

# The Voice of Rural Schools

2026 Annual Report  
National Rural Education Association



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Cover photo: representatives from Nebraska visit Washington, DC, for NREA Hill Day 2026

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## About this Report

**You are viewing the first annual report in the history of the National Rural Education Association.**

NREA was founded in 1907. For more than a century, this organization has been the national voice for rural schools, and for most of that time, the work happened without a formal public accounting of the year behind us. That changes now.

This report is for you - our members, our state affiliates, our partners, and the rural education community we exist to serve. It is a snapshot of where NREA is, what we accomplished this year, and where we are headed. It is also a commitment. Going forward, you will hear from us each year in this form: honest, clear, and grounded in the work.

Rural schools deserve an organization that operates with the same transparency and accountability it asks of the systems it advocates for. This report is that standard in practice.

# Our Leadership



**Dr. Melissa Sadorf**  
Executive Director



**Dr. Bill Chapman**  
2026 President



**Dr. Darris Means**  
President-Elect



**Dr. Chris Lagoni**  
President-Elect Designate



**Dr. Devon Brenner**  
Immediate Past President



**David M. Ardrey**  
Past President



**John Glasgow**  
Higher Education Representative



**Allison Nys**  
Board Member at Large



**Jeff Byrd**  
School Administrator Representative



**Dr. Marlon Murray**  
Board Member at Large



**Dr. Stephen Johnson**  
State Affiliate Representative



**Jerry White**  
Rural Board of Education Representative



**Dr. Jerry D. Johnson**  
Rural Research Center Representative



**Yuri Calderon**  
State Affiliate Representative



**Dr. Bronwyn Ragan-Martin**  
State Education Agency Representative

# Looking Back

## *A Message from the NREA President*



### **Dr. Bill Chapman**

Dr. Chapman has been the Superintendent of London Independent School District in Corpus Christi, TX, since June 2024. Prior to this position, he spent four years as superintendent in Palacios, TX, eight years as superintendent in Jarrell, TX and also served as a school administrator in Coldspring, Willis, and Huntsville. Before he became an administrator, he was a teacher and coach in both Huntsville and Corpus Christi, TX.

This has been a year of real progress for the National Rural Education Association, and I am honored to serve as your President during one of the most consequential chapters in NREA's history.

After more than a century of advocating for rural schools, we asked some fundamental questions: Who are we? What do we stand for? And where are we going?

This year, the Executive Board formally adopted a new Vision and Mission for NREA. We also completed and adopted NREA's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. You can learn more about each of these items in this report, and I encourage you to do so.

We streamlined our membership processes. A stronger membership base means a stronger national voice for rural schools.

We grew our network of strategic partners that believe in rural education and are willing to invest in that belief alongside us. Building those relationships is work that compounds over time, and we made real strides this year.

Last but not least, we expanded our annual conference. The 2026 National Forum to Advance Rural Education is happening in my home state, in partnership with the Texas Rural Education Association, and there is no better place to celebrate what rural schools and communities can do. If you are not already registered, do it today! We can't wait to see you in the heart of Texas.

Rural schools are solving problems, building community, and graduating students who go on to do remarkable things. NREA exists to make sure that story gets told at every level, from the schoolhouse to the statehouse.

Thank you for your membership, your leadership, and your commitment to rural education.

*Bill Chapman*

# FY26 Celebrations



## 2025 Rural Teacher of the Year: Jeff Granrud, Howard Lake, MN

Jeff is a dedicated mathematics educator with nearly three decades of teaching experience at Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Schools. He has built a reputation for engaging instruction, a supportive classroom environment, and a commitment to fostering both academic and personal growth in his students.



## Why Rural Matters 2025

*Why Rural Matters 2025: People, Place, & Possibility* is the 11th report in a series examining the contexts and conditions of rural education across all 50 states. This report continues the critical mission of drawing attention to the urgent need for policymakers, educators, and communities to address rural education challenges and opportunities within their own states.



## 2025 Dissertation Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of our 2025 Edward W. Chance Dissertation Awards. Devan Jones received the award for “Voices From The Countryside: Unveiling The Stories Of Rural Teachers In Stem Education” and Clint Whitten received the award for “Identity and Place: Exploring the Complexities Between Rural Education, Community, and Queerness.”



