The Rural 800

America’s Most Challenging Rural School Districts

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The Rural 800

There are 7,604 school districts in which over half the students attend a school physically located in a rural place.

We have identified the 800 (rounding up from 10%) that have the highest percentage of Title I students.
The Rural 800

- Rural 800 districts serve about 969,000 students -- about 11% of the school aged population (age 5-17) in rural districts.

- Nearly 310,000 of them are Title I eligible.

- 23% of all Title I students in all rural districts.
On average, the Rural 800 districts serve a school age population of 1,211 students…

With 387 Title I students…

They range in size from about 30 students to over 26,000.
Extreme Poverty

- Title I eligibility rate in the Rural 800 districts ranges from 26% to 100%, with an average of 32%.

- 157 Rural 800 districts have a Title I eligibility rate over 35 percent.

- Compare: Los Angeles Title I eligibility rate -- 31%, Chicago -- 29%, Detroit -- 32% Philadelphia --28%.

- Two-thirds of Rural 800 districts have a Title I eligibility rate higher than Philadelphia.
There are no Rural 800 Districts in:

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Iowa
- Florida
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- Rhode Island
- Utah
- Virginia
- Wyoming
There are Rural 800 districts in 37 states.

80% of those districts and more than 90 percent of the Rural 800 Title I students are in just sixteen mostly contiguous states.

In order of number of Title I Rural 800 students: TX, MS, KY, LA, AZ, GA, CA, NM, SC, NC, MO, AL, AR, WV, SD, OK.
Leading Rural 800 States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Rural 800 districts</th>
<th>Total formula children (for 0708 eligibility)</th>
<th>Population aged 5-17</th>
<th>Percent Title I eligible 0708</th>
<th>Percent of all Rural 800 Title I Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>40,850</td>
<td>121,794</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>35,212</td>
<td>106,310</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25,883</td>
<td>79,139</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25,463</td>
<td>86,580</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>23,559</td>
<td>60,329</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21,964</td>
<td>75,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>16,641</td>
<td>52,450</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16,041</td>
<td>47,324</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12,776</td>
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<td>30.0%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>12,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>11,836</td>
<td>39,448</td>
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<td>3.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<td>10,587</td>
<td>32,335</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
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<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>30.0%</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>7,889</td>
<td>25,368</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
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<td>South Dakota</td>
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<td>6,086</td>
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<td>38.2%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5,176</td>
<td>17,386</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural 800 = Diversity

Majority of students in R800 are people of color.

- 26% African American
- 19% Hispanic
- 10% Native American
11% of R800 students are English Language Learners.

- 90% in Alaska
- 48% in New Mexico
- 43% in California
- 39% in Montana
- 34% in Arizona
The poorest one-third of rural districts (highest percentage Title I eligibility).

- 43 states
- More than 741,000 Title I students
- More than 2.98 million students
- 24.8% Title I eligible