

Education study conducted

An agenda has been developed for a nationwide study to prioritize rural education research need. The study was conducted by the National Rural Development Institute of Western Washington University. The study results provide the first empirical data to prioritize rural education needs.

A national sample was conducted with some 461 rural education practitioners and researchers. The study involved rating 46 questions and prioritizing 13 items.

Nine items were identified and are listed below in the priority of importance:

- *Rural School Effectiveness
- *Governance and Finance Issues
- *Staff Training Needs
- *Teaching Styles and Incentives
- *Field-Based Personnel Preparation
- *Preservice Preparation
- *Personnel Recruitment and Retention

- *School-Community Interaction
- *Rural vs. Non-rural Factors

A number of recommendations came from the study including those related to the 1983 legislative mandate requiring that the Federal Government provide equitable information, services, assistance, and funding for rural schools.

Other follow-up is being undertaken by the Research Consortium. For example, expertise, data pools, and other research elements are shared, data samples are bartered, literature is reviewed, and research designs are collaboratively reviewed.

A copy of the study of the national rural education research agenda is available for \$6.00 (cost of reproduction). For further information about the study, contact Dr. Doris Helge, Director, National Rural Development Institute, School of Education, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, 98225, (206) 676-3576.