Maximizing Support from ED's Technical Assistance Centers

August 5, 2022

Session Goals

This session focuses on how Regional Comprehensive Centers and Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) work together with states to support implementation of education programs.

Session Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Technical Assistance at the Department

III. CC Program Overview

IV. REL Program Overview

V. REL-CC Collaboration

VI. Questions

VII. Wrap-up

Technical Assistance Resources from Across the Department

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

- School Climate & Safety
- School Improvement & Accountability
- ESEA State Plans, Recovery Programs
- Equitable Access

Office of Special Education Programs

- Technical Assistance & Dissemination Centers
- Parent Program Centers
- Technology, Personnel, & Data Centers

IDEAs that Work

Institute of Education Sciences

- Regional Educational Laboratories
- State Longitudinal Data Systems
- What Works Clearinghouse

IES : REL Regional Educational Laboratory Program

COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS OVERVIEW

Program and Grantee Support Services
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Comprehensive Centers Program

The Comprehensive Centers (CC) program supports the establishment of not less than 20 Comprehensive Centers to provide capacity-building services to State educational agencies (SEAs), regional educational agencies (REAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and schools that improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, and improve the quality of instruction.

COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS

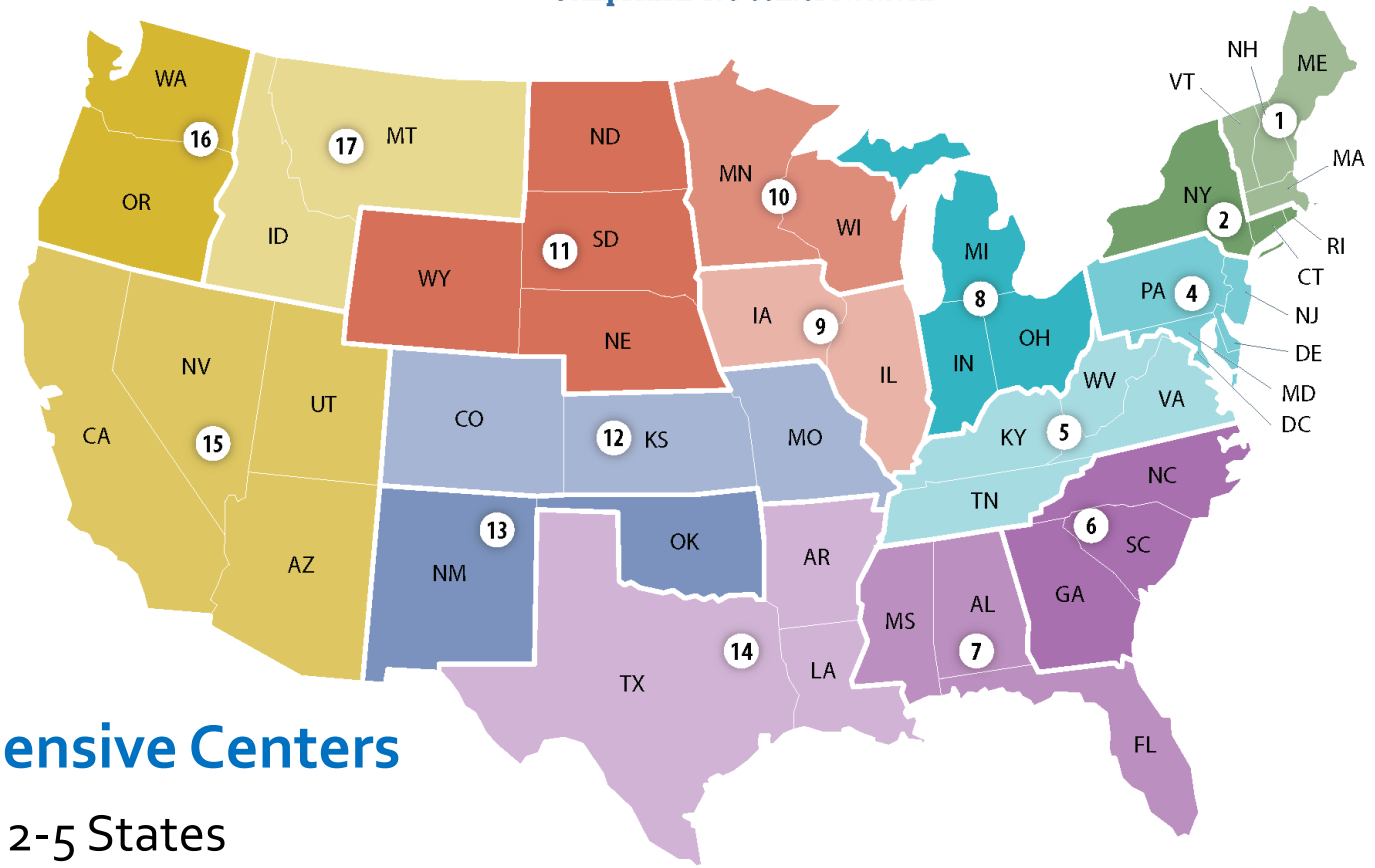
- **19 Regional Centers:** provide high-quality intensive capacity-building services to State clients and recipients to identify, implement, and sustain effective evidence-based practices that support improved educator and student outcomes
- **1 National Center:** provide high-quality universal and targeted capacity-building services to address common high-leverage problems, common services to address audit findings, common implementation challenges, and emerging national education trends

