

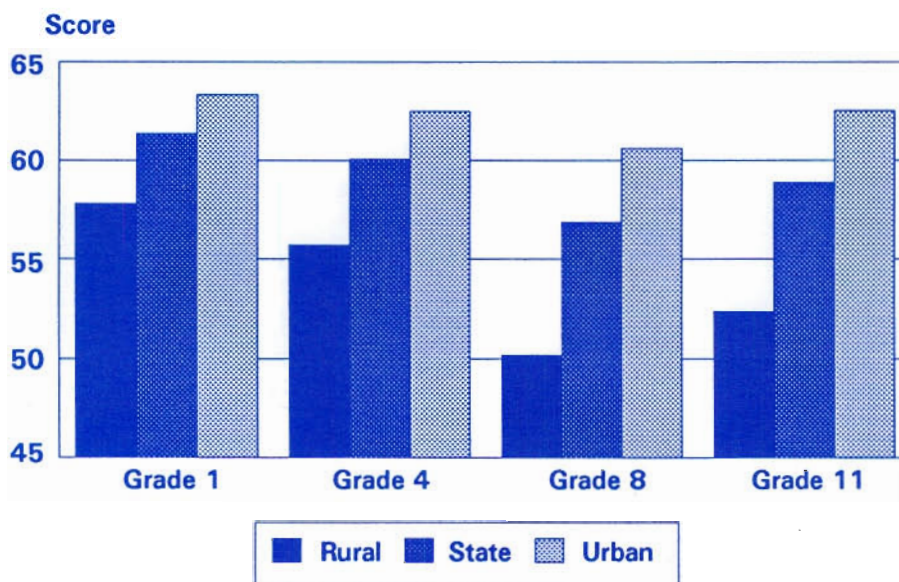


Education in Rural Virginia

A productive workforce depends on well-educated students. Weak educational achievement can threaten the future of rural communities. Rural communities face several challenges:

- *Rural students do not perform as well on standardized tests.*
- *The local tax base is often inadequate to support high quality education.*
- *The predominance of low-skill, low-wage jobs can discourage students from working hard in school.*
- *The lack of good jobs locally causes many of the best rural students to leave.*
- *The lack of educated workers keeps high-skill, high-wage employers out of rural areas.*

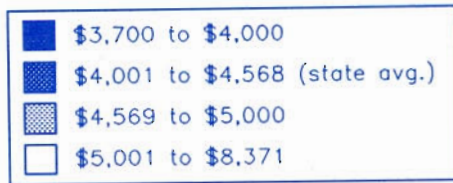
Average Standardized Test Scores for the 1989-90 School Year



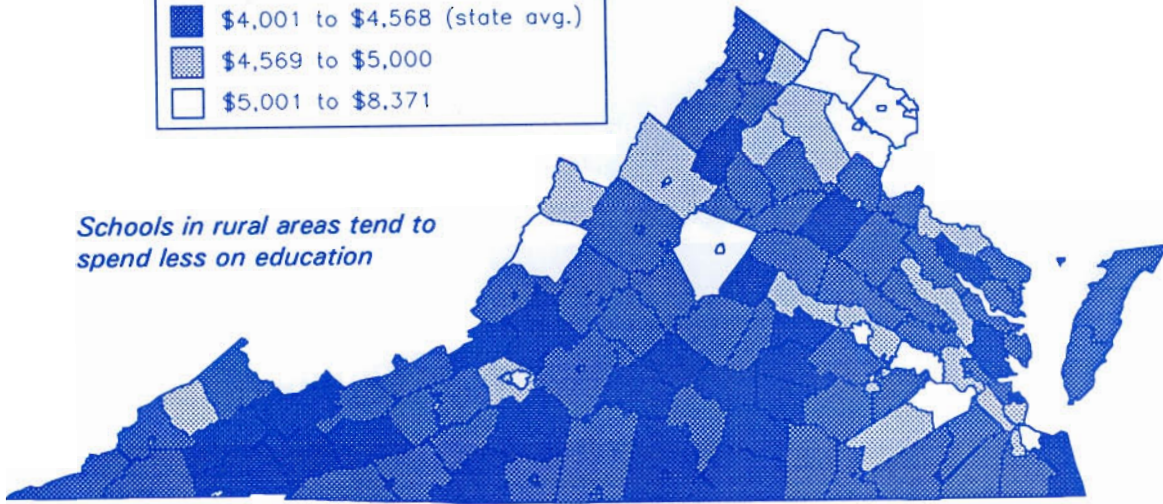
Virginia's rural students score lower at all grade levels

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) used in grades 4, 8, and 11. Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) used in grade 1. Scores measured in percentiles, with 50 being the national average.

