



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

- Supporting Teachers in Alaska's Remote/Rural Regions (STARR)
- Rural Schools Leadership Academy
- Science Teachers and Lesson Analysis

Alaska STARR



Today's Panelist	Katherine McKnight, Yihua Hong, Glenda Findlay
What is the program?	Mentoring early career teachers
Where is it?	Rural Alaska
Educational Level	Elementary, Middle and High Schools
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level RCT
Outcome Measures	Teacher retention and student achievement

Rural Schools Leadership Academy



Today's Panelist	Eric Larsen, Jenn Dubey
What is the program?	Developing the next generation of principals across the rural landscape
Where is it?	Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas
Educational Level	Elementary, middle, and high school
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level QED
Outcome Measures	Achievement in ELA and mathematics

Science Teachers and Lesson Analysis



Today's Panelist	Joe Taylor, Bo Zhu
What is the program?	Science Teachers Learning from Lesson Analysis
Where is it?	Kentucky and Tennessee
Educational Level	Elementary
Unit of Assignment/Design	School-level RCT
Outcome Measures	Science achievement, instructional practice and content knowledge

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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