Capacity-building Services

CCNETWORK
Comprehensive Center Network

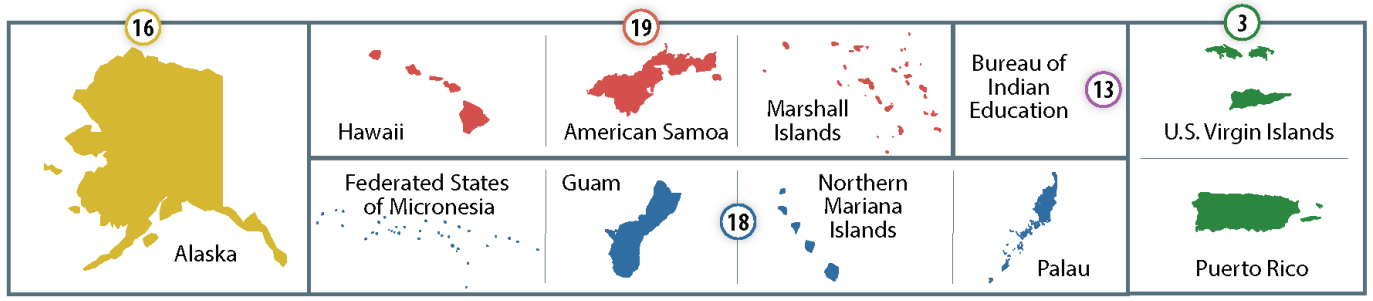
19 Regional Centers

1 National Center



Regional Comprehensive Centers

Regional Centers serve 2-5 States



2019-2024 Comprehensive Center Regions

Regional Centers:

- Region 1: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont – American Institutes for Research
- Region 2: Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island - WestEd
- Region 3: Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands – Educational Testing Service
- Region 4: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania – Policy Study Associates, Inc.
- Region 5: Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia – Westat, Inc.
- Region 6: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina – The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Region 7: Alabama, Florida, Mississippi – RMC Research Corporation
- Region 8: Indiana, Michigan, Ohio – ICF Incorporated LLC
- Region 9: Illinois, Iowa – American Institutes for Research
- Region 10: Minnesota, Wisconsin – The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
- Region 11: Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming – McREL International
- Region 12: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri – McREL International
- Region 13: Bureau of Indian Education, New Mexico, Oklahoma – WestEd
- Region 14: Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas – Westat, Inc.
- Region 15: Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah – WestEd
- Region 16: Alaska, Oregon, Washington – SERRC Southeast Regional Resource Center
- Region 17: Idaho, Montana – Education Northwest
- Region 18: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau – Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
- Region 19: American Samoa, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands – Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

National Center:

- Westat, Inc.

Welcome to the CCNetwork

The Comprehensive Center Network (CCNetwork) features 20 federally funded Technical Assistance Centers - the National Comprehensive Center and 19 Regional Comprehensive Centers. The Centers address pressing educational needs around the country in collaboration with:

- State, district and local leaders
- The U.S. Department of Education
- National organizations
- Community partners

Each of these Centers offers no-cost services and products to support capacity-building in state and local education agencies.

View Comprehensive Center Resources
https://compcenternetwork.org

New Toolkit Just Released!

The Supporting Students in Poverty with High-Impact Instructional Strategies Toolkit provides teachers, principals, district staff, and state agencies with evidence-based, high-impact strategies and supportive actions that have the potential to decrease the negative impacts of poverty on student achievement.

