RURAL VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
This profile shows key information and trends about the demographics, staffing, and funding for divisions in rural communities across the state.

STUDENTS
Enrollment has decreased from 291,013 students in 2009 to 273,194 projected students in 2018.

- 6% decrease
- 4.0% of high-schoolers dropped out in 2015-2016

- 18% of all school-age children lived in poverty in 2015-2016 compared to 14% statewide
- 50% of all students got free or reduced lunch in 2013-2014 compared to 41% statewide
- 3% of all students were English-language learners in 2016-2017 compared to 12% statewide
- Rural divisions filled 90% of slots with state funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative

FUNDING
State direct aid, per student, has fallen sharply for rural Virginia public schools after adjusting for inflation.

The shares of local, state, and federal funding for school operations has shifted since 2008-2009. Rural localities have taken on a larger share of funding.

STAFFING
Relative to student enrollment in 2008-2009, there are fewer staff in rural Virginia public schools. This includes:

- 645 Fewer teachers and instructors
- 4 Fewer principals and assistant principals
- 43 Fewer guidance counselors and librarians
- 192 Fewer teacher aides
- + 253 Fewer support staff

1,137 Fewer staff in schools relative to student enrollment in 2008-2009

Did you know ....

- ...that a one-cent increase in the property tax rates for all of Virginia’s rural localities can raise about $19,469,500?
- ...that rural divisions invested 72.0% above the required local effort for SOQ programs in 2016?

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau, The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
October 2017