



# From Small Towns to Big Futures

Expanding Access and Opportunities for Rural Texas Communities



Students in rural and small-town communities across Texas pursue college and career pathways with strong determination, often while navigating limited access to advanced coursework, few counseling resources, and reduced outreach from higher education institutions. College Board provides targeted supports—including recognition programs, educator training, planning tools, and financial assistance—that help schools strengthen readiness and expand opportunities. Together, these efforts help ensure that all students, no matter their zip code, can transition confidently from high school to postsecondary pathways.

## RECOGNIZING RURAL TALENT

College Board's [National Recognition Program](#) gives high-achieving students an official academic award to share on college applications. The Rural and Small-Town Recognition Award honors students in communities often overlooked in college recruitment. The award is for students who earned qualifying AP<sup>®</sup> scores by 10th grade or scored in the top 10% of rural and small-town PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> or PSAT<sup>™</sup> 10 test takers in their state.

## CONNECTING RURAL STUDENTS TO COLLEGE AND CAREERS

[BigFuture](#)<sup>®</sup> helps all students own their future with two complimentary tools. The [BigFuture School](#) mobile app connects academic skills and interests to pathway exploration for students participating in SAT<sup>®</sup> School Day and PSAT assessments. BigFuture.org helps all learners envision their future, discover career and college options, and make a plan with expert-powered guidance content. **Since 2023, College Board has awarded 2,320 Texas students \$1,713,000 through BigFuture Scholarships.**

### Success Spotlight: Rural & Ready

See how one rural district is using the SAT Suite and AP to expand opportunity, strengthen readiness, and help students succeed beyond high school—no matter the distance.

Explore more real-world success stories from schools and districts nationwide at: [cb.org/spotlight](https://collegeboard.org/spotlight)





## INVESTING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

College Board directly supports rural teachers and students through focused investments:



### AP RURAL FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS

Funded by College Board and promoted through the [STARS College Network](#), this initiative provides \$300,000 in scholarships for AP teachers in rural and small-town schools to attend AP Summer Institutes (APSI) and receive professional learning that strengthens their instruction.



### AP PARTICIPANT GRANTS

[These grants](#) cover tuition for an AP Summer Institute, in person or virtual, for any educator teaching an AP course for the first time. APSIs deliver 30 hours of intensive, content-specific training, helping rural teachers build confidence and capacity in advanced coursework.



### SAT WEEKEND ACCESS

To ensure all students have access to the college and career benefits offered by the SAT, College Board is actively investing to expand the number of SAT Weekend test centers in rural communities. The SAT also offers fee waivers for eligible students and includes free, world-class practice, including full-length practice tests, small-group tutoring, and Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy®, so all students have the support they need to do their best on test day.

Discover how College Board is supporting students and educators across Texas at [cb.org/texas](https://collegeboard.org/texas).

