

# The Rural Education Center

## Newsletter



Fall 2007  
Issue #1  
07-08

Jim Kowalkowski, Director

### Websites to check out:

National Rural Education Association:

<http://www.nrea.net>

ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools:

<http://ael.org/eric/>

### *Small Repair Grant Applications*

*Available Oct. 5?*

*Apply via I-grants*

### Mark Your Calendars!

The WASA Annual Small School Conference will be held at the Yakima Convention Center March 3 & 4, 2008

Go to: [www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org) for details.

### REC Updates

The Rural Education Center has been working hard to help ensure that the needs of small and rural districts in our state are heard. Recent REC activities over the past school year include:

- Participating in the Math Focus Group meeting and State Board of Education Meeting in Spokane in July
- Networking at the WASA New Superintendents Conference in Olympia in July
- Attending the first meeting of the Joint Task Force on School Funding (see related article in this newsletter)
- Testifying at the Professional Educators Standards Board Meeting and at the State Board Meeting in September
- Responding to various REC member district superintendent requests for information and assistance
- Working closely with the WASA Small Schools Committee and the WSSDA Small Schools Task Force on several key projects

Please share copies of this newsletter with fellow administrators and school board members. Please do not hesitate to contact the Rural Ed. Center if we can be of any assistance to you.

### Hang On—It's Getting Crazy!

The rapid changes that are taking place in K-12 education continue to take a toll on small and rural school districts in our state. Just keeping up with the incredible number of changes that result from each legislative session along with the ever-changing NCLB rules and regulations is a daunting task.

One of the primary roles of the Rural Education Center is to assist small and rural districts in our state while navigating through this ever-changing sea of "rules and regs." Please call the Center if you need assistance—we are here to help!

**Another important role of the Rural Ed. Center is to help remind policymakers that our small and rural school districts have unique needs that need to be considered each and every time that a significant rule or policy is changed or implemented.** The REC members are connected via a List serve that is supported and operated by Washington State University. Please take the time to read REC e-mails that you will periodically receive. We try to keep these e-mails brief and to the point. If you are asked to provide input, please do so that each member school district has a voice.

### Be Sure to Attend the WSSDA Annual Conference –Nov. *Special Sessions for Small Schools – Bring your board members!*

Go to: <http://wssda.org>

### State Board of Education Update

There are some significant projects that the State Board is considering taking action on. Be sure to pay close attention to the work of the "Meaningful High School Diploma Committee". For specifics, go to: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/>.

### K-8 Endorsement Stays!

Please refer to the back of this newsletter for an update on the K-8 endorsement.

This newsletter is published by the Rural Education Center with assistance from the College of Education at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. The Rural Education Center address is:

Mail: 801 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport, WA 99122

Phone: 509-725-1481 Fax: 509-725-2260

E-mail: [jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu](mailto:jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu)

Website: <http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>

The Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative of small and rural districts, several ESD's, and other key educational organizations committed to achieving the highest quality of learning on behalf of children in our public schools.

## The Rural Ed Center Newsletter

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

<http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>

### Interested in Joining the Rural Education Center?

Contact: Lonnie  
Purcell at Educational  
Service District 101

Phone:  
509-789-3508  
E-mail:  
[lpurcell@esd101.net](mailto:lpurcell@esd101.net)



Program support provided  
by:

Ashley Herridge  
Washington State  
University  
Center for Educational  
Partnerships  
[ashleyh@wsu.edu](mailto:ashleyh@wsu.edu)  
(509) 335-1988

### Small Schools Practitioners' Workshop a Success!

The Rural Ed Center, WSU, and OSPI joined forces again this summer to offer another Small Schools Practitioners' Workshop. Staff from school districts were given time and support to work on their respective School Improvement Plans and other projects. Districts participating in the June workshop were **Brinnon, Wishram, Skykomish, and Davenport**. Special thanks to Barbara Quick, Title V Program Supervisor at OSPI, and Gayle Pauley, Title 1 Program Supervisor at OSPI for their work on securing funding to assist with the costs of sponsoring this workshop. The feedback from the participating districts was very positive.

### Plans Underway for June, 2008 Small School Practitioners' Workshop

The REC is working with OSPI to continue offering practitioners workshop for small and rural districts. **Tentative** dates for the June 2008 workshop are June 18, 19, & 20. This workshop will be held in Vancouver, WA at the Homewood Suites and offers a relaxing and inviting environment for school teams from small and rural district to work on specific projects. Please stay tuned for more updates. If you would like more information, please contact Jim Kowalkowski at 509-725-1481 or [jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu](mailto:jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu).

### K-8 Endorsement --"New & Improved"

The Professional Educators Standards Board recently voted to maintain the grade span of the current K-8 endorsement and to increase the requirements needed to attain the endorsement. By September 2009, individuals seeking a K-8 endorsement must pass two West-E Tests: the elementary education test and one other test. The "new and improved" K-8 endorsement will help small and rural districts (and larger districts also) maintain flexibility. Special thanks to those of you who took the time to give input to the PESB K-6/K-8 subcommittee.

For specific details concerning these changes, contact:

Nasue Nishida, Policy & Research Analyst, PESB 360-725-6238 or [nnishida@ospi.wednet.edu](mailto:nnishida@ospi.wednet.edu).

### Task Force on School Funding

Engrossed Second Substitute Bill 56207 created a "Joint Task Force on Education Finance". The task force has fourteen members including eight legislators. There are two school superintendents serving on the committee. Jim Kowalkowski, Director of the Rural Education Center and Davenport School District Superintendent is a member. Also serving is Dr. Bette Hyde, the Bremerton School District Superintendent. The responsibilities of the Task Force include:

- Reviewing the definition of basic education
- Reviewing all current basic ed. funding formulas
- Developing options for a new funding structure and all the necessary formulas
- Proposing a new definition of basic education

Please contact Jim with any ideas, suggestions, and input. Upcoming meetings fall meetings will be Oct. 22, Nov. 19 & 20, and December 13.