ASBA EQUITY WEBINAR SERIES

RURAL & REMOTE SCHOOLS

Advancing Equity Through Deeper Learning
TODAY'S DISCUSSION

TOPIC OUTLINE

• What is a rural or remote school?
• What are the assets of rural school districts?
• What are the challenges?
• Why rural schools should matter to all Arizonans
• Q&A
• Resources & recommendation
MEET THE PANELISTS

- TRACEY BENSON, ASSOC. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASBA

- HOSTED BY: NIKKIE WHALEY, BOARD SUPPORT SPECIALIST, ASBA

WHITNEY CROW
Superintendent
Mohave Valley ESD

MELISSA SADORF
Superintendent
Stanfield ESD

KRISTIN TURNER
Superintendent
Paloma ESD
WHAT IS A RURAL / REMOTE

• NON-URBAN (U.S. CENSUS)
  ◦ LESS THAN 50K RESIDENTS

• NON-METRO AREA COUNTIES (U.S. DEPT. OF AG)
  ◦ OPEN COUNTRY SIDE
  ◦ TOWNS WITH FEWER THAN 2,500 RESIDENTS
  ◦ POPULATION OF 2,500-49,999 THAT ARE NOT CONNECTED TO METRO AREAS

• ASBA RURAL & REMOTE DISTRICTS
  ◦ 60-65% SELF REPORT AS RURAL OR REMOTE
THE LAY OF THE LAND

% OF ASBA DISTRICTS AND AZ STUDENTS BY COUNTY

- Apache........................................(5% / 1.1%)
- Cochise........................................(9% / 1.8%)
- Coconino......................................(4% / 1.7%)
- Gila.............................................(3.6% / 0.7%)
- Graham........................................(3% / 0.7%)
- Greenlee......................................(1% / 0.2%)
- La Paz..........................................(2.7% / 0.3%)
- Maricopa......................................(25.5% / 64.4%)
- Mohave........................................(6% / 2.1%)
- Navajo..........................................(6% / 2%)
- Pima............................................(7% / 13.3%)
- Pinal............................................(9% / 4.6%)
- Santa Cruz...................................(2.7% / 1%)
- Yuma...........................................(4.5% / 3.8%)
64% of Arizona students live **INSIDE** Maricopa County.

75% of Arizona school districts are **OUTSIDE** Maricopa County.
330,000+

330,000+ STUDENTS LIVE OUTSIDE MARICOPA COUNTY

More than 30% of Arizona's K-12 students live outside of Maricopa county."

Many of those students attend rural or remote district schools.
ARIZONA'S RURAL STUDENTS

- 59% of rural students are "minorities" or non-white
- 67% of rural students are from low-income families
- 5% of rural students are English Language Learners
- <30% of rural HS juniors and seniors take 1 or more AP courses
ASSETS OF RURAL SCHOOLS

Community

Relationships

Student Body

School Hub
Challenges of Rural Schools

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
Roads, Broadband, Bonds/Overrides

**ACCESS**
Programs, Partners, Resources

**AMENITIES**
Housing, shopping and entertainment to attract and retain teachers/staff
Q & A

Questions for our panel
RECOMMENDATIONS

ENGAGE LOCALLY
Maximize the talent and resources of your local community.

CONNECT REGIONALLY
Utilize your county superintendent and neighbor districts to discuss strategy and share resources.

LEVERAGE STATE RESOURCES
State departments like ADE, DHHS and associations like ASBA, AzSCA, and state colleges all have low or no cost training or support.

ADVOCATE
Use your voice to spotlight issues with your state and federal representatives.
RURAL FOCUS
ADVOCACY DAY
MONDAY, FEB. 17 | 9 AM - 12 PM | STATE CAPITOL
Join colleagues from across the state to focus on the needs and challenges of rural and remote public schools.

RURAL FOCUS
SAVE THE DATE
MONDAY, FEB. 17 | 9 AM - 12 PM | STATE CAPITOL
FREE EVENT AND LUNCH IS PROVIDED
Learn about what’s developing in the 2020 Legislative Session, meet with your legislators to advocate for your school district and attend a House Education committee hearing!

This event is open to board members, superintendents and other public education advocates. More information will be available at azsba.org/events.
The ASBA Rural Alliance will work to cultivate excellence in locally governed school districts, with a focus on:

- **Networking opportunities** to encourage positive, effective relationships and collaborative efforts among leaders of rural and remote school districts.
- **Collective and strategic advocacy and member education** to improve opportunities and outcomes for students in rural Arizona.
- **Ensuring representation** by rural and remote leaders within the governance of the ASBA.

[https://azsba.org/ruralalliance/](https://azsba.org/ruralalliance/)
CONTACT US

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