## FFA Students from 11 States Advocate for Secure Rural Schools Act in Washington

A delegation of Future Farmers of America (FFA) students from across the nation converged on Capitol Hill, advocating for the Secure Rural Schools Act. Students met with each of their state delegates, and collectively with staff from the Speaker of the House Michael Johnson’s office, to discuss the passage of this bill.



## NREA Hill Day: March 24, 2026

Over 20 NREA representatives joined together in Washington, DC, this year, visiting over 60 congressional offices to speak on rural issues. NREA continues to advocate on these issues year-round, and will be on the hill again next spring!

# Committee Updates

## Centers Network Committee

*Chair: Jerry Johnson*

The NREA Centers Network supports institutions doing rural education research by building community and shared capacity among university-based rural education centers. The committee meets in person at NFARE annually and holds at least one virtual meeting per year. A key opportunity identified this year is strengthening connections between university-based centers and K-12 partners to amplify the real-world impact of rural education research. Jerry Johnson served as inaugural chair of this committee.

## Editorial Advisory Board / The Rural Educator

*Chair: Kessa Roberts*

The Rural Educator continues to be one of NREA's most visible and impactful works. In 2025, TRE articles were downloaded 62,168 times across 191 countries. The journal holds a second-quartile ranking among scholarly journals broadly and ranks 18th among journals in educational administration specifically. Looking ahead, the EAB plans to publish standalone pieces from *Why Rural Matters 2025* and is exploring inviting the Rural Teacher of the Year to publish in the journal. The board has also expressed interest in expanding to additional or longer issues.

## Legislative Committee

*Co-Chairs: Steve Johnson & Heather Zellers*

The major event of the year was NREA Hill Day 2026, held March 23-25 in Washington, D.C. Advocates from multiple states gathered for morning briefings with partners including AASA, the Coalition for Education Funding, the U.S. Department of Education, All4Ed, and The National Grange, then spent two days conducting meetings on Capitol Hill. The committee also produced advocacy resources for participants, including a federal glossary of terms and comprehensive congressional staffer lists for both chambers. Looking ahead, the committee has identified deeper engagement with the HELP Committee as a priority, and is exploring an expanded Hill Day structure that could include multiple briefing sessions and an institute format.



## Membership Committee

NREA is in the process of formally standing up a dedicated Membership Committee in the coming year. The focus will be on growing individual and affiliate-connected membership, supporting the launch of the new membership year this summer, and building the infrastructure to support NREA's long-term goal of significantly expanding its national membership base.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ruraleducator](https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/ruraleducator)  
to view the journal or apply to be an editor.

## **NREA Foundation: Awards and Recognition**

NREA's awards and recognition programs are administered through the NREA Foundation. The Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, chaired by Jason Bell, managed the full award cycle this year, including promotion, state-level nominations, application review, finalist interviews, and selection and announcement. The committee meets virtually three to four times annually and in person at NFARE. Jeff Granrud was recognized as the 2025 National Rural Teacher of the Year at NFARE in Salt Lake City. The committee has recommended more intentional post-selection engagement with award recipients going forward, including school visits to further elevate rural educator voices in NREA communications.



Dr. Allen Pratt receives recognition for his time as Executive Director

## **Research Committee**

*Chair: Sarah Schmitt-Wilson*

The committee managed approximately 90 journal submission reviews, selected research award recipients across three award categories, reviewed and accepted proposals for research sessions at NFARE, and continued its work connecting rural research to policy and practice. The next Rural Education Research Agenda is on track for a fall 2027 launch.

## **Sponsorships and Partnerships Committee**

*Co-Chairs: Dave Ardrey & Cari Warnock*

New this year, this committee worked to formalize several strategic partnerships and agreements. The committee's focus going forward will be on building a sustainable sponsorship portfolio that reduces NREA's reliance on conference revenue and expands the organization's reach through mission-aligned partnerships.

## **State Affiliates & Legislative Committee**

*Co-Chairs: Yuri Calderon & Chris Lagoni*

Monthly meetings kept affiliate directors connected, informed, and engaged throughout the year. The committee developed new affiliate outreach materials, including an updated NREA State Affiliate Flyer, and supported exploratory conversations with prospective new affiliates in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Hawaii, and West Virginia. Growing the affiliate network remains a central priority, as stronger state affiliates mean more rural voices at the national table.



