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Contact:

James Minichello

703-875-0723

703-774-6953 (cell)

jminichello@aasa.org

AASA Announces New Partnership with The Rural School and Community Trust
Partnership aimed to strengthen rural communities and improve education in rural areas

Alexandria, Va. – Nov. 7, 2017 – In support of the organizational goal to represent and support rural school district administrators, [AASA, The School Superintendents Association](http://www.aasa.org), has announced a new partnership with [The Rural School and Community Trust](http://www.ruraltrust.org).

The Rural School and Community Trust is a national nonprofit organization addressing the crucial relationship between good schools and thriving communities. The organization involves young people in learning linked to their communities, improves the quality of teaching and school leadership, and advocates in a variety of ways for appropriate state educational policies, including the key issue of equitable and adequate funding for rural schools.

“AASA has long been a leader in advocating for federal policies that support and strengthen our nation’s schools and the students they serve,” said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. “Through this partnership, our organizations will leverage each other’s mutual efforts and supports for rural superintendents to offer a multifaceted set of resources, including networking, advocacy updates, professional learning, webinars, reports and more.”

“We are excited to be part of AASA, an organization that, for generations, has served as the leading voice across America for the leadership of our public school districts. This is a win-win for The Rural School and Community Trust. More importantly though, this partnership will exponentially help students in rural areas,” said Robert Mahaffey, executive director, The Rural School and Community Trust. “Nearly 9 million students attend rural schools — more than the enrollments of the New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and the nation’s next 75 largest school districts combined. Many rural schools and districts are inadequately funded and are unable to provide the opportunities that are available in other school districts. However, there are great resources to build on across America.”

Working in some of the nation’s poorest and most challenging areas, The Rural School and Community Trust provides a variety of services — training, networking, technical assistance, coaching, mentoring, research — and materials to increase the capacity of rural schools, teachers, young people and communities to develop and implement high quality place-based education. The Rural School and Community Trust also serves as a resource for educators and policymakers at the state and national levels — identifying and analyzing policies and practices that strengthen rural education, and changing policies that are detrimental to rural schools.

Mahaffey will continue to promote The Rural School and Community Trust, and operate its programs, grants and other activities. For specific questions about this partnership, contact Noelle Ellerson Ng, AASA associate executive director, policy and advocacy, at nellerson@aasa.org.

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About AASA

[AASA, The School Superintendents Association](#), founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders in the United States and throughout the world. AASA's mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. For more information, visit www.aasa.org.