COLORADO

RURAL EDUCATION

COLLABORATIVE

CREC PROGRESS : 2024

COLORADO
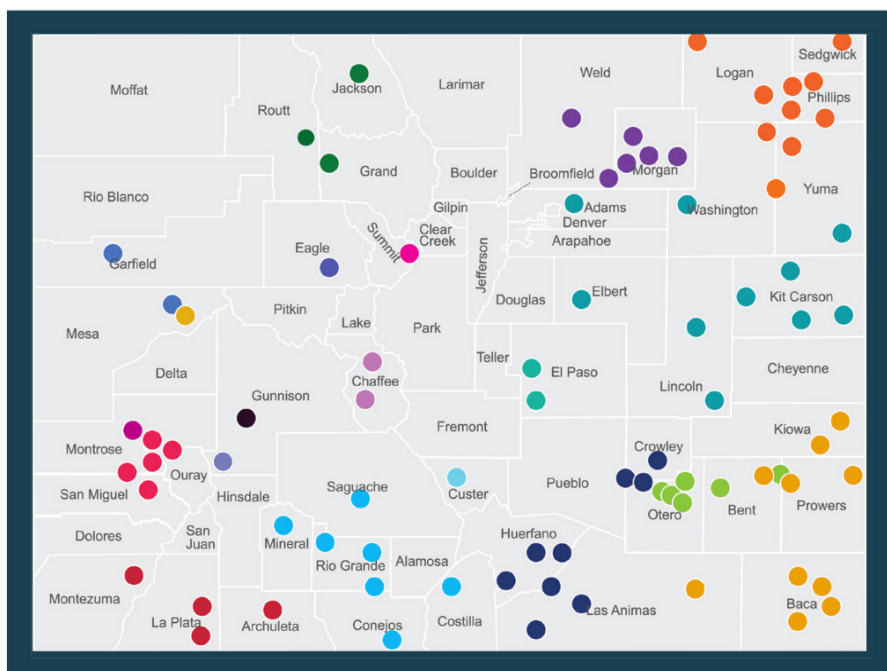# RURAL EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

REPRESENTING

63,181 students

4,732 teachers

across

83 school districts

Centennial BOCES
Brush School District
Keenesburg School District
Morgan County School District
Platte Valley School District
Weldon Valley School District
Wiggins School District

Colorado River BOCES
De Beque School District
Garfield School District 16

East Central BOCES
Arriba-Flagler School District
Bennett School District
Cheyenne Wells School District
Deer Trail School District
Genoa-Hugo School District
Idalia School District
Karval School District
Kit Carson School District
Stratton School District
Woodlin School District

Mountain BOCES
Buena Vista School District
Salida School District

Northeast BOCES
Akron School District
Buffalo School District
Fleming School District
Haxtun School District
Holyoke School District
Otis School District
Peetz School District
Revere School District
Yuma School District
Lone Star School District

Northwest BOCES
North Park School District
Steamboat Springs District
West Grand School District

Pikes Peak BOCES
Peyton School District
Hanover School District

San Juan BOCES
Archuleta School District
Bayfield School District
Ignacio School District
Mancos School District

San Luis Valley BOCES
Creede School District
Del Norte School District
Monte Vista School District
Mountain Valley School District
Sargent School District
Sierra Grande School District
South Conejos School District

Santa Fe Trail BOCES
Cheraw School District
East Otero School District
Las Animas School District
Rocky Ford School District
Swink School District
Wiley School District

South Central BOCES
Aguilar School District
Crowley County School District
Custer County School District
Fowler School District
Hoehne School District

Huerfano School District
La Veta School District
Manzanola School District
Primero School District

Southeast BOCES
Campo School District
Holly School District
Kim School District
Kiowa County School District
Lamar School District
McClave School District
Plainview School District
Springfield School District
Vilas School District
Walsh School District

Uncompahgre BOCES
Norwood School District
Ouray School District
Ridgway School District
Telluride School District
West End School District

Cañon City School District

Eagle County School District

Gunnison Watershed School District

Montrose County School District

Plateau Valley School District

Summit School District

Lake City Community School

Check out our website for more information: **CORuralEdCollab.org**

OVER $42 MILLION RAISED FOR RURAL EDUCATION

$42M

Acting as a combine for resources, since inception, over **$42M** has been secured to support CREC districts in solving their most pressing problems of practice across six network improvement communities.

