



## SHOW US YOUR HEROES!

Since the order to immediately close your buildings, begin remote instruction, meal delivery and childcare, you and your school community have risen to new heights! Here at your RSA, we see media coverage of parades to student homes, buses being used as WiFi hotspots, physical education being done from front yards, music classes being held virtually....you name it and our rural schools have not only met their charge, they've built community in new ways, provided assurance to their students and structure to families in an uneasy time. NOW WE WANT TO HONOR YOU!



RSA is going to create a video of your photos and short video illustrations of staff working together on line, meals being delivered, in fact ANY powerful image of how you've made great contributions in spite of our circumstances! They don't have to be anything more than smiling, waving teachers or staff. We'll take the images you send, create a "Thank You" video and send it out to the media and all schools in New York State.

Photos will be great, videos need to be short snippets, as the video will highlight lots of individual efforts. Just remember that if your photos or videos have images of children in them, you'll need to be sure you have the appropriate waiver from parents.

Time is of the essence! We want this video to hold up the great work of schools and encourage those among us who are feeling the weight of this situation, so we need your material by next Wednesday at the latest! Remember, most of you won't have to create new material to send us. You've been highlighting and documenting for your own social media all along...just send it in!

Send photos and videos to [RSA Video Content](#)

### I AM A RURAL TEACHER!

RSA's national organization (the National Rural Education Association) has a phenomenal program that highlights rural teachers and their extraordinary efforts. Each week they focus on a different state and **WE'RE UP NEXT!**



Does your district have a story describing the unique efforts of one of your instructional staff? We need 'em! Send them to your RSA at [dal295@cornell.edu](mailto:dal295@cornell.edu). One of the issues we face nationally is the perception that New York State is only New York City and its surrounding areas. We know differently and this is our chance to show the great work of rural New York State educators. To get a sense of the kind of stories and portraits used, go to <https://iamaruralteacher.org/>. You've got great teachers doing great work. Let's show the country our best and brightest!

### RECESSION COULD CUT ALMOST 320,000 TEACHING POSITIONS

CEF member the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) today published a [blog](#) projecting the possible loss of almost 320,000 teaching positions due to the pandemic's impact on education revenues. LPI outlines the history of education job losses in the 2008 recession and, based on economic projections of cuts to education budgets of at least 10 percent this year and more than 20 percent next year, estimates possible teaching job losses by state. Assuming a 15 percent cut to states' education budgets and that their current education spending patterns continue, almost 320,000 teaching positions would be lost, with a handful of states losing close to 20 percent of existing teaching positions. The estimates provide very sobering examples of why additional federal education relief is so important.



**FEDERAL ADVOCACY EFFORT  
NEED FOR SCHOOL STIMULUS FUNDING**

With the governor forewarning schools that aid cuts of 20% may come if there is no federal stimulus funding for schools, your RSA and others have focused advocacy efforts on the need for new federal funding legislation. RSA has previously sent you its letter to New York's U.S. Senators and Congressional Delegation. Here is a resulting letter from that delegation to Congressional leadership, as well as two examples of letters being sent by the New York State PTA and the Educational Conference Board (a coalition of the state's educational organizations.) Want to join in the advocacy effort? Feel free to cut and paste these into messages to your own representatives and to U.S. Senators from other states (our own are already with us on this!) The leadership of the senate seems to believe that school need for support is a political issue and is hesitant to provide funding. Reminding them that a child's education shouldn't depend on their state's political leanings would be helpful! At the least, take a look at how these organizations have articulated our need:

[ECB Federal Assistance](#)

[ED Group C-4 Letter](#)

[NYS Delegation Education Funding Request](#)

**ALL TOGETHER NOW  
ONE SUPERINTENDENT'S ACCOUNT OF  
COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE**

Unadilla Valley's superintendent Bob Mackey's account of the initial stages of his community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is both inspirational and instructive! Need a feel good moment, as well as ideas on how to approach daunting challenges? Take a look...<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/all-together-now-robert-mackey/>