



Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS) – \$500,000 ongoing

Funding Levels and Purpose

Current (FY 2020) funding level:

\$34,366,300

Purpose of the Program:

Provides additional funding to rural school districts to support their small, isolated schools.

Problems to Address

- For a NESS school, per-student revenues do not cover the costs associated with running the school.
- NESS schools have higher per-student costs due to:
 - Lower economies of scale
 - Higher per-student transportation costs
 - Difficulties attracting and retaining qualified staff
- Teachers In NESS schools are often required to teach outside of their areas of expertise

Projected Outcomes and Results

This request:

- Provides additional funding to NESS schools to help them address opportunity gaps between urban and rural students
- Enables LEAs to reach beyond typical staffing ratios to bring in resources for hard-to-cover subject areas

Impact if not Funded

- Gaps between the costs and revenues of NESS schools would increase
- Rural and isolated students would have fewer learning opportunities

Can the funding be scaled?

NESS funding has not kept pace with costs. The full amount is necessary.