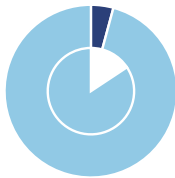
The third least rural state in the U.S. after Rhode Island and Nevada, most of Utah's population (and students) live in densely populated areas. School neighborhoods experience high levels of poverty, and more than one in ten of Utah's rural families with school-aged children have changed residences in the previous year. Instructional spending is low, and schools and districts are large. Educational outcomes are mixed, with two

indicators in the least concerning quartile and one in the most concerning quartile (along with one N/A). Access to learning and development supports reveals high percentages of female representation receiving gifted services (rank 43rd) and access to broadband (rank 46th). However, 5.9% of school-aged children are not insured (rank 23rd).

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



UT
4.2%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
46



	UT	RANK
Percent rural schools	20.8%	38
Percent small rural districts	30.8%	32
Percent rural students	4.2%	47
Number of rural students	25,609	44
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	5.8%	46

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



UT
10.5%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
18



	UT	RANK
Diversity index	27.5%	24
Poverty level in rural school communities	242%	12
Percent of rural students with IEP	15.6%	20
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	5.4%	49
Percent of rural household mobility	10.5%	11

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



UT
\$6,147
US
\$7,147

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
32



	UT	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,147	13
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$12.54	37
Median organizational scale (x100)	4,485	16
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.48	32
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$83,547	36

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



UT
-2.2%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
37

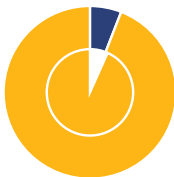


	UT	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.284	42
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.244	43
HS grad rate rural advantage	-2.2%	4

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



UT
5.9%
US
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
44



	UT	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	271	28
Percent of rural households without broadband access	6.9%	46
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	5.9%	23
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	33.6%	25
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	56.4%	43

Priority Ranking

42

Notable

Vermont

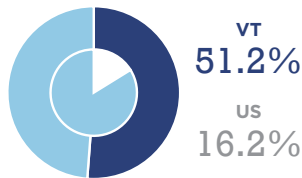
With more than 54% of its students attending school in a rural district, Vermont has the highest percentage of rural students of any state. Rural schools and districts are almost all smaller than the U.S. median (although they have gotten larger in recent years because of consolidation—e.g., median organizational scale has nearly tripled from 400 in *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019* to 1,182 in this report). Poverty rates are low and there is

limited racial diversity, but the number of rural students with an IEP is high compared to the U.S. average. Instructional spending is high and the state's contribution to education is dramatically higher than other states. In terms of access to learning and development supports, Vermont ranks among the best of all states with the exception of access to broadband (rank 28th).

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent state education funds to rural districts



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

4

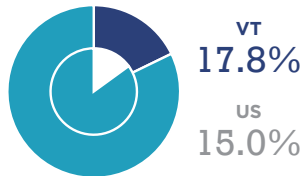


	VT	RANK
Percent rural schools	71.2%	3
Percent small rural districts	69.8%	12
Percent rural students	54.4%	1
Number of rural students	45,585	41
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	51.2%	1

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural students with IEP



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

47



	VT	RANK
Diversity index	13.9%	47
Poverty level in rural school communities	340%	42
Percent of rural students with IEP	17.8%	9
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	6.4%	47
Percent of rural household mobility	5.9%	46

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

State revenue to schools per local dollar



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

46



	VT	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$9,520	40
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$23.66	48
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,182	35
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$15.30	49
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$73,260	19

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

N/A

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

N/A

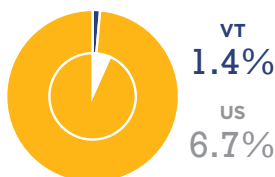


	VT	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	NA	NA
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	NA	NA
HS grad rate rural advantage	NA	NA

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

49



	VT	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	169	46
Percent of rural households without broadband access	12.0%	28
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	1.4%	49
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	56.1%	49
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	57.0%	45

Major

More than 227,000 students are enrolled in Virginia's rural school districts, representing nearly one in six of all public school students in the state. The rural student population is among the most diverse in the United States. Students attend large schools and districts that are burdened with high transportation costs that detract from instructional spending. Educational

outcomes are the fifth lowest in the country, with Virginia below the U.S. midpoint on four of five indicators (and among the 10 lowest performing states on three of those). Access to supports for learning and development is mixed, with low rates of uninsured rural children but high rates of rural families with no broadband access and low rates of rural participation in public preschool.

