RURAL VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This profile shows the most recent data available going into the 2019-2020 school year and highlights demographics, staffing, and funding for rural public schools in Virginia.

STUDENTS

Enrollment since 2008-2009 is projected to be down.

- 16% of all school-age children lived in poverty in 2017 compared to 13% statewide.
- 48% of all students were provided free or reduced-price lunch in 2013-2014 compared to 41% statewide.
- 2% of all students were English learners in 2018-2019 compared to 8% statewide.
- 13% of all students had a disability eligible to receive IDEA services in 2018-2019 compared to 13% statewide.

Rural school divisions had 293,579 students in 2008-2009.

Rural school divisions are projected to have 269,906 students in 2019-2020.

STAFFING

Overall, staffing levels for rural schools in Virginia have held steady compared to enrollment since 2008-2009. In 2017-2018, there were

- 1,906 Fewer teachers and instructors
- 887 Fewer support staff
- 115 Fewer school counselors and librarians
- 223 Fewer teacher aides
- 43 Fewer principals and assistant principals

3,175 Fewer staff compared to 18,869 Fewer students

May not sum due to rounding

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau

FUNDING

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

Compared to 2008-2009, the state's share of total funding has decreased. Local governments have taken on a larger share of funding.

Did you know ....

...that a one-cent increase in the property tax rate for all of Virginia's rural localities can raise about $19,941,000?

...9% of Virginia Preschool Initiative slots with state funding in all rural school divisions went unfilled in 2018-2019, which means 514 eligible kids missed out on preschool?

...that, in 2017-2018, rural school divisions invested 76.4% above what is required by localities in the state’s primary funding formula?

*Operations does not include debt service, capital outlay, and expenses for programs that are not locality specific. Pre-K is included in 2017-2018, but not in 2008-2009.

Sources: Virginia Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau

September 2019