

## Matrix of Partner Initiatives

**Rural School & Community Trust**  
 Partner Liaison: Rachel Tompkins, President

[www.ruraledu.org](http://www.ruraledu.org)

The Rural School and Community Trust works with a national network of schools and community groups to influence and improve state policy on education. With a particular focus on alternative assessments, youth and community development, and teacher education, The Rural Trust supports various local and national projects and develops news and research publications through its Policy Program (e.g. *Why Rural Matters* report on the state of rural education and smaller research studies on small schools and school-community connections in its newsletter, *Rural Roots*). The Trust also hosts regional and national gatherings and supports a variety of local community-building and organizing initiatives through its Capacity Building Program (e.g. a youth council to support youth organizing and youth/adult partnerships).

	Research	Policy	Practice	Public Engagement
Innovations & restructuring	X	X		
Academic standards & assessment	X	X		
Preparation of teachers, principals & youth workers	X	X		
Relevant and connected learning experiences				
Alignment of secondary & post-secondary education	X	X	X	
Active, powerful, & knowledgeable communities	X	X	X	
Personalization & support for high school-aged youth				