



U.S. Department of Education

RURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Education supports rural communities with funding opportunities, technical assistance, and other resources tailored to the rural context. Below is a sample of programs and supports, listed by Department office, that provide assistance to rural communities.

Note that this is not an exhaustive list. Visit www.ed.gov to learn more. This document was last updated in December 2023.



Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

- **[Rural Education Achievement Program \(REAP\)](#)**: The Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) and Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) programs provide supplemental funding to rural school districts.
- **[Full-Service Community Schools \(FSCS\)](#)**: Grantees provide comprehensive social, health, and academic services to students, family members, and community members. At least 15% of funds must support projects in rural areas.
- **[Education Innovation and Research \(EIR\)](#)**: Funding supports the creation, development, implementation, replication, and scaling up of evidence-based, field-initiated innovations designed to improve student achievement and attainment for underserved students. At least 25% percent of the funds must be used for awards to serve rural areas.
- **[Promise Neighborhoods](#)**: Supports distressed communities in improving outcomes for children, youth, and their families from birth through college. Funds enable grantees to provide a continuum of services and supports. At least 15% of funds must support projects in rural areas.
- **[Alaska Native Education Program](#)**: Awards are three-year competitive grants to eligible applicants to provide supplemental educational programs and services designed to improve education outcomes and opportunities for Alaska Natives.
- **[Indian Education Grants to Local Educational Agencies](#)**: Formula grants provide assistance to elementary and secondary schools serving Indian students, including preschool children. Primarily granted to school districts and Bureau of Indian Education schools to help meet the unique cultural, language, and education needs of Native students.
- **[College Assistance Migrant Program](#)**: Grants are to institutions of higher education or private nonprofits to support educational programs designed for students who are engaged in, or whose families are engaged in, migrant and other seasonal farmwork.



Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

- **[Career-Connected High Schools Grant Program](#)**: Seeks projects that will aim to transform public high schools by expanding existing and implementing new strategies to help students identify and navigate pathways to postsecondary education through career preparation, dual enrollment, workforce credentials, and work-based learning. At least 25% of funds will go toward rural-serving projects.



Institute of Education Sciences

- **[The Regional Educational Laboratory \(REL\) Program](#)**: Supports 10 regional labs that partner with educators and policymakers to help generate and apply evidence, with the goal of improving learner outcomes. At least 25% of the aggregate funding for the 10 RELs must be dedicated to rural issues.
- **[Education Research and Development Centers | Improving Rural Education](#)**:
OPEN NOW IES intends to fund a rural education research and development center aimed at improving the education system, and ultimately, student achievement. Applications are due March 7, 2024.



Office of Postsecondary Education

- **[Rural Postsecondary & Economic Development Grant Program \(RPED\)](#)**: Supports projects to improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among rural students through development of high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region.



Rural Partners Network

- **[Rural Partners Network | U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)**: The Department of Education is one of 20 federal agencies and regional commissions that make up the Rural Partners Network (RPN). The RPN, led by USDA's Rural Development team, works to expand rural prosperity through job creation, infrastructure development, and community improvement. Interested stakeholders and community members may visit [Rural.gov](https://www.rural.gov) for a comprehensive look at the RPN, including program goals, affiliated partners, and activities in pilot communities – with additional resources to come.



The U.S. Department of Education supports rural communities with funding opportunities, technical assistance, and other resources tailored to the rural context.

For more information please visit ed.gov.

