



NREA Update

National Rural
Education Association

The Voice of Rural Schools and Communities



2020 Weekly Newsletter # 1

School closures can hit rural communities hard by Dr. Mara Tieken

<http://theconversation.com/school-closures-can-hit-rural-communities-hard-128837>

Alaska's Rural Schools Struggle to Attract Teachers Despite High Salaries

Educators in rural parts of the state earn an average of more than \$102,000 per year.

By [Casey Leins](#) Staff Writer

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2019-11-26/alaskas-rural-schools-struggle-to-attract-teachers-despite-offering-high-salaries>

Commentary: Making Our Towns Better Places to Live

A holistic approach to community development means looking beyond strict economics to other factors that sustain rural communities. By **Scott Thompson**

<https://www.dailyyonder.com/commentary-making-our-towns-better-places-to-live/2020/01/10/>

Two-Thirds of Rural Counties Gain Jobs from November 2018 to 2019

A familiar pattern emerges in the latest monthly employment figures. The more rural a county, the slower its job gains are. By **Bill Bishop**

<https://www.dailyyonder.com/two-thirds-of-rural-counties-gain-jobs-from-november-2018-to-2019/2020/01/09/>

Global Teletherapy Currently staffs 100+ schools in over 30 states with Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Mental Health Professionals to provide Online Therapy (Teletherapy). They have developed the trust and relationships amongst many schools and therapists all across the United States. <https://globalteletherapy.com/experience-now/> They currently help many Rural Schools across the United States including a partnership with Nebraska Rural Schools Association (NRCSA). Please let Rafi Cohn rafi@globalteletherapy.com know if you'd like to set a call to discuss how they can help your member school districts across the state. Here is a video of some of the schools that they have worked with, in Nebraska. [Nebraska Testimonial Video- Click me!](#)

GotZoom. They specialize in securing student loan assistance for their clients as well as successfully enrolling them in loan forgiveness programs. It almost sounds too good to be true,

but folks all around the country are using this company to help people find ways to reduce their payments and even eliminate their student loan debt in a few years.

During the past 7 years, GotZoom's expertise has reduced the monthly student loan payments for their clients by an average of 65% as well as the total payout over the life of the loan. See sample matrix below.

If you would like to learn more about these student loan cost reduction programs and how GotZoom can provide you with a no cost, no obligation "complimentary" analysis of how much of your student loan debt could be reduced, [click here to view a short 3 minute video explanation](#).

The Rural Education Investment Act

Rural school districts and communities across the United States are currently facing a number of pressing issues, including lack of funding, outdated infrastructure, and a growing teacher shortage. Many rural school districts have a lack of a tax base due to adjacent federal land, such as military bases. According to [a 2017 report by the School Superintendents Association](#), 53% of all public school districts in the United States are located in rural areas, and these students make up nearly one-fifth of America's K-12 population.

One of the ways to combat inadequate funding in rural areas and a worsening teacher shortage is by ensuring that rural America gets its fair share. Programs like the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grant Program allow teachers to be placed in a full-time classroom apprenticeship while completing Masters-level coursework. However, only a handful of these TQP Grants reach rural areas that are desperate for more teachers.

The Rural Education Investment Act requires the Secretary of Education to determine the percent of K-12 students living in rural areas and ensures that percentage of TQP Grant dollars go to schools in rural areas.

Specifically, the bill:

- Defines the term 'local educational agency located in rural area' using eligibility requirements from the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP):
 - Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Program
 - Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) Program
- Requires the Secretary of Education at the beginning of every year to determine the percentage of K-12 students served by "local educational agencies located in rural areas."
- Ensures that percentage is at least the percentage of TQP Grant dollars that go to schools in rural areas.

For more information or to add your boss as a cosponsor, please contact Noah Yantis in Rep. Bost's office at noah.yantis@mail.house.gov