State Affiliates meet at NFARE 2025

# Financial Overview

Transparency with our members, affiliates, and partners matters to us, and that begins with being clear about where we are financially and where we are headed. This financial overview shares the basics, and a full financial report is available to members upon request. *Note: financial data as of April 30, 2026 (10 months into FY2025–26). Fiscal year closes June 30, 2026.*

## Organizing Our Finances

One of the first priorities of our new Executive Director was establishing clean, consolidated financial reporting. NREA now operates with monthly statements presented to the Executive Board, with Aspire Business Consultants engaged as our formal accounting partner.

## Where We Stand

As of April 30, 2026, NREA’s financial position is stable and healthy, with strong organizational reserves. The YTD net position reflects expenses running ahead of revenue, which is completely expected at this point in our fiscal year. NREA’s revenue is heavily concentrated in the fall around NFARE, and our reserves are sufficient to carry operations through that cycle.

**\$1,009,013**

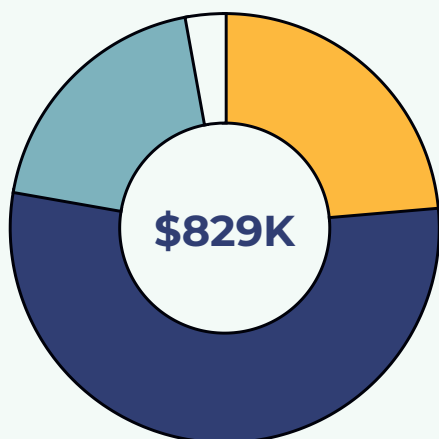
Liquid Assets as of June 2026

**\$487K** Operating Funds

**\$522K** Reserve Account

## Our FY2026 Numbers

A significant portion of FY26 expenditures reflect grant-funded program delivery, with NREA administering over \$680,000 in services. These funds flow directly into rural community support rather than overhead. Membership revenue remains strong, tracking well ahead of the conservative \$80,000 floor built into the FY27 budget. Additionally, the 2025 NFARE conference in Salt Lake City once again served as a primary revenue driver for the organization.



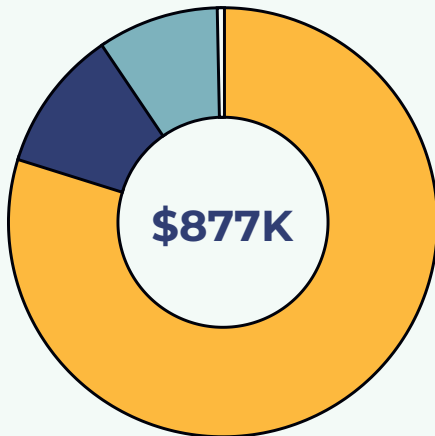
## FY26 Actual Net Income

July 2025 - March 2026

- Grants - \$448,800
- Annual Conference - \$195,964
- Membership - \$160,675
- Other - \$23,674

## Diversifying Revenue Streams

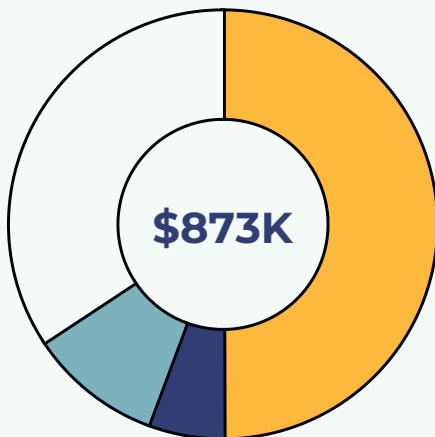
NFARE remains NREA's primary revenue engine, but we are actively building new year-round programming to diversify our income. This fall, we launch the National Rural Principal Fellowship, and the Rural Superintendent Academy, Rural Advocacy Boot Camp, and a Women in Rural Leadership Initiative are in development. Additionally, we are launching a new quarterly publication, The Rural Advantage, which will create new advertising opportunities beyond the annual conference. The trajectory is moving in the right direction, and the work to grow it continues.



