



### **AASA Advocacy Letter**

This is the week to push for federal stimulus funds for education. Congress is currently negotiating the legislation. AASA has a national campaign to send letters to members of both houses. Please simply put your name, district, etc. in the spaces provided and AASA will do the rest. As rural schools will be the most affected by any loss of state aid, federal stimulus funding is critically important. Please add your district to this vital effort!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQAY8P3Ay3xa-gQQX-mnCEC6pEcwJlXhXqBIZnxtvyDdr-2g/viewform>

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### **I am a Rural Teacher” Campaign**

New York is the state featured in this week’s “I am a Rural Teacher” Campaign. The campaign was created by the National Rural Education Association, RSA’s national affiliate. Please check out our state’s statistics and the featured story by Michael Davanzo from Newark. If you have a story to tell about being a rural teacher, please submit it to the IAART Campaign at [iiart.campaign@gmail.com](mailto:iiart.campaign@gmail.com).



### **I Am A Rural Teacher Campaign**

## **Weekend Update**

This week had a lot of variety, featuring stories from Illinois, North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana and New York! See links to all of this week's stories and updates below, as well as links to share them on social media.

We received our first **North Dakota** perspective from **Dustin Moe**, detailing how talent can thrive in rural communities. **Nebraska's Angela Ford** discussed how growing up rural affected her perspective.

The featured state for 50 States in 50 Weeks was **New York**, which was shared in conjunction with an amazing story from **Mikey Davanzo** of Newark, "For the Love of Reading."

Thank you to [NDSOS](#) Executive Director **Elroy Burkle** for helping IAART coordinate with several North Dakota schools, which will have stories sprinkled throughout the coming weeks. Thanks as well to [RSANY](#) Executive Director **David Little** for forwarding several New York perspectives, including this week's Friday feature, "For the Love of Reading."



**Leslie Varble**  
**Carbondale, IL**

**Small school lets their light shine**

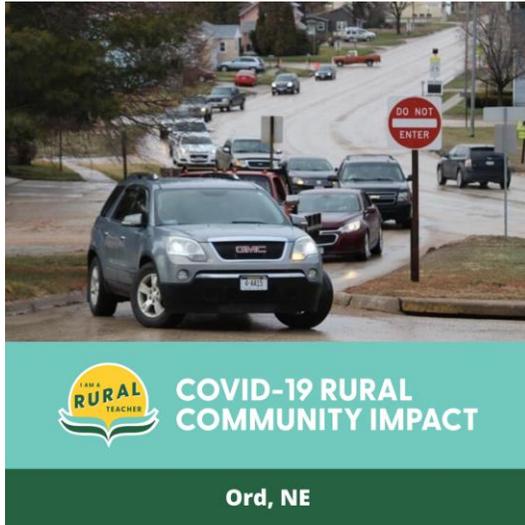
[IAART Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Instagram](#)



**Dustin Moe**  
**Washburn, ND**

**How rural helps creative people excel**

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[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Instagram](#)



**Heather Nebesniak  
Ord, NE**

**Meal deliveries despite weather  
advisories**

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[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)



**Angela Ford  
Homer, NE**

**Rural roots help you flourish**

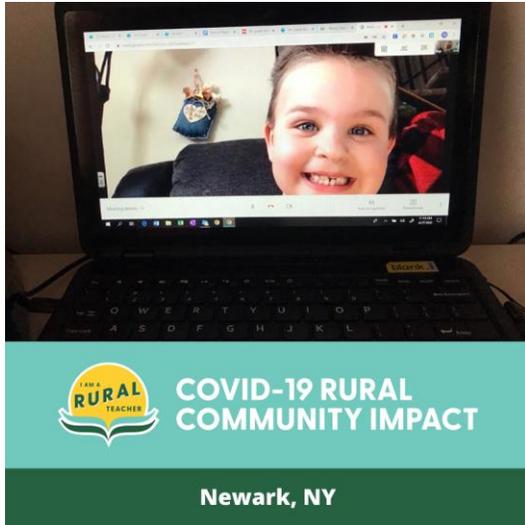
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[Instagram](#)