CCNetwork Highlights

This rotating collection highlights stories, resources, and tools from across the CCNetwork and showcases topics of urgent interest. For each collection we provide:

- An introduction to the topic
- An outline of subtopics
- Concise and useful tools and how to obtain them
- Resources designed to underpin successful practice

Teaching and Learning

Instructional methods, curriculum materials, and helpful tools support K-12 learning at school, at home, and in the community. Explore strategies and best practices on:

- Literacy and early learning
- Online/distance learning
- High-dosage tutoring
- STEM and computer science
- Post-secondary preparation

View Focus Topic

Educator Workforce

The CCNetwork supports states and districts as they design and implement strategies to ensure students have equitable access to effective teachers and leaders.

- Attracting and recruiting educator talent
- Preparing and certifying educators
- Diversifying the educators workforce
- Developing culturally responsive practices
- Supporting professional growth and evaluation systems
- Cultivating educational leadership

View Focus Topic

Summer and Out-of-School Time

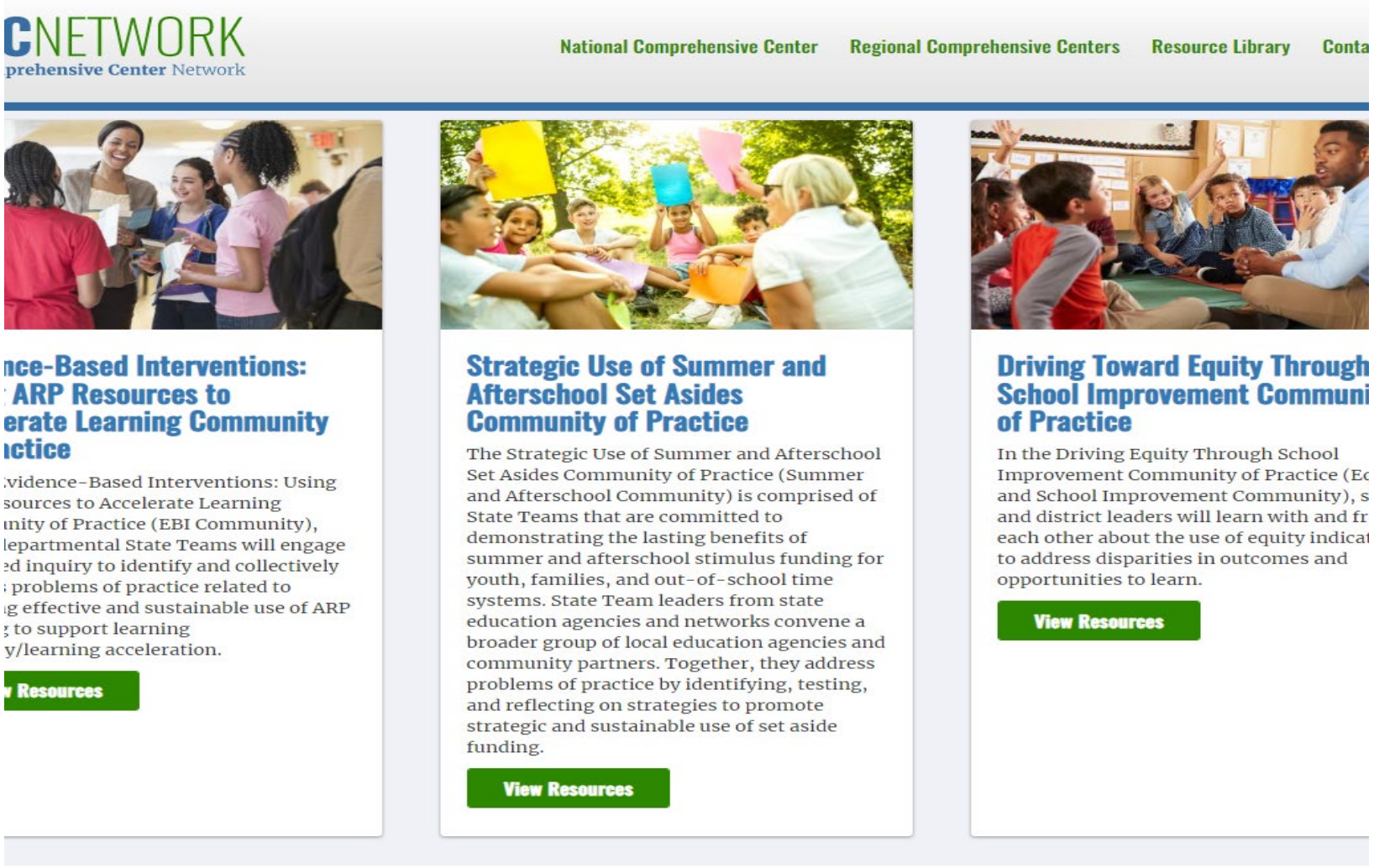
Summer learning and out-of-school time (OST) programs are fun and important ways to:

- Make up for lost instructional time
- Build relationships between students and teachers
- Engage the whole family and community
- Prepare students and families for the next school year

View Focus Topic

The Comprehensive Centers have developed a suite of resources on topics including: Educator Workforce, Equity, Planning & Evaluating, Summer & OST, Teaching & Learning, Trauma Informed Practice & Social Emotional Learning

https://compcenternetwork.org/resources/library?search_api_fulltext=return+to+school



https://compcenternetwork.org/node/7475

The National Comprehensive Center is currently leading three Communities of Practice

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program

Chris Boccanfuso
Chris.Boccanfuso@ed.gov
Branch Chief, Regional Educational Lab Program
Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

About the REL Program

The Mission of the REL Program

- The RELs are IES' main program to support regional educators' and policymakers' use of evidence in order to improve education programs and practices, and ultimately student performance
  - Centers education stakeholders in identifying problems to be addressed, shaping research efforts, and interpreting and using research findings

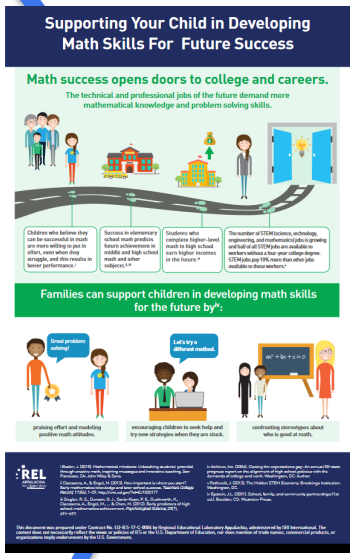
- RELs support implementation of the evidence requirements of ESSA and the use of evidence across PK-20

- Supports use and uptake of What Works Clearinghouse products and other IES resources: NCEE evaluation findings, research from NCER and NCSER, and statistical products from NCES

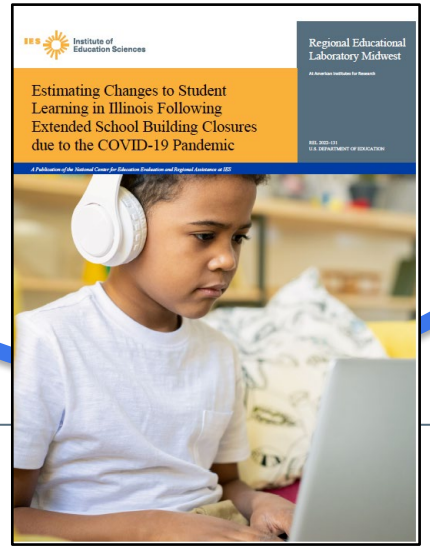
REL Main Activities

Training, Coaching, and Technical Support (TCTS)