## FY27 Projected Gross Revenue

July 2026 - June 2027

- Grants - \$94,000
- Annual Conference - \$700,000
- Membership - \$80,000
- Other - \$2,800



## FY27 Projected Expenses

July 2026 - June 2027

- Grant Pass-through - \$50,000
- Annual Conference - \$391,600
- Programming - \$102,450
- Operational - \$298,995

**Projected Net Surplus: +\$33,755**

## The Value of Partnership

Revenue does not capture everything of value flowing through our organization. This year we began establishing Strategic Partners, who provide resources directly to rural educators and communities, often at no cost to NREA members. Our committed Strategic Partners, as of this publication, represent over \$150,000 of in-kind value, and the program is growing every day.

## Looking Ahead

FY2027 is going to be a full year, focused on growing visibility, expanding membership, and strengthening our State Affiliate program. This is a lot of work, but we are not starting from scratch. We are building on a century of showing up for rural schools, moving forward with a clearer direction. For the first time, NREA has a five-year strategic plan, a formal accounting infrastructure, and the organizational clarity to grow in ways that are sustainable and intentional.



# Rural School Spotlight: Woodville ISD, Texas

## *Building Futures Close to Home*

“In rural communities, schools are often more than places of learning. They are gathering places, sources of pride, and engines of opportunity. They help shape not only the future of students, but the future of the communities those students call home.

At Woodville ISD in East Texas, that belief has inspired a transformation.

Over the past four years, district leaders have reimagined what Career and Technical Education can be for rural students. What began as a vision to expand opportunities beyond the traditional classroom has evolved into a comprehensive program that is helping students discover passions, develop marketable skills, earn industry credentials, and prepare for successful futures. Those futures may lead to college, military service, entrepreneurship, or directly into the workforce, but each pathway is rooted in the same goal: ensuring every student graduates with purpose, opportunity, and the skills to succeed.

“Our programs are not just about the school, they are about community transformation. We are providing access and opportunity for our students to learn skills that will offer them a successful future right here in East Texas,” said Lisa Meysembourg, Woodville ISD Superintendent. “We work closely with our city

and county officials, colleges, businesses, and civic organizations to build pathways that not only meet workforce needs, but strengthen our local economy. We can’t do this in isolation - when we work together, we’re not just educating students, we’re creating a thriving Tyler County.”

Today, students at Woodville High School can explore pathways in Health Science, Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Agriculture, Culinary Arts, Teaching and Training, Welding, Plumbing, Automotive Technology, and Collision Repair. Each pathway is designed to provide meaningful, hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning with real-world applications.

Walk through Woodville’s CTE facilities and you’ll find students doing far more than completing assignments. They are learning by doing.

In one recent project, students from multiple programs worked together to design and construct deer stands, combining skills from construction, welding, and automotive programs.



The project challenged students to collaborate, solve problems, meet quality expectations, and create a finished product with value beyond the classroom. Experiences like these help students understand that learning is not confined to a textbook but it is something that can be applied to real needs, real customers, and real careers.

The impact of this approach can be seen in the stories of Woodville students.

One of the most remarkable examples is Carmelo Castle, a member of the Class of 2025. After spending four years in Woodville ISD's plumbing pathway, Carmelo became the first student in Texas to complete a high school plumbing program and pass the state's plumbing examination immediately upon graduation. Rather than beginning at the starting line, he entered the workforce with advanced standing and quickly secured employment in the profession.

His accomplishment is significant not only because it is a personal milestone, but because it demonstrates what is possible when students are given access to rigorous, industry-aligned opportunities while still in high school.



Carmelo's story is not an exception at Woodville ISD. It's one of many stories that are part of a larger culture focused on helping students discover their strengths and build confidence in their futures.

Students in Culinary Arts earn industry certifications while developing professional skills. Health Science students explore careers in

one of the nation's fastest-growing fields. Future educators gain valuable experiences through teaching and training pathways. Across campus, students are discovering that success after high school can take many forms, and each pathway is worthy of celebration.

For rural communities, programs like these serve an even greater purpose.

Across the country, employers are facing shortages in skilled trades, healthcare professions, technology fields, and other critical industries. At the same time, many rural communities are searching for ways to create opportunities that encourage young people to build their futures close to home.