CREC INVESTMENTS SINCE 2015

Overall CREC : $42,312,879

🐷 **Teacher Recruitment & Retention ::** $2,356,848

🐷 **Teacher & Leader Efficacy ::** $6,764,200

🐷 **Student-Centered Accountability and Reporting ::** $3,565,565

🐷 **STEM ::** $655,027

🐷 **SEL ::** $15,751,911.00

🐷 **CCR ::** $6,385,001

🐷 **General CREC ::** $6,719,340

🐷 **COVID-19 Response ::** $114,987

FOCUS AREA

RECENT PROGRESS

College & Career Readiness

- Secured a **Rural Coaction Grant** for the I-76 College and Career Readiness pathways work which helps to support rural districts plan and develop programs to expand learning opportunities to strengthen student engagement in learning–both during the traditional school and beyond.
- Secured funding, including a **RISE grant** from Governor Polis's Office, to support ongoing efforts to collaboratively construct and facilitate a shared college/career pathway across the six districts of the Santa Fe Trail (SFT) BOCES as a successful rural exemplar. More here.
- Supported the SFT BOCES districts working with community members to determine three essential skills which will serve as a "North Star" to guide the development and expansion of the Pathway to Prosperity program and ensure that students are equipped with the skills needed to be successful after graduation.
- Identified **Marzano Research** as partner for building teaching, practice, and demonstration of **North Star Skills** into the Pathway to Prosperity.
- Duplicated the Pathway to Prosperity initiative in the I-76 Corridor and Spanish Peaks regions.
- Organized a regional entrepreneurship fair which has included over 250+ students since 2022.
- Awarded a Catalyze Challenge Grant (15 awardees out of 850+ applicants) to expand the entrepreneurship fair to special populations across CO.
- Developed and implemented CDE Graduation Guideline capstones at different four school districts.

Social Emotional Learning & Students At-Risk

- Secured and supported **Expelled & At-Risk Student Services Grants (EARSS)** to serve the 15% of students struggling the most in South Central (SC) and San Luis Valley (SLV) BOCES school districts as well as Weld Re-3 (Keensburg).
- Secured and supported **Creating Healthy Schools Grants** for Primero, Kit Carson, Weld Re-3 (Keensburg), Huerfano, and West End.
- Secured and supported **Bullying Prevention Grants** in SC BOCES districts.
- Assisted Huerfano, Las Animas, and Primero in securing **School Counselor Corps Grants**.
- Secured funds to provide **daily Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** for students in 19 rural districts. Third-party research demonstrated improvements in all SEL competencies and significant impact on student academic success, giving the program an expanded evidence base.
- Implemented **Education Stability Grants** in Wiggins School District and Hanover School District which allowed both districts to hire a full-time Advocate to support students who are migrant, homeless, or navigating the foster care system.
- Launched **monthly SEL Forums**. See past forums here.

Student-Centered Accountability & Reporting

- Created the **Student-Centered Reporting Solution (SCRS)** - a homegrown technology solution serving 24 school districts across Colorado by bringing together education leaders, researchers, policy makers, technology funders and programmers to remove persistent barriers to addressing equity in education.
- Supported Northeast (NE) BOCES districts in enabling the use of an **assessment tool** that has value to key stakeholders and creating dashboard reports that will allow stakeholders to see the success of the school systems. More here.
- Received funding from the **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation** to create a Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) dashboard.
  › Provided partnership and support for **S-CAP** to realize its vision over a five-year period and then function effectively on its own.
  › Represented S-CAP in the national **Hewlett Deeper Learning Network**.
  › Grew participating districts to 15.

