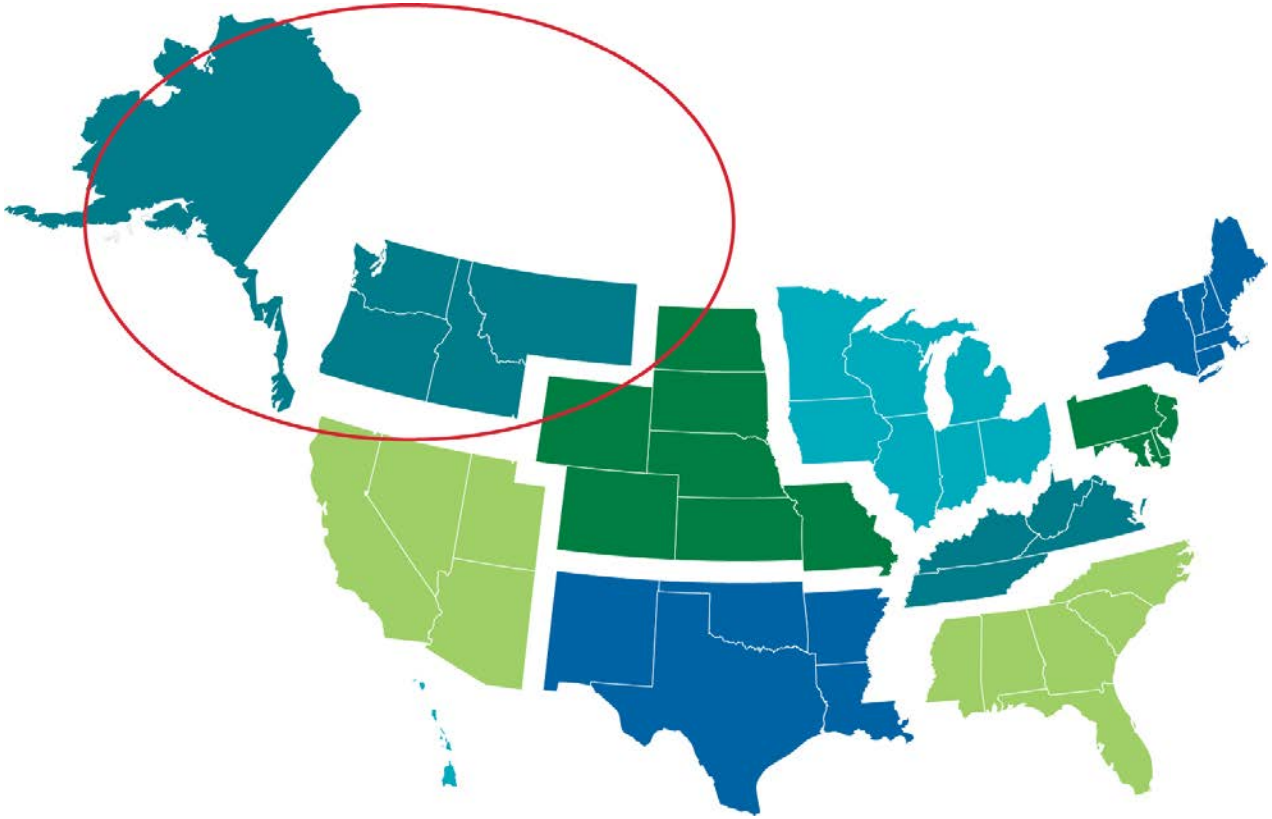
Northwest Comprehensive Center
at Education Northwest

Northwest Rural Innovation and Student Engagement (RISE) Network

Education Northwest



Our Regional Priorities

- Turning around low-performing schools
- Increasing graduation rates and readiness for postsecondary education and careers
- Achieving greater equity by improving outcomes for all students

Rural Schools and Educational Networks
A Literature Summary

- Challenges of rural schools
  - Students report lower educational aspirations, achievement, and attainment
  - Schools and staff members have fewer resources
  - Teachers have feelings of cultural and professional isolation

- Benefits of rural educational networks
  - Improved access to local, national, and international expertise
  - Enhanced ability to innovate and engage in self-reflection
  - Engagement in professional development opportunities

