



COLORADO
RURAL SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

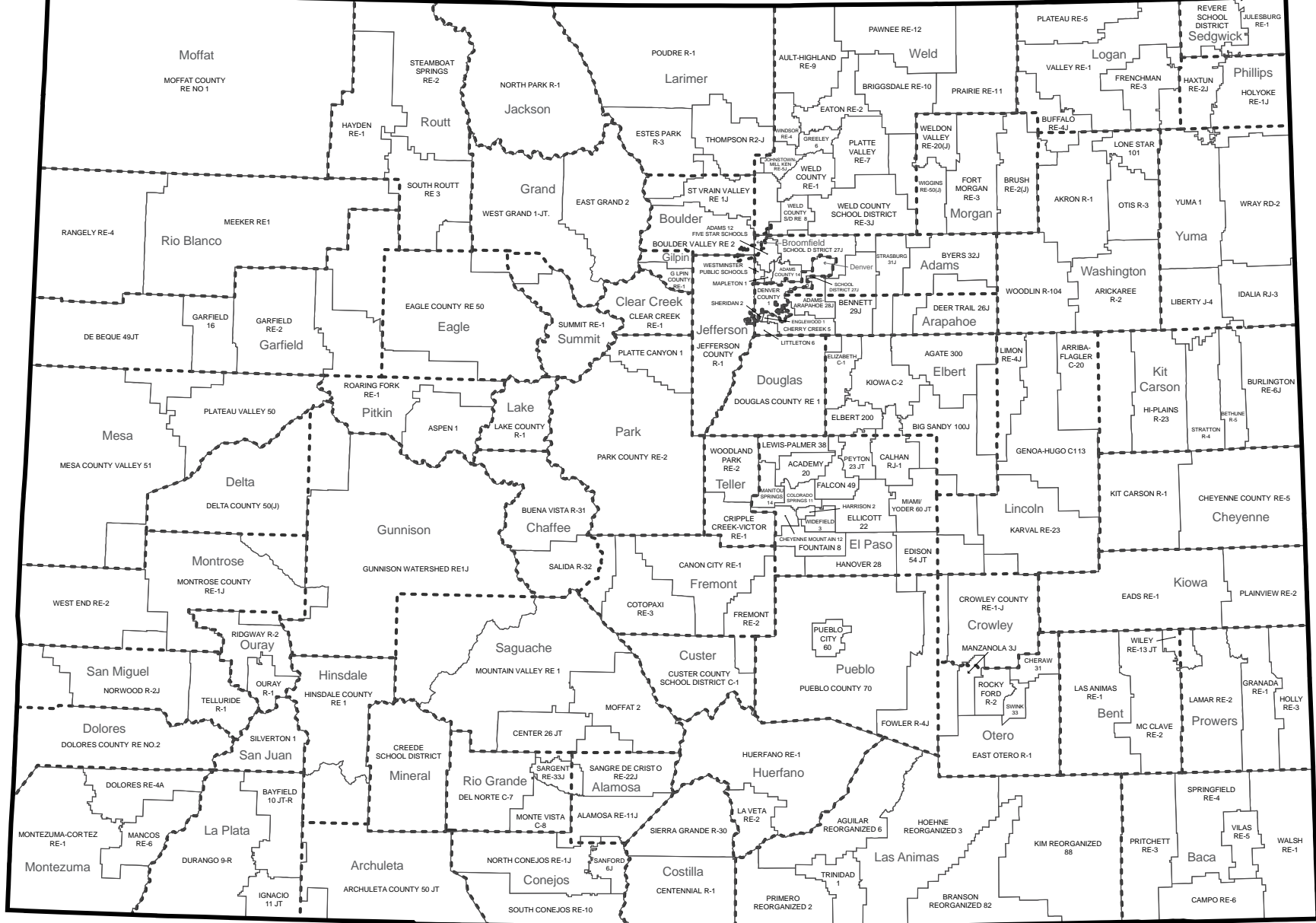
Rural and Small Rural Designation

A Colorado school district is determined to be **Rural** giving consideration to *the size of the district, the distance from the nearest large urban/urbanized area, and having a **student enrollment of 6,500 students or less.***

Small rural districts are those districts meeting these same criteria and having a student population of less than 1,000 students.”

Rural and Small Rural Designation

- 147 of 178 of Colorado's school districts are Rural
- 108 of the 147 schools districts are small rural districts.



What the Rural Alliance does...

- The **Mission** of the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance is to provide a structure through which rural and remote school districts and their community members can strengthen their collective voice and to increase the opportunities available to Colorado's rural students and communities.

Priorities

- School finance/Funding/Equity
- Teacher Shortage
- Flexibility/ Local choice
- Mental Health supports
- Advanced coursework opportunities
- Workforce development
- Rural Advocacy Network

School Finance/Funding

- Superintendents Funding formula
- Ballot Initiative 93/Amendment 73
- Rural \$\$

Teacher Shortage

- Teacher salaries
- Teacher housing
- Improving view of teaching profession
 - Drive more students into teaching and related career opportunities
 - Increase respect and appreciation of teachers locally and in state and federal policy discussions.

Flexibility

- Eliminate unfunded mandates
- Eliminate burdensome reporting
- Accountability system better reflect rural realities
- Don't tie new funding to mandates—let districts decide locally.

Mental Health/Social Emotional Supports

- State and federal laws require significant supports for students with “disabilities”.
- Students showing up with more challenging social emotional/mental health needs
- Rural districts, particularly small rural districts, struggle to find counselors, psychologists, speech pathologists and other providers to support students and families
- Creates considerable challenges for students and teachers and administrators.

Advanced Coursework opportunities

- Rural students don't always have access to same STEM and other advanced coursework opportunities that are available to students in urban and suburban districts.
- Many rural districts partnering with local businesses to provide meaningful career training and awareness opportunities.

Workforce Development

- Public-private partnerships
- Capacity building
- Internships/local opportunities

Rural Advocacy Network

- The Colorado Rural Schools Alliance has launched its Rural Advocacy network to strengthen our collective Rural Voice and increase opportunities for rural students and communities.
- Members of the Rural Advocacy Network give and receive updates on issues, opportunities and events of import to rural students and communities. Opportunities for advocacy and partnership will be provided and encouraged.
- To join fill out the form on this page and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ruraladvocacynetwork