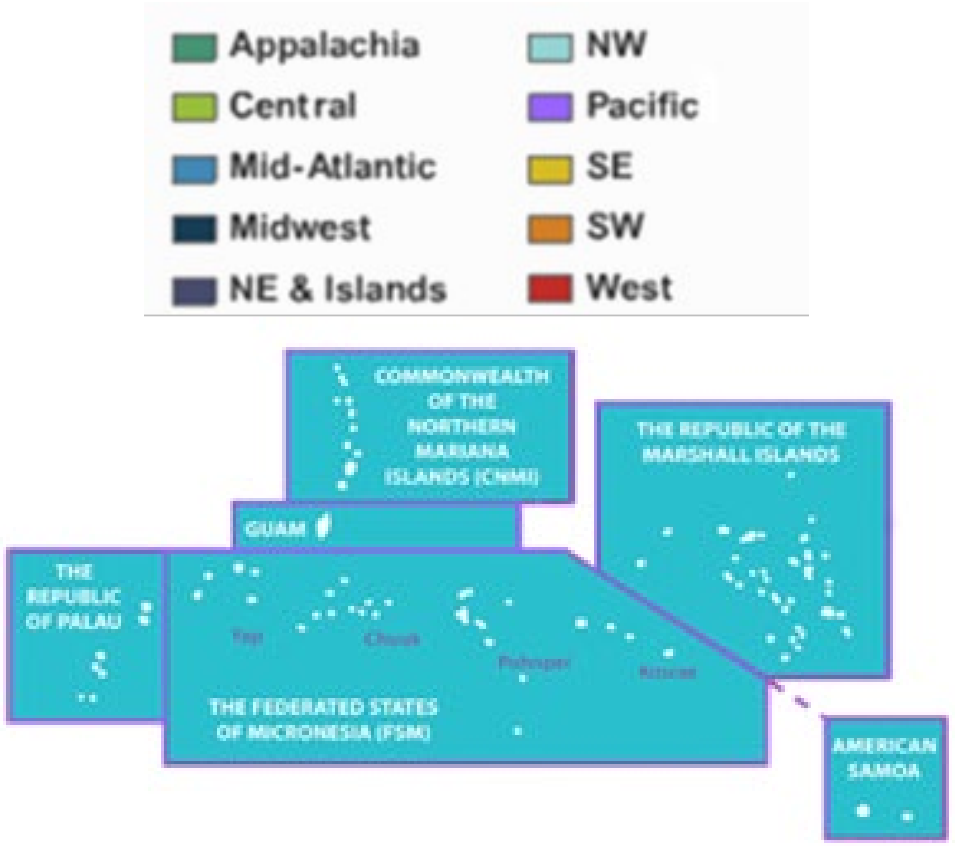
Dissemination

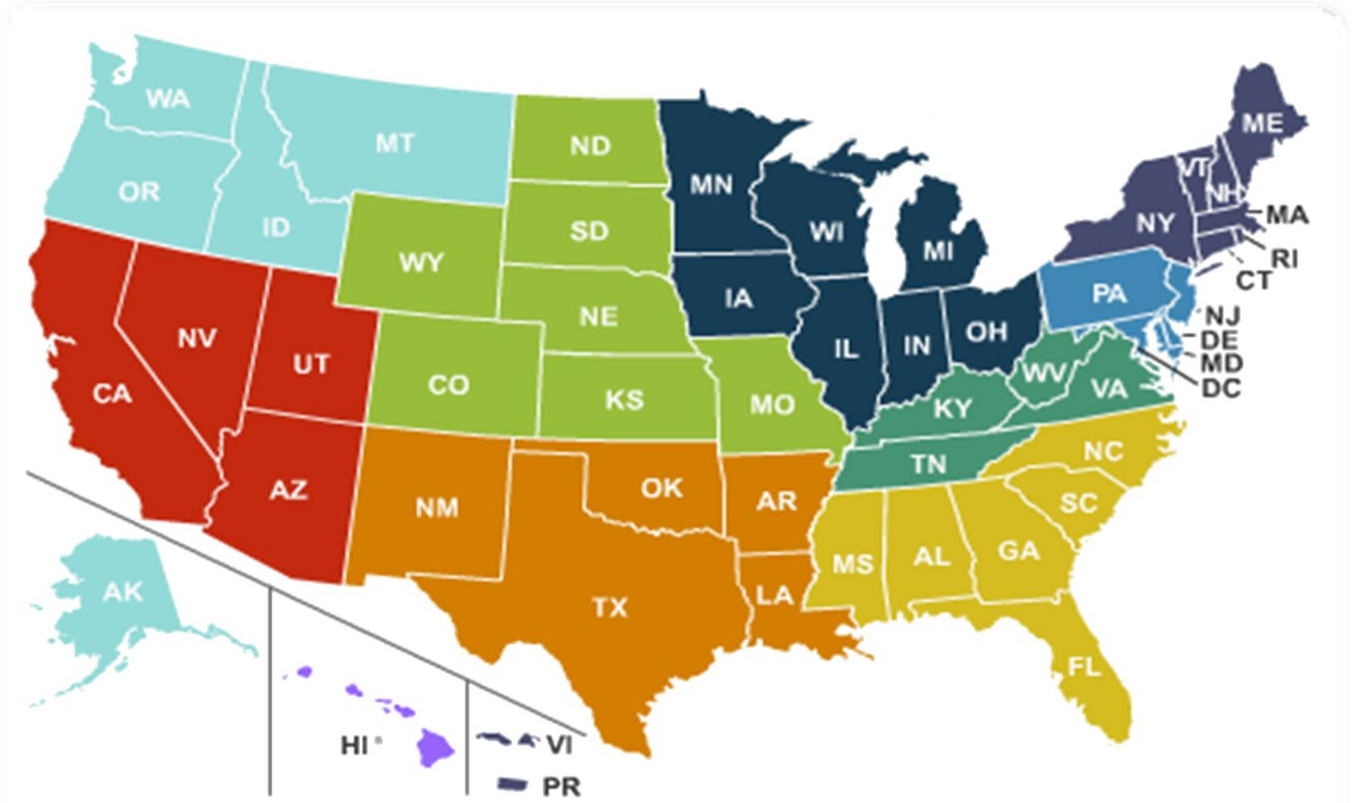


Applied Research



Ten RELs work in partnership with LEAs, SEAs, and others to use data and research to improve academic outcomes for students





What makes the REL program unique within IES?