Woodville ISD's Career and Technical Education program demonstrates how rural schools can help address both challenges.

By aligning educational opportunities with workforce needs, the district is helping students develop skills that are relevant, transferable, and immediately valuable. More importantly, students are learning that meaningful careers can be found in their own communities and regions, strengthening both individual futures and local economies.

The success of Woodville's program reflects a simple but powerful idea: every student deserves a pathway to success.

Some students will pursue four-year degrees. Others will enter technical programs, apprenticeships, military service, or the workforce. The goal is not to direct students toward a single destination, but to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue the path that is right for them.

In just four years, Woodville ISD has created a culture where opportunity is expanding, innovation is thriving, and students are preparing for futures filled with possibility.

For rural schools across America, Woodville's story is a reminder that when communities invest in students, students invest in their communities in return.

**And that is a future worth building.**

# Looking Ahead

## *A Message from the Executive Director*



### **Dr. Melissa Sadorf**

Dr. Sadorf brings over 30 years of experience in rural education as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in Arizona. She previously led the Arizona Rural Schools Association and now continues her work in higher education at Northern Arizona University. She is committed to strengthening NREA's role as a national convener and catalyst for rural innovation, policy, and leadership development.

I came into this role on June 1, 2025 knowing it was going to be a building year. What I did not expect was how much energy would be in the room.

Over the past twelve months, I have had the chance to do something I value deeply: show up in person. Working alongside our board in Salt Lake City at NFARE 2025, then sharing our new Vision and Mission with the full conference the next morning, reminded me of something I already knew but needed to feel again: this board is committed. Not in a talking point way. In a staying in the room, working through the hard stuff, and showing up for rural education way. I am grateful for that, and I do not take it for granted. Thank you for trusting me with this organization.

Traveling rural America to visit state affiliates at their conferences and convenings has been one of the real highlights of my first year as ED. Meeting our affiliate directors and members where they are, hearing what is working and what is hard, and saying in person that NREA is here to support and elevate rural education, that matters. Relationships are the foundation of this work and every mile confirmed it.

FY27 is going to be a full year for NREA, with new and expanded programming. Here is my ask to you: bring someone in. There are rural educators and advocates in every state who share this mission and have not yet found their way to NREA. The more rural voices we have behind this work, the more effective we are. That is the growth challenge in front of us, and it belongs to all of us.

Rural schools are doing extraordinary work every single day. NREA exists to make sure the world knows it. I am honored to lead that effort, and I am glad to be doing it alongside this community.

*Melissa Sadorf*

# Coming in FY27

## Rural Leader of the Year Award

The NREA Foundation is excited to introduce an exciting new tradition: the Rural Leader of the Year Award, approved for launch at NFARE 2026. This award will recognize an educator or leader whose work has made a significant and sustained difference in rural schools and communities. More details will be shared as the award cycle opens.



## National Rural Principal Fellowship

The National Rural Principal Fellowship will bring together up to 30 rural leaders with strong potential to create, build upon, and accelerate growth in leadership. Fellows will apply what they have learned to their settings and have opportunities to reflect and grow in connection with one another.

## The Rural Advantage Magazine

This publication will be dedicated to showcasing the amazing things happening in rural schools across the nation. NREA is seeking rural public schools for this first volume, which will focus on *Innovation in Rural Schools*. If you have an amazing story, reach out to us for a chance to be featured in this new quarterly magazine!



## Hill Day and Advocacy Boot Camp

Hill Day will continue in 2027, and we hope to see you there! This year we are adding a new Advocacy Boot Camp to discuss rural advocacy issues and collaborate on our shared messaging to our representatives in Washington, D.C.

## Strengthening Rural Research

This year, NREA launched the *Further Reading Research Collection* to gather articles, journals, books, and reports that focus on rural education research. We will continue growing this collection through member submissions, especially from our State Affiliate Organizations. We are also considering increasing the number of issues in each volume of *The Rural Educator* from four to six.

## Expanding Our Impact

In addition to these initiatives, NREA will be strategically forming partnerships and expanding our programming to facilitate connections with women in rural leadership, K-12 educators, and graduate students focused on rural research.