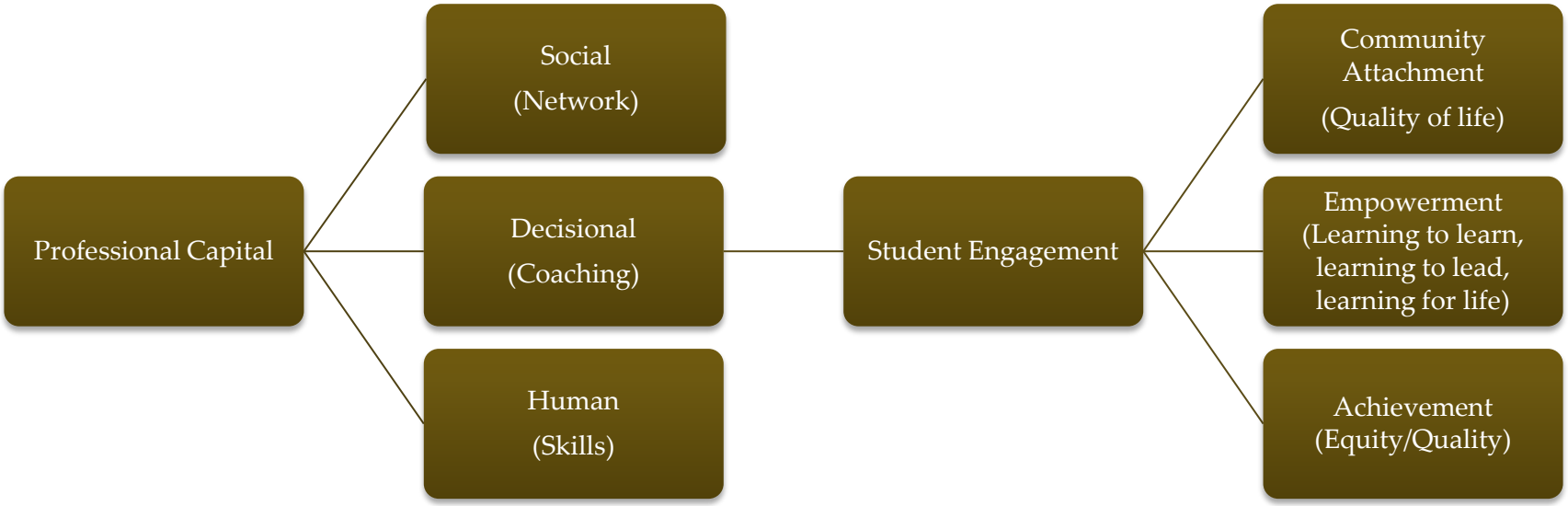
NW RISE Network

A network of rural educators in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington that seeks to improve the Professional Capital of educators and the engagement of students through in-person and virtual collaboration.

Goals

- Reduce the isolation and provide a platform for collaboration for rural educators.
- Increase the Professional Capital of rural educators, administrators, and SEAs.
- Increase student engagement, empowerment, attachment, and achievement.
- Support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Goals


Professional Capital
Social
(Network)
Decisional
(Coaching)
Human
(Skills)
Student Engagement
Community Attachment
(Quality of life)
Empowerment
(Learning to learn, learning to lead, learning for life)
Achievement
(Equity/Quality)

Need

- The five states that make up the NW region are characterized by rurality that is greater than the national average.
  - The number of rural school is about 25% greater than the national average and nearly 20% of those schools are remote.
- Rural educators are often only teacher of their subject or grade.
- Rural communities often have a hard time attracting and retaining qualified teachers.
- Access to resources.
- Focus on urban schools.

Membership

- 3-4 Schools from Idaho, Washington, & Oregon.
  - Teachers
  - District and Building Administrators
- SEA representatives from ID, OR, WA
- Others
  - ESD, Rural Education Center, Boston College, NWCC

Key Elements

- Focus on rural schools
- Power of networks
- Professional Capital
- Ground-up collaboration
- Combination of in-person and virtual collaboration
- Structured and fluid collaboration protocols
- Research partnership with Boston College

Next Steps

- Continuing to recruit schools in Idaho
- All-network convening February 10-11
- Virtual collaboration begins after in-person meeting
- Alaska and Montana to potentially join in year two of project