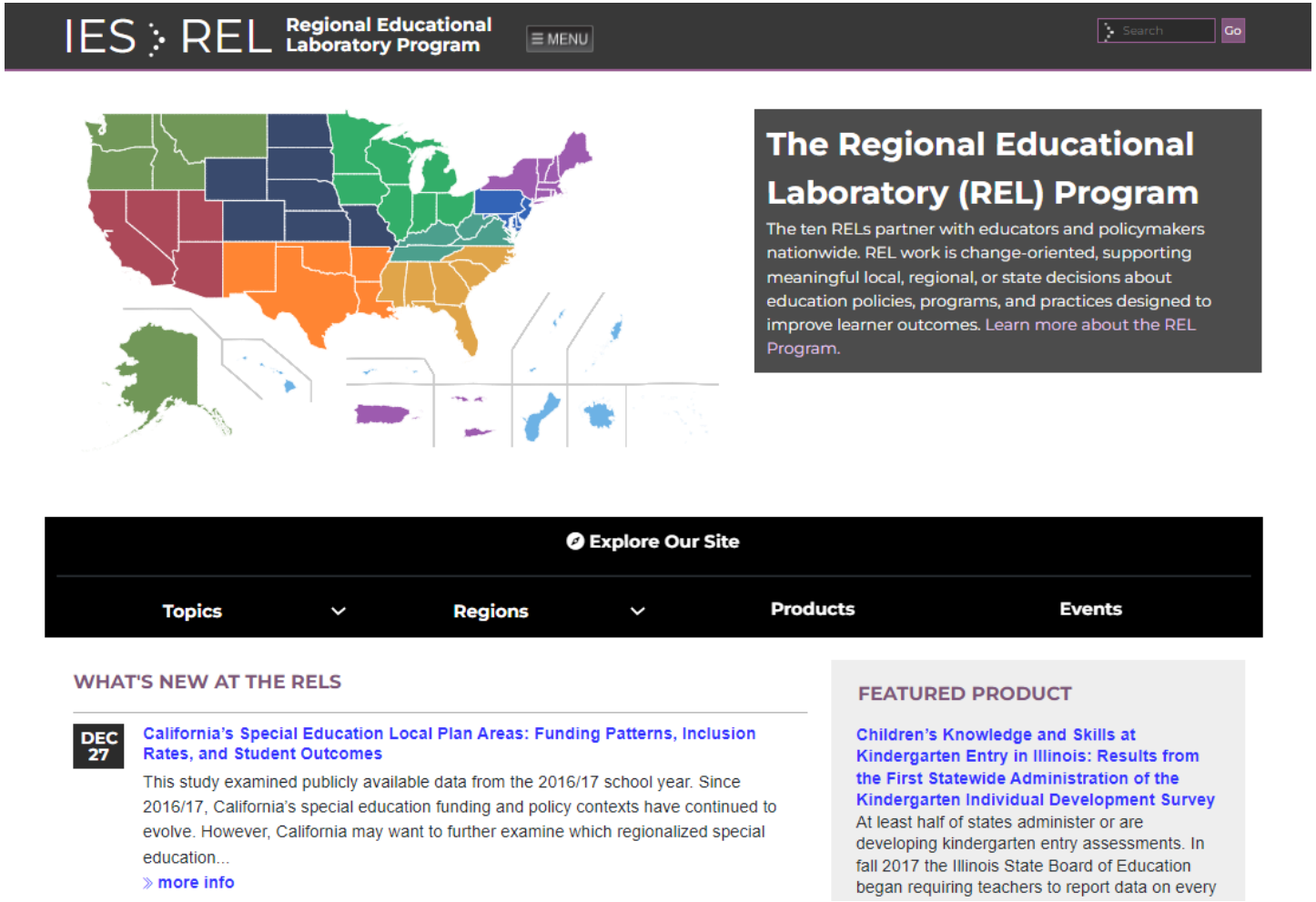
- The RELs' work is **field-initiated** - based on the needs stakeholders share with the REL
- REL work is **flexible** enough to respond to urgent needs
- RELs facilitate **researcher-practitioner partnerships**
- RELs integrate their expertise in both applied research and TA to provide **"wraparound" research-related supports**

Expectations for REL researcher-practitioner partnerships

- REL partnerships are defined by the outcomes partners want to achieve and the work partners and RELs co-design in service of those outcomes
  - Identify high-leverage problems of practice
  - Support partners in developing and applying research, evidence and evidence-based practices
  - Work in partnership is purpose-driven: intensive, sustained, narrowly focused, and when possible *embedded in existing state or local initiatives*
  - Designed to inform and improve education policy or practice in the medium term

- REL work is designed to be **actionable, usable, impartial**, and highly **attuned to partners' needs**.

