

Mission Statement

The Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative designated to provide support services to small and/or rural school districts in the State of Washington and to assist them in carrying out their individual district missions.

REC Partnerships:

- The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Local School Boards
- Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)
- Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)
- Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA)
- Educational Service Districts (ESD's)
- Washington Association of Maintenance & Operations Administrators (WAMOA)
- Washington State University College of Education (WSU)



Objectives

- To provide reader-friendly information on request;
- To be a legislative and policy advocate for member districts;
- To be a collaborative partner in projects that benefit members schools;
- To communicate practical and useful information in e-mails, newsletters, and updates
- To partner with organizations that have the potential of assisting members



For more information, please contact:

Rural Education Center
c/o Davenport School District
801 7th Street
Davenport, WA 99122
(509) 725-1481
(509) 725-2260 FAX

Director:
Jim Kowalkowski
jkowalkwski@davenportsd.org
509-725-1481

Program Support:
Ashley Herridge
School & Community Collaboration Center
College of Education
Washington State University
ashleyh@wsu.edu
509-335-1988

Membership:
Lonnie Purcell- NEWESD 101
lpurcell@esd101.net
509-789-3800



NorthEast Washington ESD 101
serves as the fiscal agent for this REC.

WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

World Class. Face to Face.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
School & Community Collaboration Center



Rural Education Center



*Serving Small & Rural Schools
throughout the State of
Washington since 1987*

General Information

Established in 1987, the Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative of small and rural school districts committed to achieving the highest quality of learning on behalf of children in our schools.

There are currently **85** members (75 school districts, 6 ESD's, & other educational organizations). There is potential to serve up to 180 member school districts as valued services of the REC are realized through outreach and conference presentations.

Any organization that believes the Rural Education Center and our services may be of help is welcome to apply for membership.

Philosophy

The guiding philosophy of the Rural Education Center (REC) is that the unique culture of small and rural schools presents challenges to school leaders, teachers, and students. At the same time, it believes that the opportunities provided by small and rural schools are significant and important to society at large. **The REC believes that it can serve such school districts through policy advocacy, information exchange, and leadership networking.** Policy advocacy requires vigilant attention to local and state regulatory actions. Information exchange involves sharing current administrative and curriculum developments. Leadership networking results when the REC puts school leaders in touch with others working in similar environments. The REC believes it can fulfill these roles for many school districts in the State of Washington.

Small Schools: In the Majority!

There are 295 school districts in the state of Washington. 189 of these districts have less than 2,000 students!



Logo courtesy of WASA

Support for Small & Rural Schools

- The REC provides support and information to superintendents, building administrators, and school board members who serve small and/or rural school districts.
- Each summer, the REC partners with OSPI & WSU to sponsor a small schools practitioners' workshop.
- NorthEast Washington Educational Service District (NEW ESD 101) serves as the fiscal agent for the Rural Education Center. **Please contact Lonnie Purcell at**
- **NEWESD 101 (509-789-3800) for details on how to join the REC.**

Goals

1. Consultation

- Linking members with resources
- Responding to requests
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Providing personal support to superintendents

2. Advocacy

- Maintain an active presence in the State Legislature
- Remain active with WASA Small Schools Committee and WSSDA Small Schools Task Force
- Committed to providing accurate information to policy makers regarding consolidation
- Issue periodic press releases on rural education issues

3. Research

- Respond to specific requests
- Partner with other key educational associations



REC Accomplishments/Projects:

- REC Director served on the recent WASA **"Hold Harmless" workgroup** which helped result in additional funding from the 2019 Legislature
- **Presentation to the Senate Ways & Means Committee** – March 2019 – "Perspectives from Small & Rural Districts" – focus on financial impacts of recent legislation
- Successful in getting **Rural Satellite Skill Center Bill (ESSB 5874) sponsored & passed with 100% yes** votes in House & Senate – 2019 Legislature
- Op-Ed **"Beyond McCleary: We now have more loser than winners"** published in *The Spokesman-Review* - July, 2018
- **Strong collaboration** with the WASA Small Schools Committee and the WSSDA Small Schools Task Force
- The REC consistently has a strong presence during each legislative session
- REC Director serves on the **WASA Legislative & Finance Committee**
- Partnered with several organizations to successfully **keep the small high enhanced funding in place**
- Continue to **successfully fight legislative efforts to force school consolidation.**

For more specific information, please contact Jim Kowalkowski (co-cow-ski). Jim is the Director of the REC and can be reached at jkowalkowski@davenportsd.org or at 509-725-1481

<http://education.wsu.edu/ruraleducation/>