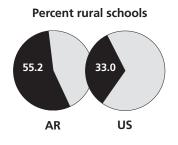
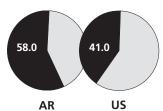
**ARKANSAS** - More than one-third of all students in Arkansas attend rural schools, and more than half of all schools serve rural communities. The poverty rate among rural students is fourth highest in the US, and nearly 14% of all students have experienced a residence change in the previous 12 months. Instructional spending and salaries are among the lowest in the nation, with only four states spending less on instructional salaries. Outcome measures are below the national median across the board, with the lowest rural NAEP scores coming at the 8th grade level. The most notable demographic changes over time are growth in the number of Hispanic students and an increase in the level of rural poverty.



GAUGE 1: Importance	Notable   Important   Very Import				tant Crucial		
_				AR	Rank*		
Percent rural schools			55.2%	9			
Percent small rural districts			22.0%	33			
Percent rural students			35.5%	13			
Number of rural students			168,427	23			
Percentage of state education funds to rural districts			39.9%	12			



## Percent rural student poverty



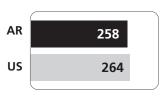
GAUGE 2: Student and	Fair	Serious	Critical		Urgent	
Family Diversity			19	AR	Rank*	
Percent rural minority students			1	7.2%	27	
Percent rural ELL students			2	2.7%	21	
Percent rural IEP students			1	1.4%	40	
Percent rural student poverty			5	8.0%	4	
Percent rural mobility			1	3.7%	11	

## GAUGE 3: Notable Important Very Important Crucial **Educational Policy Context** AR Rank\* Rural instructional expenditures per pupil \$4,915 10 Ratio of instructional to transportation expenditures \$13.18 40 Median organizational scale (x 100) 3,062 29 State revenue to schools per local dollar \$2.00 38 \$45,642 Rural salary expenditures per instructional FTE 5

## **Rural salary expenditures** per instructional FTE

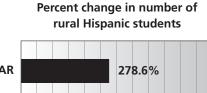


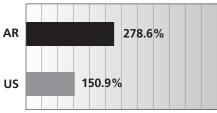
**Rural Grade 8 NAEP scores** (reading)



GAUGE 4:  Fair   Serious   Critical   Urgent						
Educational Outcomes	Tall	Jerious	<b>C.</b>	11		
Outcomes				AR	Rank*	
Rural high school graduation rate			76.3%	19		
Rural Grade 4 NAEP scores (math)			240	19		
Rural Grade 4 NAEP scores (reading)			218	14		
Rural Grade 8 NAEP scores (math)			278	12		
Rural Grade 8 NAEP scores (reading)			258	9		

GAUGE 5:  Longitudinal Gauge	Notable	Important	Very Important	Crucia 7	al
				AR	Rank*
Increase in absolute rural student enrollment (1999-00 to 2008-09)					19
Percent change in number of rural students (1999-00 to 2008-09)				32.9%	14
Percent change in number of rural Hispanic students (1999-00 to 2008-09)				278.6%	11
Change in percent rural student poverty (1999-00 to 2008-09)				8.7%	10
Change in rural students as a percent of all students (1999-00 to 2008-09)				7.4%	11





<sup>\*</sup> A rank of 1 is most crucial or most urgent