Visit the new REL website - https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/



Regional Collaboration

RELs and CCs

RELs Coordinate and Collaborate with the Comprehensive Centers (CCs)

- RELs and regional CCs are **required to coordinate** with each other in service of several goals:
  - **Improved efficiency** in the centers' work
  - **Lessening burden on state and local partners** to engage with multiple ED centers
  - **Improved stakeholder understanding** of how RELs and CCs complement each other
  - **Streamlined process for identifying needs** and sharing with the Department
  - **Leveraging each program's dissemination networks** to improve reach of products and services
  - **Facilitating development of collaborative supports** to address regional needs

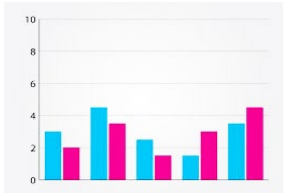
Supports Provided by the RELs and CCs

- Supports provided by the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) and Comprehensive Centers (CCs) complement each other:
  - RELs are experts in conducting **rigorous applied research and developing** and **integrating and applying tools or technical supports** for their partners based on applied research.
  - CCs are experts in **identifying, implementing and sustaining existing evidence-based programs and practices** and **supporting states to implement their ESEA Consolidated State Plans**.

Contact your REL or CC if you have questions about which program can best address your organization's urgent education needs.

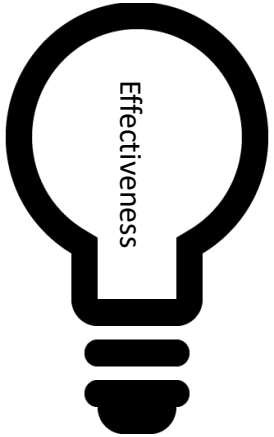
Services provided by the RELs and CCs

REL Services



Rigorous **applied research**

“Thought Partner” to discuss what the research evidence says & inform decision making



Intensive, **research-based trainings** for educators and decisionmakers

Reach out to your REL and CC

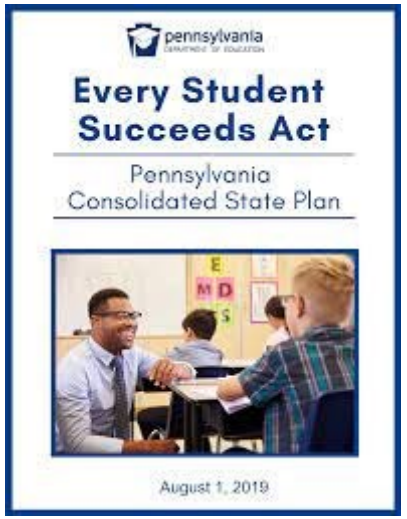
Facilitating a Community of Practice

Continuous Improvement

Comprehensive Center Services

Identifying, implementing, and sustaining **existing evidence-based practices**

Implementing ESEA Consolidated State Plans



Region 1 & REL-NEI

New Hampshire Work-Based Learning Quality Measures Project

New Hampshire identified work-based learning (WBL) as a **key instructional strategy** to deepen student learning, explore career interests and individual aspirations, and develop authentic career readiness skills.

A review of WBL initiatives indicated that the state uses **8 different definitions** for a quality WBL experience. As a result, there is **high variability in LEAs' implementation**.

Task	1. Quality WBL Definition Development	2. Collect and Catalog WBL Measures Used in Districts	3. WBL Program Quality Rubric	4. WBL Data Dictionary
Lead	REL-NEI	R1CC	REL-NEI	REL-NEI
Outputs	Adopted a common definition of quality WBL	Library of district WBL measures	WBL quality rubric	WBL data collection recommendations

Region 2 & REL-NEI

Connecticut
Increasing Equitable Access to Diverse Educators

Connecticut developed a guidebook for districts on how to **diversify the educator workforce** and wanted to **support the implementation and use** among districts.

