

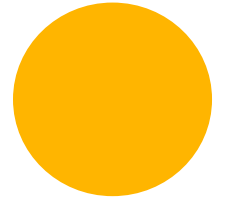


Rural residents and their contexts vary greatly based on their location, geographic and community assets, and local economies

- **Reframe the deficit narrative of rural people and places**
- **Over 9.3 Million students attend a rural schools¹ (1 in 5)**
- **Culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse (1 in 4)**
- **Recognize both the assets and unique challenges**
- **Shifts in rural employment**

Challenges for Rural Schools and Communities

1. Often lack state-of-the-art technological tools, resources, and affordable broadband connectivity
2. Face challenges preparing, recruiting, and retaining STEM teachers
3. Rural schools do not receive adequate funding
4. Climate and extreme weather disproportionately impact rural communities





Leverage strong relationships, commitment to place, and multi-generational connections to the school as community center

1. Reinforce authentic and place-based connections involving equity and culturally responsive practice
2. Support innovative recruitment and retention strategies and targeted professional learning
3. Support STEM education co-engagement, collaborative partnerships
4. Target funding to enhance higher education access for rural learners
5. Fund increased state-of-the-art technological tools