VA
227,468
US
94,593

NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
		VA	RANK
Percent rural schools		31.8%	29
Percent small rural districts		1.5%	44
Percent rural students		18.2%	27
Number of rural students		227,468	9
Percent of state education funds to rural districts		20.9%	25

VA
42.0%

US
33.4%

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT	
			VA	RANK
Diversity index			42.0%	12
Poverty level in rural school communities			298%	30
Percent of rural students with IEP			13.9%	34
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty			12.7%	25
Percent of rural household mobility			9.6%	24



VA
\$9.00

US
\$11.09

NOTABLE	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRUCIAL
		VA	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil		\$6,875	24
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures		\$9.00	10
Median organizational scale (x100)		17,914	6
State revenue to schools per local dollar		\$1.11	21
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE		\$75,660	26



VA
25.6
US
18.2

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT	
			VA	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)			25.1	8
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)			25.6	3
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)			-0.039	18
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)			-0.124	7
HS grad rate rural advantage			2.6%	27



VA
15.0%

US
13.4%

FAIR	SERIOUS	CRITICAL	URGENT
	VA	RANK	
Students per psychologist/school counselor	255	33	
Percent of rural households without broadband access	15.0%	12	
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.6%	44	
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	26.2%	12	
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	51.2%	31	



Priority Ranking

36

Significant

Washington

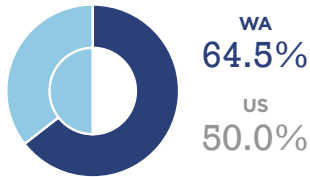
Nearly two-thirds of all rural students in Washington are enrolled in a school district with fewer students than the U.S. median for rural districts. Rural students are diverse and school neighborhoods in general are often below the federal poverty threshold, but extreme poverty among students is not as present as in other states. After showing a surge in residential mobility in *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*, Washington's ranking on that indicator has dropped from 3 to 36. Revenue from state

sources is nearly four times the level of local revenue. Rural poverty differences on NAEP are smaller than the majority of states, but rural NAEP composite scores are low (15th lowest for math and 7th lowest for reading). Rural broadband access and healthcare coverage for children are relatively high, but preschool access is a challenge. The availability of psychologists/school counselors is limited in comparison with other states, and girls are underrepresented in gifted services.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent small rural districts



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
35

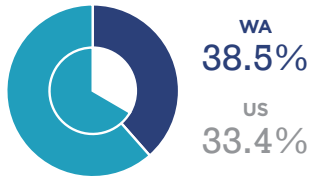


	WA	RANK
Percent rural schools	21.9%	36
Percent small rural districts	64.5%	15
Percent rural students	7.6%	41
Number of rural students	81,953	27
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	8.1%	40

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Rural diversity index



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
32

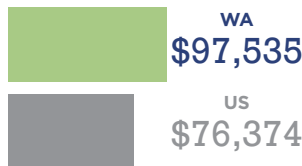


	WA	RANK
Diversity index	38.5%	16
Poverty level in rural school communities	270%	21
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.0%	33
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	10.0%	35
Percent of rural household mobility	8.1%	36

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE



NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
48



	WA	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$8,415	36
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.67	33
Median organizational scale (x100)	798	38
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$3.87	47
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$97,535	47

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
17

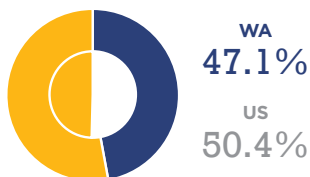


	WA	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	18.1	30
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	16.1	29
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.094	15
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.124	7
HS grad rate rural advantage	1.8%	20

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural gifted students who are female



FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
24



	WA	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	334	21
Percent of rural households without broadband access	9.1%	41
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.7%	42
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	25.7%	11
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	47.1%	5

Priority Ranking

4

Leading

West Virginia

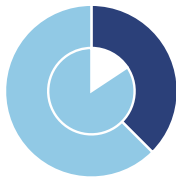
Half of West Virginia's public schools and nearly one in four students are rural, with a student population characterized by high numbers of children experiencing poverty, high rates of identification of special education, and limited racial/ethnic diversity. West Virginia's history of large-scale consolidation has resulted in large schools, large districts, and burdensome transportation costs for rural districts. Rural teacher salaries are nearly \$4,500 below the U.S. average, even after adjusting for comparable

wages of the rural areas. West Virginia's rural students perform well below the U.S. average on NAEP math and reading composite, and their rural high schools have lower graduation rates than the state's non-rural high schools. Access to learning and development supports is mixed, with two indicators (rural broadband access and rural female representation receiving gifted services) in the most urgent quartile and one other (access to public preschool) in the next quartile.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural students



WV
37.5%
US
15.7%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
14

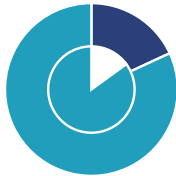


	WV	RANK
Percent rural schools	50.2%	11
Percent small rural districts	0.0%	46
Percent rural students	37.5%	5
Number of rural students	94,593	25
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	39.7%	5

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural school-aged children experiencing poverty



WV
18.1%
US
15.0%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
17



	WV	RANK
Diversity index	12.8%	49
Poverty level in rural school communities	234%	7
Percent of rural students with IEP	18.1%	7
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	16.8%	11
Percent of rural household mobility	7.4%	41

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures



WV
\$6.40
US
\$11.09

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
9

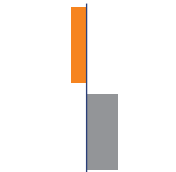


	WV	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$6,668	23
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$6.40	1
Median organizational scale (x100)	8,449	13
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$2.03	38
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$71,878	17

