

How can I find the urban or rural status of my school or library?

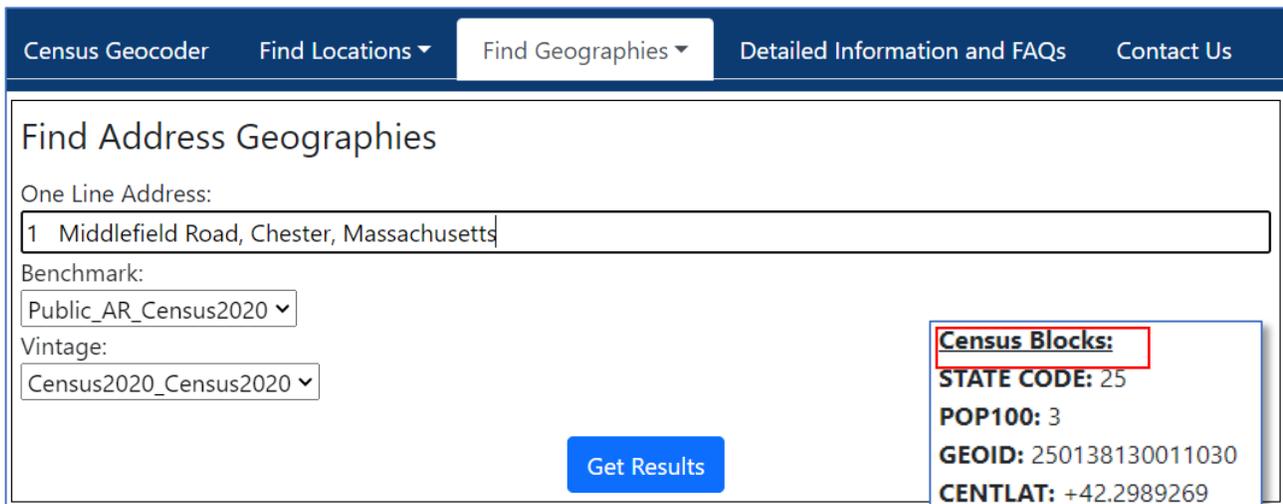
Urban or Rural Status within E-Rate is based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s delineation. An individual school or library is designated as “urban” or “rural” based on the census block it is located in, the urban area it is located in, and the urban area population. If the urban area has a population of 25,000 or more, it is determined to be “urban” for the E-Rate program.

Any school or library not designated “urban” is designated as “rural.”

E-Rate Urban / Rural Status Manual Lookup

1. Navigate to the Census Bureau [Find Address Geographies](#) online tool.
2. Enter the school or library address including the street address, city, state, and zip code.
3. Set the Benchmark to **Public_AR_Census2020** and the Vintage to **Census2020_Census2020** using the dropdown menu.
4. Select **Get Results**.

Rural Example



Census Blocks:

STATE CODE: 25

POP100: 3

GEOID: 250138130011030

CENTLAT: +42.2989269

COUNTY CODE: 013

AREAWATER: 0

NAME: Block 1030

CENTLON: -072.9816732

TRACT CODE: 813001

AREALAND: 133086

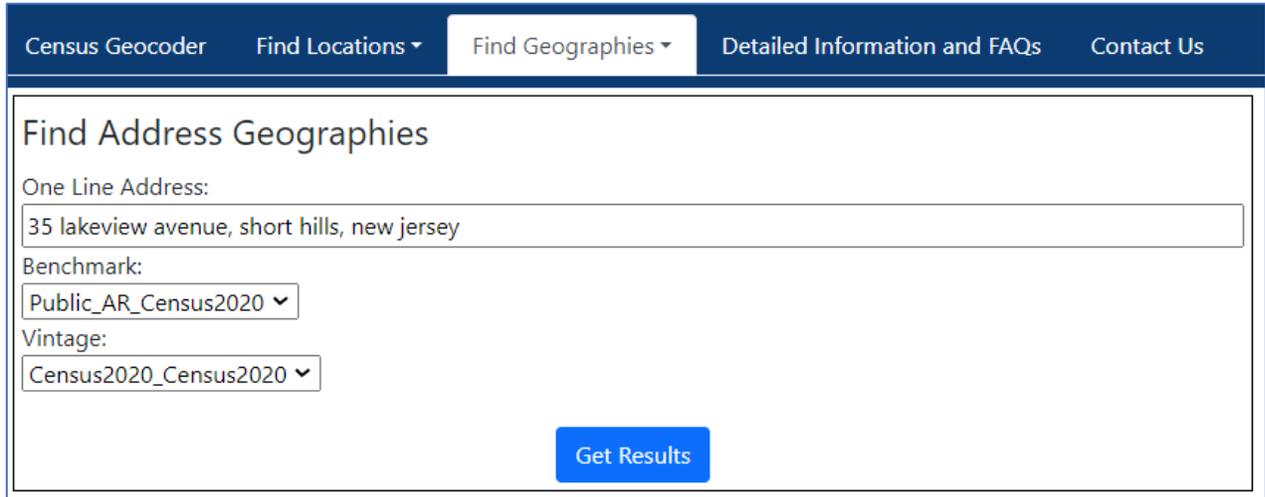
HU100: 2

BLOCK CODE: 1030

UR: R

5. Scroll down to the Census Blocks section at the bottom of the page and review the last field called UR.
 - a. If the Census Block UR value is ‘R’ then the entity and address is rural.

Urban Example



6. Scroll down to the Census Blocks section at the bottom of the page and review the last field called UR.
 - a. If the Census Blocks UR value is 'U' then scroll up to the 'Urban Areas' section to locate the Name of the urban area.

Census Blocks:

STATE CODE: 34
 POP100: 23
 GEOID: 340130200004023
 CENTLAT: +40.7266620
 COUNTY CODE: 013
 AREAWATER: 0
 NAME: Block 4023
 CENTLON: -074.3416325
 TRACT CODE: 020000
 AREALAND: 22289
 HU100: 8
 BLOCK CODE: 4023
 UR: U



Urban Areas:

CENTLON: -073.9494543
 AREA: 15613783126.6127
 LEN: 5102260.4826514898
 GEOID: 63217
 CENTLAT: +40.7122656
 OID_1:
 AREAWATER: 548707462
 AREALAND: 8412591091
 UA: 63217
 NAME: New York--Jersey City--Newark, NY--NJ Urban Area

7. Open the 2020 Census Bureau list of urban areas Excel file located [here](#).
8. Locate the urban area name and associated population.

A	B	C	D	E
UACE	NAME	POP	HOUSING	AREALAND
63217	New York--Jersey City--Newark, NY--NJ	19,426,449	7,657,903	8,412,591,091

9. If the urban area population is 25,000 or less, then the entity is designated as **rural**. If the population is more than 25,000, then the entity is designated as **urban**.