



HOMEROOM

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

How to Serve Rural Schools: Listen



Students gather in class at Owsley County Elementary School in Kentucky.

When it comes to serving schools across rural America, it's important to remember that no two rural communities are alike. From the remote fishing villages in Alaska, to the sugar maple towns of Vermont, to the American Indian reservations in Montana, America's rural communities are incredibly diverse. Nationwide, rural America contains over 70 percent of our landmass, one-third of our schools, and 59 million Americans, according to the 2010 Census. In addition to the need for the same educational opportunities as urban and suburban students, we recognize the unique challenges faced by many, if not most rural students: high rates of childhood poverty, limited health care, fewer career opportunities, isolation from basic services, as well as schools that don't have the necessary transportation, technology, teachers, courses, and resources to provide students with a truly 21st century education they deserve.

If you are interested in sharing input or hearing more about the U.S. Department of Education's efforts to engage rural communities, please feel free to contact: Rural@ed.gov.