# Who We Are

After a collaborative process that included board conversations, member input, and honest reflection on NREA's role as a national organization, the Executive Board formally adopted an updated Vision, Mission, and Core Values for NREA.

These principles are a commitment, grounded in more than a century of showing up for rural schools, informing how NREA will move into the future.



## Vision

The NREA envisions strong rural schools and communities where education is the catalyst for resilience, opportunity, and success.

## Mission

As the trusted voice for rural education, the NREA advocates for every rural learner, educator, and community.

## Core Values

### Advocacy

We champion the needs of rural students, educators, and communities through proactive policy engagement and storytelling that elevates rural voices.

### Collaboration

We believe progress happens through relationships. We bring together educators, families, partners, and policymakers to co-create solutions that reflect the realities and assets of rural life.

### Community

We believe that rural schools are the heart of their communities. We foster strong relationships, honor local voice, and serve as active partners in building vibrant, sustainable futures.

### Innovation

We encourage creative problem-solving and forward-thinking approaches that reflect the strengths and realities of rural education contexts.

### Leadership

We cultivate and support bold, resilient, and ethical leaders who advocate for and guide the future of rural education.

# 2026-2030 Strategic Plan



Using the new Mission, Vision, and Core Values as a guide, the NREA Executive Board adopted NREA's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan in spring 2026, which identifies five main goals for the future. These goals reflect where our members, affiliates, and partners are telling us NREA is most needed.

## Goal 1: Grow and Strengthen NREA Membership

NREA will continue building a diverse, active, and growing community of rural education stakeholders. Growing membership is not just a revenue strategy. It is a signal that NREA is delivering real value to the people closest to rural schools.

## Goal 2: Invest in State Affiliates and Their Leaders

NREA will strengthen communication, consistency, and capacity across all state affiliates. By 2030, every affiliate director should have access to onboarding support, peer mentoring, and ongoing professional learning.

## Goal 3: Build Partnerships and Expand Revenue

NREA will cultivate a diverse portfolio of strategic partnerships and sponsorships that generate sustainable revenue, extend our reach, and advance rural education across sectors. This goal positions NREA to pursue grant opportunities and expand financial flexibility so we can direct resources where rural schools need them most.

## Goal 4: Elevate Rural Education in Federal Policy and Advocacy

NREA will deepen its presence in federal education policy conversations as a recognized, data-informed voice that shapes decisions affecting rural students, schools, and communities. When rural education comes up in Washington, NREA should already be in the room.

## Goal 5: Advance Professional Learning for Rural Educators at All Levels

NREA will develop and deliver professional learning that builds the knowledge, skills, and confidence of rural educators and leaders, designed with rural contexts at the center. By 2030, NREA will be a trusted source of professional learning that rural educators actively seek out.



# Join NREA Today!

**Thank you in advance for joining NREA.** Your support allows NREA to maintain its vital national presence and drive meaningful change. We are proud to share several major milestones and commitments to our membership that define our direction for the future:

- **Redefining our Vision, Mission, and Core Values**, grounding our advocacy in collaboration, community, innovation, and leadership.
- **Adopting a 2026-2030 Strategic Plan**, providing a clear five-goal roadmap for the next four years.
- **Continued legislative representation** through events like Hill Day, presenting at national-level conferences, and creating and promoting rural research and literature.
- **Continued dedication to recognition programs** such as the National Rural Teacher of the Year, the Chance Dissertation Award, and the NREA Hall of Fame.
- **A new lifetime membership option**, which includes lifetime complimentary attendance to the National Forum to Advance Rural Education (NFARE).
- **Discounted registration to NFARE**, as well as some partner conferences, encouraging member connection and collaboration.
- **Launching a new Strategic Partners program**, expanding resources available to our membership.
- **Expanding the State Affiliate program**, creating a stronger national network with direct ties to each state.

This list is not exhaustive, but it represents how NREA remains a catalyst for resilience, opportunity, and success in rural education. We need your support to continue this work. **Please support NREA with your membership.**

[Click to Join Now](#)

NREA PRESENTS  
NATIONAL FORUM  
TO ADVANCE  
**RURAL  
EDUCATION**

OCTOBER 19-21, 2026  
SAN ANTONIO  
**TX** ★

# Our Annual Conference

The National Forum to Advance Rural Education is the nation's premier event dedicated to elevating rural voices and advancing opportunity across rural communities.

