

WEST VIRGINIA – West Virginia’s rural areas are among the most impoverished in the U.S. Rural household income is the lowest in the U.S., more than half of all rural students qualify for subsidized meals, and one in five families lives below the federal poverty line. The state’s rural special education population is the nation’s second largest and educational attainment among rural adults is the fourth lowest. Schools and districts are among the nation’s largest, and they are burdened by the highest proportional transportation costs to instructional spending of any state. Graduation rates are above the national average, and rural NAEP scores are among the lowest in the U.S.

PRIORITY RANKING

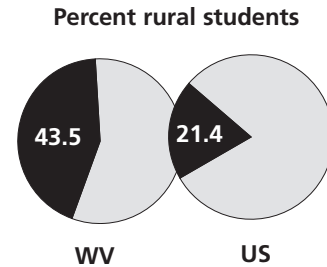
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Importance Gauge

Notable | Important | Very Important | Crucial

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	WV	Rank*
Percent rural schools	40.6%	17
Percent small rural districts	3.6%	43
Percent rural students	43.5%	6
Number of rural students	121,428	31
Percentage of state education funds to rural districts	33.3%	14



Rural median household income



Socioeconomic Challenges Gauge

Fair | Serious | Critical | Urgent

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	WV	Rank*
Percentage of rural adults with high school diploma	77.3%	4
Rural adult unemployment rate	7.1%	8
Rural median household income	\$34,279	1
Percentage of rural families in poverty	19.9%	4
Percentage of rural students eligible for free or reduced meals	54.8%	7

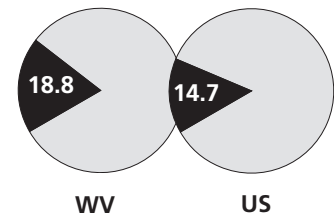
Student Diversity Gauge

Notable | Important | Very Important | Crucial

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	WV	Rank*
Percent rural minority students	3.1%	45
Number of rural minority students	3,712	42
Percent increase in rural minority students over a 10-year period	97.6%	15
Percent rural English Language Learner (ELL) students	0.3%	40
Percent rural Special Education (IEP) students	18.8%	2

Percent rural IEP students



Ratio of instructional dollars to transportation dollars



Policy Context Gauge

Fair | Serious | Critical | Urgent

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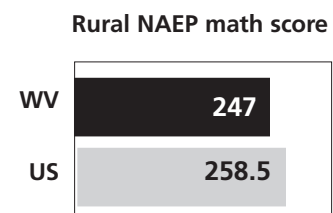
	WV	Rank*
Ratio of instructional dollars to transportation dollars in rural districts	\$7.99	1
Rural instructional expenditures per pupil	\$5,249	34
Salary expenditures per instructional staff member (FTE) in rural districts	\$46,034	22
Median organizational scale among rural districts	7,748	13
Inequality in the combined state and local revenue per pupil among rural districts	8.7%	44

Outcomes Gauge

Fair | Serious | Critical | Urgent

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	WV	Rank*
Rural NAEP math score	247	5
Rural NAEP reading score	231.5	8
Rural high school graduation rate	81.9%	31



* A rank of 1 is most crucial or most urgent