RURAL COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

A national network of 14 rural collaboratives working together to advance learning access, equity, and success for all rural students.

490 districts
43,000 teachers
600,000 students

(31% minority students; 57% free and reduced lunch)

We engage with rural schools and their communities in a variety of ways.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING
SHARING RESOURCES
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK
ADVOCACY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Together, our collaboratives serve as the nation’s largest rural education network focused on innovative approaches to opportunity gaps, economic self-sufficiency, educator talent development, and learning that engages, empowers, and elevates.

FORCE MULTIPLIERS

We amplify our impact through connections with business, higher education, foundations, and community organizations, such as:

- 639 SCHOOLS IN 33 COUNTRIES
- 50+ NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS
- 10,000+ RURAL TEACHERS
- 26 STATE AFFILIATES

GOALS

1. Learn from each other
2. Reduce educator isolation
3. Leverage joint funding opportunities
4. Increase our collective impact
5. Advance a powerful message on the value of rural education

NEXT MOVES

1. Solidify strategy, structure and support for scaling up rural education innovations that make a difference
2. Identify and engage other collaboratives to grow the Network and spread our impact
3. Connect and share

Battelle for Kids is a national not-for-profit organization committed to engaging educators and communities to inspire passion and purpose for learning and life. We serve as the facilitator for the Rural Collaborative Network. America needs strong rural communities and schools. Together, we are shaping the future of rural learning, living, and livelihood.

Learn more at BFK.org/rural

unique challenges, and spread best practices of the teachers and leaders from some of the Northwest's (WMEC) was formed in 2005 for member districts and KVEC) is a public education agency consisting of 48 rural Colorado school districts and stakeholders working together to advance opportunity, quality, and prosperity for rural Colorado students and communities. The CREC is committed to securing external resources and raising a collective voice and influence around educational practices and processes that work.

The Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) is a public education agency consisting of 21 public school districts focusing attention on teaching, learning and leadership, maximizing educational opportunities, and contributing to a more effective use of resources for school communities that we believe will contribute to the resurgence in educational achievement taking place in the Appalachian region.

The New England Secondary Schools Consortium (ESMEC) is comprised of nine public school systems consisting of 130 schools serving 65,000 students located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The nine Superintendents of Schools act as the governing board of ESMEC. ESMEC's mission is to provide technical assistance and support to our members in areas, such as leadership development, shared services, energy purchasing, and teacher recruitment.

The Heartland Educational Consortium (HEC) is a non-profit, regional, educational service organization, which serves six, small and rural districts in south central Florida. HEC facilitates a collaborative culture that promotes the sharing of funding, resources, and ideas to enhance the development of programs and services that support the educational goals of its member districts.

The Western Maine Education Collaborative (WMEC) was formed in 2005 for member districts to share resources and talent, and overcome the challenges of small rural schools. Through a grassroots effort, the WMEC has facilitated the transformation of its 13 districts toward proficiency-based education which has clearly shown the benefits of a strong, flexible, regional organization, as well as the importance of an embedded ethic of collaboration.

The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA) was formed in 2012 to help rural school districts address the unique issues that affect rural schools as they seek to achieve the highest-quality education for every student. WIRSA serves more than 190 districts and includes 200 members made up of a cross section of educators, school board members, rural community members, business leaders, and others who want a strong voice for rural schools.

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The Rural Schools Collaborative is a new multistate organization committed to strengthening rural schools and communities through school centered philanthropy, place-based engagement and promoting the recruitment, preparation and retention of outstanding rural-teacher leaders. RSC is comprised of six hubs that operate in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The Vermont Rural Partnership promotes student voice and engagement through authentic place-based learning that celebrates the unique environment, culture, and heritage of each partner school and its community. The 17 partner schools are predominately rural, face a variety of economic challenges, and are located in the central and northeast part of the state of Vermont.

The Collaborative Network is passionate about collaborating with educators and sharing lessons learned to move education forward. We welcome the engagement of like-minded rural collaboratives that share our mission of working together to advance learning access, equity, and success for all rural students. Contact us at info@BFK.org and visit BFK.org/rural to learn more.