## New This Year:

- **Discounted registration for members**, even if you join today.
- **Early Bird registration rate** through July 19.
- **Rural Innovation & Impact Showcase**, with a live competition during NFARE.



Join us, in partnership with the Texas Rural Education Association, for three days of bold ideas, real solutions, and meaningful connections shaping the future of rural education.

[Click Here to Register Now](#)

[Visit the Conference Website](#)

[View Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

[Get Your NFARE Merch](#)





# SUPPORT RURAL EDUCATORS WITH YOUR DONATION



**DONATE NOW**

The NREA Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the NREA, operating independently with its own Board of Trustees. The Foundation supports NREA's mission through recognition, fundraising, and direct investment in the field. Some of the programs currently supported by the Foundation include the National Rural Teacher of the Year Award, the NREA Hall of Fame, and the NREA Writing Contest.

The Foundation Board of Trustees updated its bylaws in fall 2025 and moved to a quarterly meeting schedule, both of which reflect a commitment to stronger governance and more consistent stewardship of Foundation resources. The Foundation also formally took over sponsorship of the National Rural Teacher of the Year Award, which was previously supported by NREA directly.



The work of the Foundation is carried out by volunteers who care deeply about recognizing the people doing the important, daily work of rural education. Scan the QR code or visit [nreafoundation.betterworld.org](https://nreafoundation.betterworld.org) to donate now.

# Thank You, Partners!

## Rural Research Alliance Partner

This recognition reflects a commitment to advancing rural education research and advocacy through active, mission-aligned collaboration with NREA.



## Strategic Partners

These partners support our efforts to elevate rural voice and presence by offering tools, learning opportunities, and services that align with rural realities.



## State Affiliates

These partners each represent their local network of rural and small schools, sharing NREA benefits and resources with their membership. We also use our national platform to promote the good work happening in these regions through communication with the State Affiliates. The names of each organization listed below are clickable links, so you can get connected in your state!

- Arizona Rural Schools Association
- Arkansas Rural Education Association
- Association of Illinois Rural & Small Schools
- Coalition of Rural & Small Schools of Virginia
- Colorado Rural Schools Alliance
- Florida School Boards Association
- Idaho Rural Schools Association
- Indiana Small & Rural Schools Association
- Louisiana Rural Education Association
- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Maine Department of Education
- Minnesota Rural Education Association
- Mississippi Rural Education Association
- Missouri Association of Rural Education
- Montana Rural Education Association
- Montana Small Schools Alliance
- Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association
- Nevada Association of School Boards
- New Jersey Association of School Administrators
- North Carolina Rural Education Collaborative
- North Dakota Small Organized Schools
- Oregon Small Schools Association
- Oklahoma Public School Resource Center
- Organization of Rural Oklahoma Schools
- Panhandle Area Education Consortium
- Pennsylvania Association of Rural & Small Schools
- Rural Maryland Council
- Rural School Advocates of Iowa
- Rural Schools Association of New York State
- Small School Districts' Association (CA)
- South Carolina Organization of Rural Schools
- Tennessee Rural Education Association
- Texas Rural Education Association
- UWA Center For Reimagining Rural Education
- Utah Rural Schools Association
- Vermont Rural Education Association
- Washington Rural Education Center
- Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance

## 2025 Conference Sponsors



NATIONAL  
RURAL  
RESEARCH  
★ Rally ★

AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY... **GOD BUILT A SCHOOL**

And on the eighth day, when the world began to stretch beyond the reach of a single voice,

God looked upon humanity and saw that knowledge alone would never be enough.

Children would need wisdom before power.

Communities would need memory before progress.

Nations would need places where truth, responsibility, craftsmanship, courage, and belonging could survive the passing of generations.

Join *the* Legacy.



SCAN HERE

NOMINATIONS FOR RESEARCH PARTNERS OPEN

 [LEGENDSEducation.com](http://LEGENDSEducation.com) | [LEGENDSResearch.com](http://LEGENDSResearch.com) | [RURAL RALLY](#) *here*