



Colorado Center for Rural Education

Formed in 2016 and housed at the University of Northern Colorado, the CCRE supports an excellent education for Colorado's rural children

From 2016 to 2026, Colorado legislators invested \$ 6.7 million in teacher stipends for

more than 1,300 rural educators in 131 districts throughout the state.

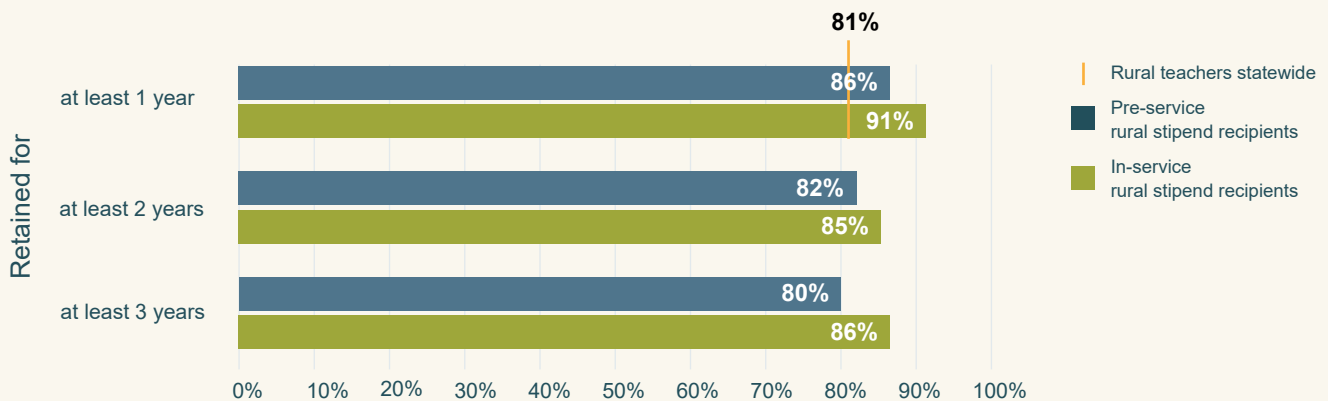
These efforts touched nearly all rural districts in the state. Of Colorado's 178 districts, 147 are rural, and 131 districts have benefited from teacher stipends.

"Your investment in my education not only eases financial pressure, but also reinforces my commitment to academic excellence and service . . . I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity."

– Stipend recipient

Now funding is at risk.

CCRE Rural Teacher Stipends → Higher Retention



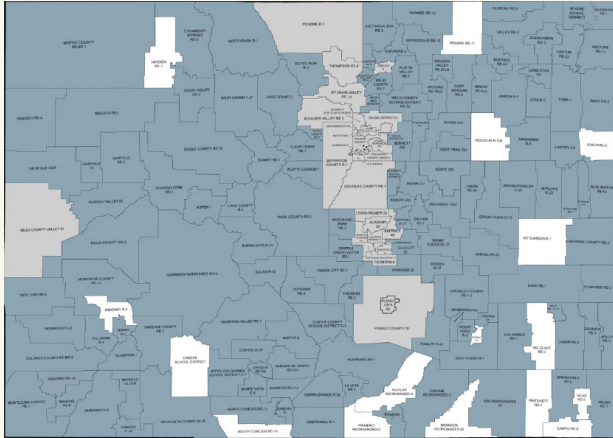
"Funding for the Colorado Center for Rural Education is absolutely essential to allow rural school districts to fill educator positions. The shortages for educators continue to grow, and it is imperative that rural school districts have the support to identify, recruit, hire, and keep quality educators."

– Dale McCall, Executive Director, Colorado BOCES Association



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■ Has had a stipend teacher
□ Has not had a stipend teacher
■ Urban

Since 2016, CCRE stipends have supported **educator workforce development in 131 rural and small rural school districts.**

But rural teacher shortages persist.

In 2024–25, rural districts and BOCES had more than **1,000 educator positions filled by shortage mechanisms.** Teachers' decisions to stay are linked to strong community connections.¹

CCRE rural stipends can strengthen retention.

“Through CCRE’s support, we were able to staff multiple positions through various licensing pathways with people already connected to our community. This year, our district certified turnover rate decreased from 30% to 5%!”

– Marsha Cody, Haxtun School District Superintendent

Top 10

Colorado IHEs Receiving CCRE Funds for Future and In-Service Teachers

- University of Northern Colorado, Greeley
- Western Colorado University, Gunnison
- Fort Lewis College, Durango
- Adams State University, Alamosa
- University of Colorado, Denver
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- Colorado State University, Pueblo
- Colorado State University, Fort Collins
- Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs
- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs



¹ Showalter, D., Hartman, S. L., Eppley, K., Johnson, J., & Klein, B. (2025). *Why rural matters 2025: People, place, and possibility.* National Rural Education Association. <https://nrea.net/wrm-2025/full-report/>
Data sources: CCRE stipend recipient data, employment data from the Colorado Department of Education, and other sources as referenced.

There's more work to be done.

Contact us to help support rural education in Colorado.

<https://www.unco.edu/ebs/centers-institutes/rural-education> ✉ robert.fulton@unco.edu