**Angela Ford | Homer, NE**



**Mikey Davanzo**  
**Newark, NY**

**For the Love of Reading**

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[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)



**Allison Nys**  
**Corvallis, MT**

**WiFi for all students in this small  
Montana community**

[IAART Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS

# NEW YORK

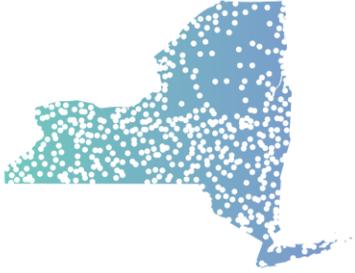
ALSO KNOWN AS THE  
**EMPIRE**  
STATE

**11TH**  
STATE TO JOIN  
THE UNION

**54,554**  
MILES SQUARE

**463**  
DISTRICTS WITH  
RURAL OR SMALL  
SCHOOLS

**289,863**  
STUDENTS IN  
RURAL OR SMALL  
SCHOOLS



50 STATES IN 50 WEEKS  
IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY




DATA FOR STUDENT POPULATION DRAWN FROM "WHY RURAL AMERICA?" REPORT  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNTY DETERMINED BY CURRENTLY DEFINITIONS OF RURAL

## 50 States in 50 Weeks

Each week, NREA and the I Am A Rural Teacher Campaign share how vast rural America is. See this week's graphic and New York story on our...  
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Represent your state during 50S50W by submitting your rural perspective at <http://bit.ly/iaartsubmit>

Tune in next week to see what state will be featured!



**COVID-19 RURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Over the past several weeks, we have been asking teachers and teacher-leads (principals, superintendents, etc.) to submit a short perspective and plan describing their experience during the COVID-19 closures.

*We have been positively overjoyed with the Illinois response to this effort!*

Carroll, Illinois

Knoxville, Illinois

Princeton, Illinois

Bement, Illinois

Thank you for being a critical part of our efforts to show how rural responds to a crisis. Of every state, Illinois has submitted the most stories and continues to add to that number. However, we aren't finished just yet.

*Please continue to share your stories and send this info to*

**Sharing your stories with us is easy!**

If you have a great newsletter or article come from one of your teachers, feel free to forward it to [iaartcampaign@gmail.com](mailto:iaartcampaign@gmail.com)

You can also submit a story or nomination at <http://bit.ly/iaartsubmit>

COVID-19 submissions should be directed to <http://bit.ly/iaartcovid>

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## Learning Policy Institute

We want to share an [LPI blog](#) released today (and forthcoming interactive) demonstrating the need for at least \$230 billion for K-12 education in the next aid package to stabilize the public education sector.

Key findings – “[What Will It Take to Stabilize Schools in the Time of COVID-19?](#)” – include the following:

- At least \$230 billion is urgently needed to stabilize state education budgets. This is based on a conservative estimate of a 5% decrease in state funding for education in FY20 and a 20% decrease in FY21 (totaling \$188.5 billion) combined with the effects of a select group of increased costs (totaling \$41.2 billion).
- The CARES Act funding – an average of only per student – is nowhere near sufficient to stabilize the k-12 public school system over the next 18 months.
- While this model does not examine how state cuts will impact individual districts, wealthy districts with high levels of local property tax revenue will be less impacted by the downturn as these revenues are more stable in the short run than income and sales taxes. Low wealth districts that have a greater reliance on state revenue will be hit particularly hard by this recession, . These low-wealth districts are the most likely to see the loss of a large number of their programs and teaching positions.
- At a 20% decrease in state funding alone, we project a loss of more than 450,000 school positions, or 12.2% of the nation’s education workforce, a far larger number than were lost in the last recession.

This blog is the third COVID fiscal-analysis blog released by LPI. The first blog on the impact of CARES on state budgets can be found [here](#) and the second blog on the projected educator position eliminations can be found [here](#).

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### Global Teletherapy : Free Webinar May 13th @2:30 EST



**Learn about tele-therapy and the positive trends on the horizon for K-12 students during these uncertain times.**

Register Here: [https://globalteletherapy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0NLC864TPKssqIvfEYIVwGlobal](https://globalteletherapy.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0NLC864TPKssqIvfEYIVwGlobal)