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## [Arkansas is our featured state this week](#)

50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS  
**ARKANSAS**

ALSO KNOWN AS THE  
**NATURAL**  
STATE

**25TH**  
STATE TO JOIN  
THE UNION

**53,178**  
MILES SQUARE

ARKANSAS HAS  
**223**  
RURAL AND  
SMALL SCHOOLS

**146,974**  
STUDENTS ATTEND  
AN ARKANSAS  
RURAL SCHOOL

50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS  
IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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Arkansas is our featured state this week for the 50 States in 50 Weeks project! Each week, the [#IAmARuralTeacher](#) Campaign is featuring a different state and what rural looks like to them. This collaboration between the [National Rural Education Association](#) and [I Am A Rural Teacher](#) demonstrates how vast the rural communities of America really are. Are you an Arkansas rural teacher? We would love to hear from you! Submit your story today at <http://bit.ly/RuralTeachersPerspectives>

For more information on rural policy and events in Arkansas please go to <https://www.arkansasruraled.com/>

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[We invite you to visit our new website](#)

# We are happy to announce the unveiling of our new website!



We hope you will take a few minutes to visit our new redesigned  
online home by visiting:

**[www.nrea.net](http://www.nrea.net)**

We've worked hard to develop a useful and informative resource and  
make it easy for you to stay informed, share in our successes, and just  
to feel as proud of National Rural Education Association as we are!  
So, be sure to bookmark our website address and visit us often. We'll  
use our website to keep you in the loop.

National Rural Education Association



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[Leadership Challenges of the Rural School Principal](#)



As stress impacts the organization and operations of a school, leader stressors may be determined by the setting, years of experience of the leader and the greater educational landscape in which the principal must lead. The researchers sought to differentiate between the perceived stress and joy of urban and rural school principals. Findings derived from this time series design inquiry suggest that despite external influence, there is limited change in reported stress of rural school principals. Though the leadership in any setting is complex and multi-faceted, the researchers identified and assessed contributing factors.

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## [NREA Foundation Essay Contest](#)



This annual contest allows participants in three divisions: grades 3–5, middle school, and high school. Grades 3–5 may participate in a written essay contest using the provided prompt and rubric. Grades 6–12 may participate in a video essay contest using the provided prompt and rubric.

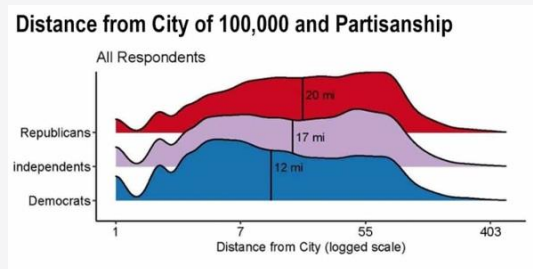
### **Award**

The winner in the elementary division receives \$250. The runner-up receives \$100.

The winners in the middle and high school divisions receive \$400. The runner-up receives a \$200 prize.

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## [Distance and Density, Not Just Demographics, Affect Urban-Rural Vote](#)



### The Question

Places commonly differ in the composition of the people who reside there. No one is arguing about that fact. The question is whether composition is all there is, or whether place has an independent effect.

Simply put: Are two people, identical in their demographic profiles, likely to vary in their political behavior if one lives in a rural locale and the other in an urban one?

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## [Rural schools face challenges, but are working to change the narrative.](#)



The national narrative about rural schools and the communities they serve is often bleak. National media paint a picture of rural communities as backward, archaic and foolish. Rural places are portrayed as places to escape, to leave behind. The term “brain drain” has been used for the past decade to describe

the phenomenon of well-educated and ambitious young people leaving rural areas to “make it big” in more urban settings.

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## [Connect your students to over \\$5 million in scholarship opportunities](#)



**Join a national movement to support students on their college journeys and encourage them to take advantage of the clear steps and benefits of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.**

This unique program guides students through the college planning process and offers them a chance to earn money for college for each action they complete. Juniors and seniors are eligible **regardless of income, citizenship status, GPA, or test scores**. 4,000 students each year will be able to earn scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$40,000, for two- or four-year institutions. Half of all scholarships will be awarded to students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year.

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## [Technology in rural schools: Addressing digital equity](#)



The goal of digital equity is to ensure that all students have access to devices, high-speed internet, and opportunities to learn both in school and out. While digital equity is a challenge for all school districts, Dr. Beth Holland, CoSN's digital equity and rural project director, points out that it becomes a very complex issue given the challenges within rural schools and systems.

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## [NREA Call for Proposals: March 17th, 2020](#)



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The Rural Educator



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