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

HS grad rate rural advantage



WV
-1.3%
US
2.6%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
14



	WV	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	12.9	39
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	12.9	35
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.478	3
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	-0.363	2
HS grad rate rural advantage	-1.3%	8

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural households without broadband access



WV
17.5%
US
13.4%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
14



	WV	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	275	26
Percent of rural households without broadband access	17.5%	4
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	3.8%	41
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	30.7%	22
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	48.0%	8

Priority Ranking

39

Notable

Wisconsin

One in five of Wisconsin's students attends school in a rural district, and the state policy context is near the midpoint of state rankings on three of five indicators (state revenue to schools per local dollar is the exception; at just \$0.82, Wisconsin has the 11th lowest rate of state contribution). Educational outcomes are below average on poverty gap measures and above

average on composite scores. In terms of access to supports for learning and development, Wisconsin ranks below the midpoint for importance on four of five indicators. On the fifth indicator (percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage), the state ranks 19th but is just slightly below the U.S. rate for uninsured rural children.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

26

Number of rural students



WI
165,370
US
94,593
(MEDIAN)

	WI	RANK
Percent rural schools	36.6%	24
Percent small rural districts	41.3%	25
Percent rural students	20.0%	24
Number of rural students	163,370	18
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	19.0%	28



GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

FAIR

SERIOUS

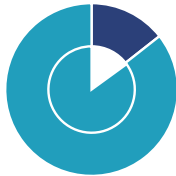
CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

43

Percent rural students with IEP



WI
14.4%
US
15.0%

	WI	RANK
Diversity index	22.0%	34
Poverty level in rural school communities	308%	34
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.4%	28
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	9.5%	37
Percent of rural household mobility	8.2%	35



GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK

24

State revenue to schools per local dollar



WI
\$0.82
US
\$1.18

	WI	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$7,343	27
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$11.15	28
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,303	34
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$0.82	11
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$73,453	20



GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

34

Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)



WI
22.2
US
18.2

	WI	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	22.6	16
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	22.2	10
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.263	41
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.113	33
HS grad rate rural advantage	4.0%	36



GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK

38

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



WI
6.3%
US
6.7%

	WI	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	249	37
Percent of rural households without broadband access	12.4%	27
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	6.3%	19
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	37.7%	33
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	51.7%	33



Priority Ranking

33

Significant

Wyoming

More than half of Wyoming's public schools are rural, and more than 28% of the state's educational funds are directed to rural districts. Only three states have higher rural household mobility rates, and 12.3% of rural students experience poverty (with a rank of 26, nearly one and a half times the state rate in *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*, when the rate was 8.2% and the state ranking was 43rd). The policy context is generally favorable, marked by high instructional

spending and high teacher salaries. Education outcomes are below average on poverty gap measures and above average on composite scores. Access to supports for learning and development is a story of extremes—Wyoming ranks in the highest category of concern on two indicators (access to healthcare coverage for rural children and female student representation in gifted services) and in the lowest category of concern on the other three indicators.

GAUGE 1

Importance of Rural Education

Percent rural schools



WY
50.7%
US
29.3%

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
24



	WY	RANK
Percent rural schools	50.7%	9
Percent small rural districts	43.3%	24
Percent rural students	26.2%	17
Number of rural students	24,269	46
Percent of state education funds to rural districts	28.3%	17

GAUGE 2

Student and Family Diversity

Percent rural household mobility



WY
12.5%
US
9.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
21



	WY	RANK
Diversity index	23.4%	31
Poverty level in rural school communities	302%	32
Percent of rural students with IEP	14.4%	28
Percent of rural school-aged children experiencing poverty	12.3%	26
Percent of rural household mobility	12.5%	4

GAUGE 3

Educational Policy Context

Rural instructional expenditures per pupil



WY
\$10,797
US
\$7,174

NOTABLE

IMPORTANT

VERY IMPORTANT

CRUCIAL

RANK
45



	WY	RANK
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$10,797	42
Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures	\$10.48	24
Median organizational scale (x100)	1,325	33
State revenue to schools per local dollar	\$1.22	24
Adjusted salary expenditures per instructional FTE	\$92,265	43

GAUGE 4

Educational Outcomes

Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)



WY
25.2
US
22.0

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
28

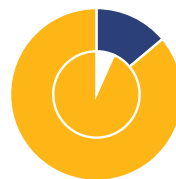


	WY	RANK
Rural poverty difference in math (Gr 8)	25.2	7
Rural poverty difference in reading (Gr 8)	21.9	11
Rural NAEP composite math (Gr 4 and 8)	0.210	39
Rural NAEP composite reading (Gr 4 and 8)	0.171	38
HS grad rate rural advantage	2.7%	29

GAUGE 5

Access to Supports for Learning and Development

Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance coverage



WY
13.9%
US
6.7%

FAIR

SERIOUS

CRITICAL

URGENT

RANK
32



	WY	RANK
Students per psychologist/school counselor	220	42
Percent of rural households without broadband access	8.8%	43
Percent of rural school-aged children without health insurance	13.9%	1
Percent rural enrollment in public preschool	53.9%	47
Percent of rural gifted/talented who are female	45.7%	3