



Challenges of Evaluation in Rural Schools

A Panel Discussion

October 18-19, 2022

Asking Questions

- Participant microphones are automatically muted upon entry to limit background noise, unintentional feedback, or interference.
- During this session, you may ask the questions using the chat feature in Zoom.



- If your question is specific to your situation, or you need technical assistance, then the facilitator may respond to you directly in the chat panel.
- If your question is more general, then the facilitator will share your question with the presenter(s) so it can be answered at the appropriate time with the entire group.

Agenda

- Identify common challenges of evaluation in rural schools
- Introduce three evaluations currently underway in rural schools
- Hear each evaluator discuss a challenge they encountered and the strategies they are using to address it
- Open the discussion to ask questions of panelists and to discuss strategies



Common Challenges in Rural Contexts



Characteristics of Rural Areas

- Span large geographic area
- Small classes and/or combined grades
- Staff teaching multiple grades and subjects
- Limited subject offerings

Evaluation Challenges

- Recruitment
- Data collection
- Few potential participants
 - One school per educational level
 - Small schools
- Unique / hard to match



Voices from the Field

- Computer Science for Northern California (CS4NorCAL)
- Tennessee SySTEM for College and Career Readiness
- Advancing Rural Computer Science (ARCS)

CS4NorCAL



Today's Panelist	Robin Martin
What is the program?	Computer Science Instruction Pathway
Where is it?	Rural northern California
Educational Level	Middle School
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level QED
Outcome Measures	Student level administrative data: math and science achievement

TN SySTEM



Today's Panelists	Kathy Terry, Jason Lee, Anna O'Connor
What is the program?	Dual Enrollment including Work Based Courses
Where is it?	Rural Tennessee
Educational Level	High School
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level QED
Outcome Measures	Student level administrative data: math and science achievement, attendance, graduation, college enrollment

ARCS



Today's Panelists	Jennifer Maeng, Shanan Chappel Moots
What is the program?	Computer Science PD and Curriculum for Teachers
Where is it?	Rural Virginia
Educational Level	Elementary School
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level RCT
Outcome Measures	Study administered survey: Student knowledge of and interest in computer science

Reflections from the Panel



What challenge to your evaluation did you encounter because of the rural context of your evaluation?

What strategies did you implement to address the challenge?

What lessons have you learned that might help other evaluators in rural contexts?

Questions?



Contact



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