FOCUS AREA	RECENT PROGRESS
Teacher Leader Efficacy	• Secured support for Aguilar, Huerfano, Ignacio, Bennett, Monte Vista, East Otero, Montrose, Las Animas, Wiggins, and Morgan County to participate in **CDE approved Turnaround Leadership Program** providing graduate certificates **(CSU-Global)** and articulation into principal licensure programming. • Executed a **principal induction program** that meets CDE's updated requirements for SC BOCES and provided **20 scholarships** for a diverse group of principals to complete the program and receive professional licensure. • Supported Aguilar, Bennett and East Otero and in securing **Connect for Success Grants** which offer teachers the opportunity to observe instruction at high-performing schools and work with a school improvement coach. • Supported securing school improvement grants (Pathways) for Aguilar, Huerfano, and Monte Vista and (District Led) grants for Aguilar and Otis.
STEM	• Secured and supported evaluation of 21st Century Learning Grants, which include computer coding opportunities for students, for Cañon City and Wiggins School Districts. • Secured a Computer Science Grant for the SFT BOCES to allow for teacher training in computer coding and student engagement in coding. • Partnered with LearningBlade to provide STEM quests to rural students at no charge.
Teacher Recruitment & Retention	• Secured and supported implementation of **CDE Teacher Retention Grants** for East Central (EC), NE, and SLV BOCES enabling math teachers to receive **scholarships for master's degrees** and participate in a professional learning community. Higher Education Partners: **CSU-Global Campus** (coursework), **Western State Colorado University**, and **University of Denver** (PLCs) • Secured and supported implementation of **CDE Teacher Retention Grants** for Southeastern (SE) and SFT BOCES enabling teachers to acquire **SPED credentials** and participate in a professional learning community. Higher Education Partner: **Western State Colorado University** • Partnered with the University of Denver, SE & SFT BOCES to secure a **Plan Into Action Grant** that prepared potential school counselors for a rural immersion experience to ensure students have support needed to positively participate in the classroom, lessening teacher burden. • Secured funding for and supported two **Teacher Immersion Experiences** in spring 2018 (La Veta & SFT BOCES) based on the initial effort in 2016 and 2017 that saw **33% of candidates placed**. • [Job board](#) with nearly 1,000 visitors each month and new postings added weekly to the CREC website as a collaborative effort to bring teachers into the rural communities of Colorado. • Secured funding for 11 SFT BOCES teachers to **complete Master's Degrees or dual enrollment certificates,** enabling the districts to **increase concurrent enrollment offerings by more than 50%.** Report: Concurrent Enrollment Increase • Secured funding for and supported SC BOCES districts in implementation of a **Math/Science Partnership and Math Mentors grant** to advance math teacher efficacy, recruitment and retention which demonstrated a **90% retention rate**. More here.
COVID-19 Response	• Secured funding from The **Governor's COVID-19 Relief Fund** managed by **Mile High United Way** for requests from Weld Re-3 (community emergency fund), Sierra Grande (technology), and GSN (*Coping with Crisis* curricular units and PD, Preventing Summer Learning Loss training sessions and COVID-19 Response Scenario Series for rural districts). • **Created Coping with Crisis SEL Units for EL, MS and HS** in response to the pandemic. • Facilitated **monthly rural superintendent forums** to support joint problem-solving during the pandemic.

SHARING COLORADO RURAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE VOICE

Annual CASE Conferences
  › **2023** featured the third annual *Redefining Rural* golf tournament, which raised funds for rural student scholarships.

Annual National Forum to Advance Rural Education (NFARE) Presentations

National Grantmakers for Education 2016 Annual Conference; Presentation on Rural Education Collaboratives: Closing Opportunity Gaps, Generating Prosperity

Rural Collaborative Network Participation; joining voices with 14 other rural collaboratives across the country supporting issues of rural prosperity.
  › Banghart, Kirk. "Teacher Recruitment and Retention in Rural Colorado." *National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE),* Jan. 2021.
  › Banghart, Kirk. "Colorado's Network for Local Accountability." *National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE),* Jan. 2021.

Produced four seasons of the *Redefining Rural* Podcast with the Colorado Rural Alliance and rural voices from the Colorado Department of Education.

Facilitated a monthly, 60-minute Professional Learning Community (PLC) for principals across the state to connect and learn from each other.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CREC SUPPORTERS

Adolph Coors Foundation

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Battelle

Battelle for Kids

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Boettcher Foundation

Colorado Department of Education

Colorado Department of Higher Education

Colorado Health Foundation

Daniels Fund

Donnell-Kay Foundation

Denver Foundation

Einhorn Family Charitable Trust

Gates Family Foundation/Lyra

Generation Schools Network

Governor Polis's RISE Fund

Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt

InspirED Grant–NoVo Foundation

James Walton Fund

Larrk Foundation

Morgridge Family Foundation

Nathan Yip Foundation

OtterCares Foundation

Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation

Rural Coaction Grant

U.S. Army

Wend Collective

William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

Wold Architects

Thank You

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