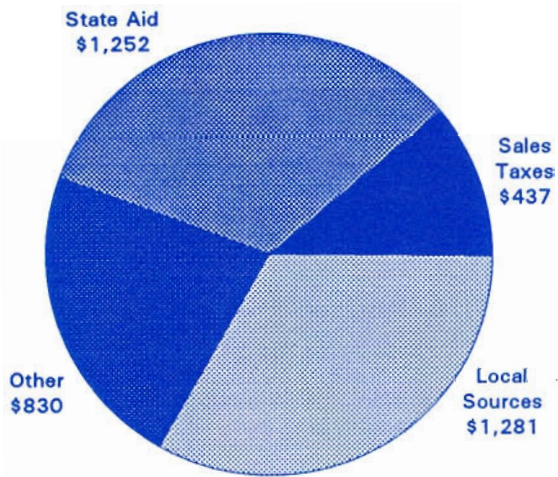
Per Pupil Expenditures for Education, 1989-90



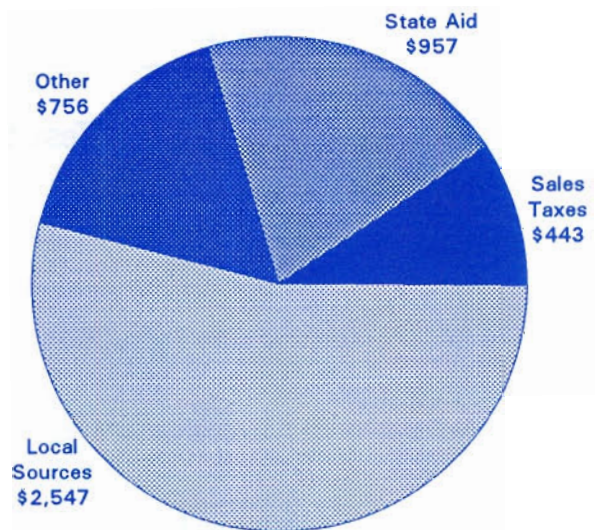
Schools in rural areas tend to spend less on education



Average expenditures per pupil by revenue source, 1988-89



Rural School Divisions

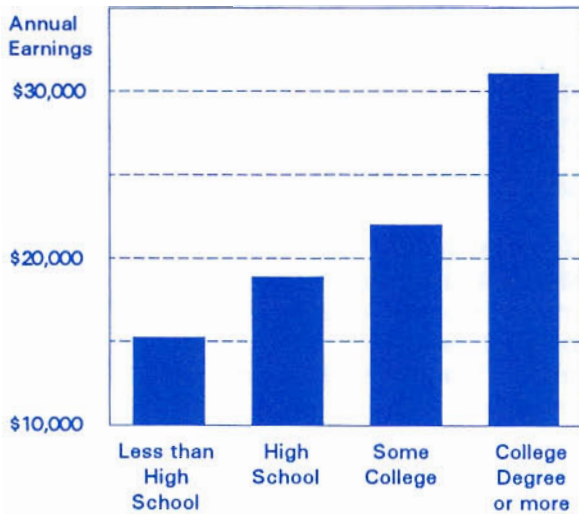


Urban School Divisions

- *Funds for education from local sources are lower in rural Virginia*

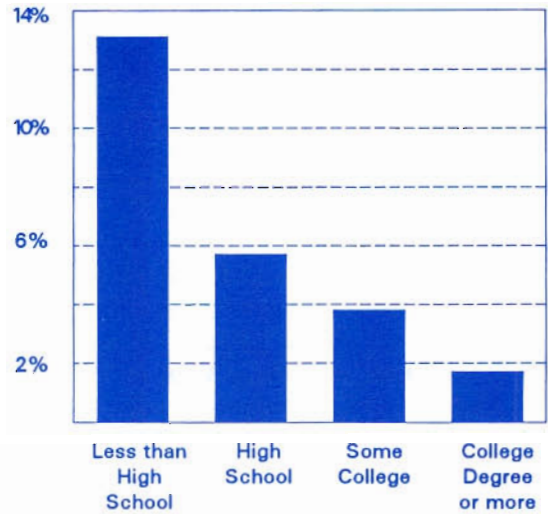
Paying the cost of NOT educating ...

