



Rural Virginia Prosperity Commission

BETTER EDUCATED, YOUNGER VIRGINIANS LEAVING RURAL AREAS

- Little difference is seen in high school dropout rates between the rural and urban areas of Virginia.
- Rural high school graduates are also continuing on to post-secondary education at levels that are about the same as urban high school graduates.
- Yet, large differences are evident between the percentage of the population 25 years old and older who have finished high school in rural and urban areas.
- The explanation is that the median age in rural areas is 3 - 5 years older than in urban Virginia.
- What is happening in Virginia, and all across the world, is that the better educated young people in rural areas are leaving for better economic opportunities in urban places and not coming back and .
- This differential out-migration deprives rural communities of the entrepreneurial talent needed to reinvigorate their economies and build new economic bases.
- The remaining population because of age and education is not attractive to the outside investment needed to create new income opportunities in rural communities.