Income and Education Level



Source: Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Fall 1991 (1987 data).

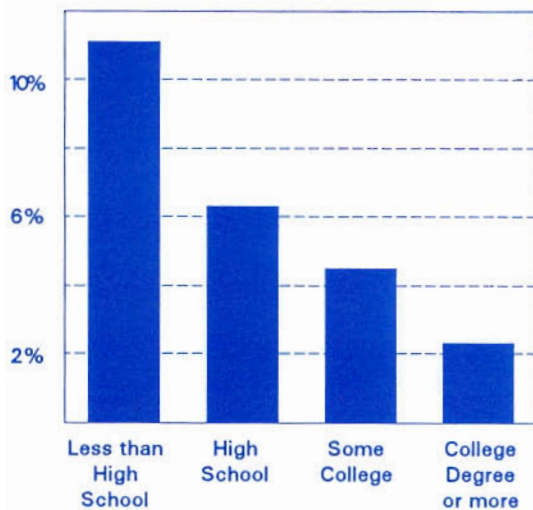
Percent Living in Poverty, U.S.



Source: Monthly Labor Review, October, 1989 (1987 data).

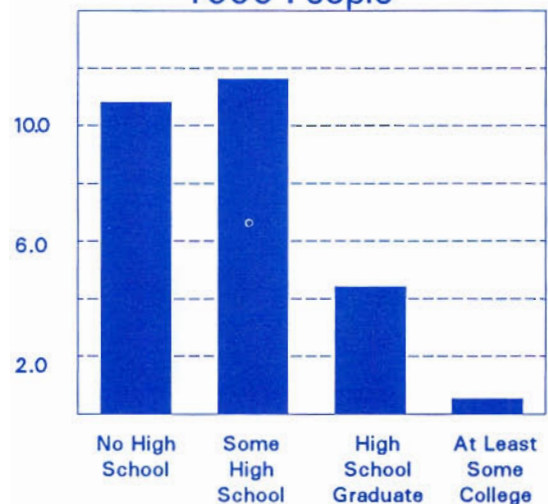
- *Education helps people earn more, contribute to local economy, pay for public services*
- *Less educated more likely to need welfare and public health services, may strain local services*

Percent Unemployed, U.S.



Source: Monthly Labor Review, January, 1988 (1987 data).

Number in Virginia Prisons per 1000 People



Source: Virginia Dept. of Corrections, July 1992 (1992 data).

- *More education means more stable income, less chance of unemployment*
- *Job prospects for less educated likely to worsen in the 1990's*
- *Less educated more likely to go to prison*
- *It costs far more to keep a prisoner in jail than to send someone to school*

The purpose of the Rural Economic Analysis Program (REAP) at Virginia Tech is to provide research, analysis, and economic intelligence to the policy making process and to long-run strategic planning being conducted in Virginia's agricultural and rural sectors.

The State of Rural Virginia contributes to this overall objective by providing basic, primarily visual information on rural issues useful to the decision making process of public institutions, those considering business investments in the State, and the citizens of Virginia.

REAP and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Virginia Tech provide in-depth analyses and research on the types of issues discussed in *The State of Rural Virginia*. For information about available publications please contact REAP at (703) 231-9443; the address is in the box at right.

Information

The State of Rural Virginia is a publication of REAP and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Virginia Tech. This issue was prepared by S. Murthy Kambhampaty. It is published at least four times per year and is available free of charge. To subscribe, please contact Alan Raflo, REAP, Agricultural Economics Department, Room 216 Hutcheson Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0401, telephone: (703) 231 9443.

The charts, graphs, and maps displayed in this publication are available on 8.5 by 11 inch transparencies and 35mm slides for a nominal fee to cover processing. Requests may be placed with REAP at the address and telephone number above.

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