Coaching series designed to serve as model for other districts to conducting root cause analysis of hiring challenges and drafting an Increasing Educator Diversity plan that includes goals, indicators, and data that will be collected to track progress.

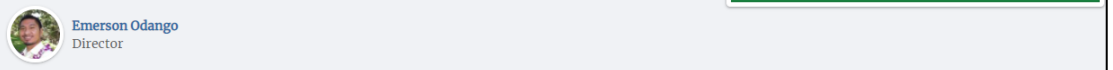
Task	1. Orient district teams to guidebook	2. Build capacity to analyze hiring data	3. Conduct root cause analysis	4. Develop action plans
Lead	R2CC	REL-NEI	R2CC	R2CC
Outputs for district teams	Learned how to develop a data-driven theory of action	Analyzed trends in educator demographic data across role types and grade levels, as well as through the hiring process	Identified areas for growth using self-assessment tool in the guidebook	Drafted vision statements, theories of action and SMAART goals.

Collaboration Between RELs and CCs Continues!

NEWS / EVENTS › All News ›

Sep 9, 2020

ACCELERATING COLLABORATION DURING COVID-19



Emerson Odango
Director

-This blog was authored by Emerson Lopez Odango (Region 18 Director), Christina Tydeman (REL-Pacific Director), Melly Wilson (Region 19 Director), and Kellie Kim (REL-Pacific Deputy Director)

Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic created for some Comprehensive Center (CC) projects, there arose opportunities for accelerating cross-organizational collaboration. This blog highlights four areas of collaboration across the Region 18 CC, Region 19 CC, and REL-Pacific (REL-PA) for the creation of a Community of Practice (CoP) focusing on Continuity of Learning in response to needs related to COVID-19 in the Pacific region.

Joint Needs Sensing. During the initial March shutdowns, the CCs and REL-PA conducted joint needs sensing with our Advisory (CC) and Governing (REL-PA) Boards, which include State Education Agency (SEA) leadership and stakeholders. An online needs sensing survey identified needs ranging from strategic planning to distance learning. We unpacked these needs through an April joint meeting with the Board members, during which we discussed the survey findings and the benefits of a CoP, narrowed topical areas, planned for logistics, and emphasized CC and REL supports. The meeting outcomes guided us to plan a virtual CoP of four webinars: (1) Designing & Implementing Distance Learning in the Pacific Context, (2) Student and Community Well-Being, (3) Planning Considerations for Reopening Schools, and (4) Aligning Students' Lived Language Experiences with Education.

DETAILS

Type:
Blog

Associated Center:
Region 18
Region 19

ARCHIVED WEBINAR

Strategies for Educators to Support the Social and Emotional Needs of Students Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Demand for Racial Justice: Plans for Reopening Schools

RECORDED ON JULY 29, 2020

Educators and students alike are facing unprecedented uncertainty around the upcoming school year. Regardless of how learning is organized—remote, in-person, or hybrid—it is crucial for schools to focus on restoring environments and relationships that support student wellness, connection, and ultimately, achievement.

Join REL West, the Region 15 Comprehensive Center, and the National Center to Improve Social & Emotional Learning and School Safety for a free webinar and panel discussion on how school district and site leaders can support the social and emotional needs of students as they return to school.

Panelists will share evidence-based information about social and emotional competencies that educators can use to rebuild conditions of success for students. Using a trauma-informed lens, strategies will address:

- Creating safe and supportive school environments
- Promoting family and community communication and collaboration
- Fostering collective care

How do I reach out to my region's REL or CC?

If your SEA has a need that the RELs (or any federal TA program) may be able to address, please reach out to your region's REL!

REL	Contractor	Director	Director Email Address
REL Appalachia	SRI International	Deborah Jonas	deborah.jonas@sri.com
REL Central	Mathematica	Phillip Herman	pherman@mathematica-mpr.com
REL Mid-Atlantic	Mathematica	Brian Gill	bgill@mathematica-mpr.com
REL Midwest	AIR	Julie Kochanek	jkochanek@air.org
REL NEI	EDC	Julie Riordan	jriordan@edc.org
REL Northwest	WestEd	Katie Drummond	kdrummo@wested.org
REL Pacific	McREL International	Christina Tydeman	ctydeman@mcrel.org
REL Southeast	Florida State University	Nicole Patton-Terry	npattonterry@fsu.edu
REL Southwest	AIR (Current contract ends 11/29/22)	Michael Vaden-Kiernan	mvaden-kiernan@air.org
REL West	WestEd	John Rice	jrice@wested.org

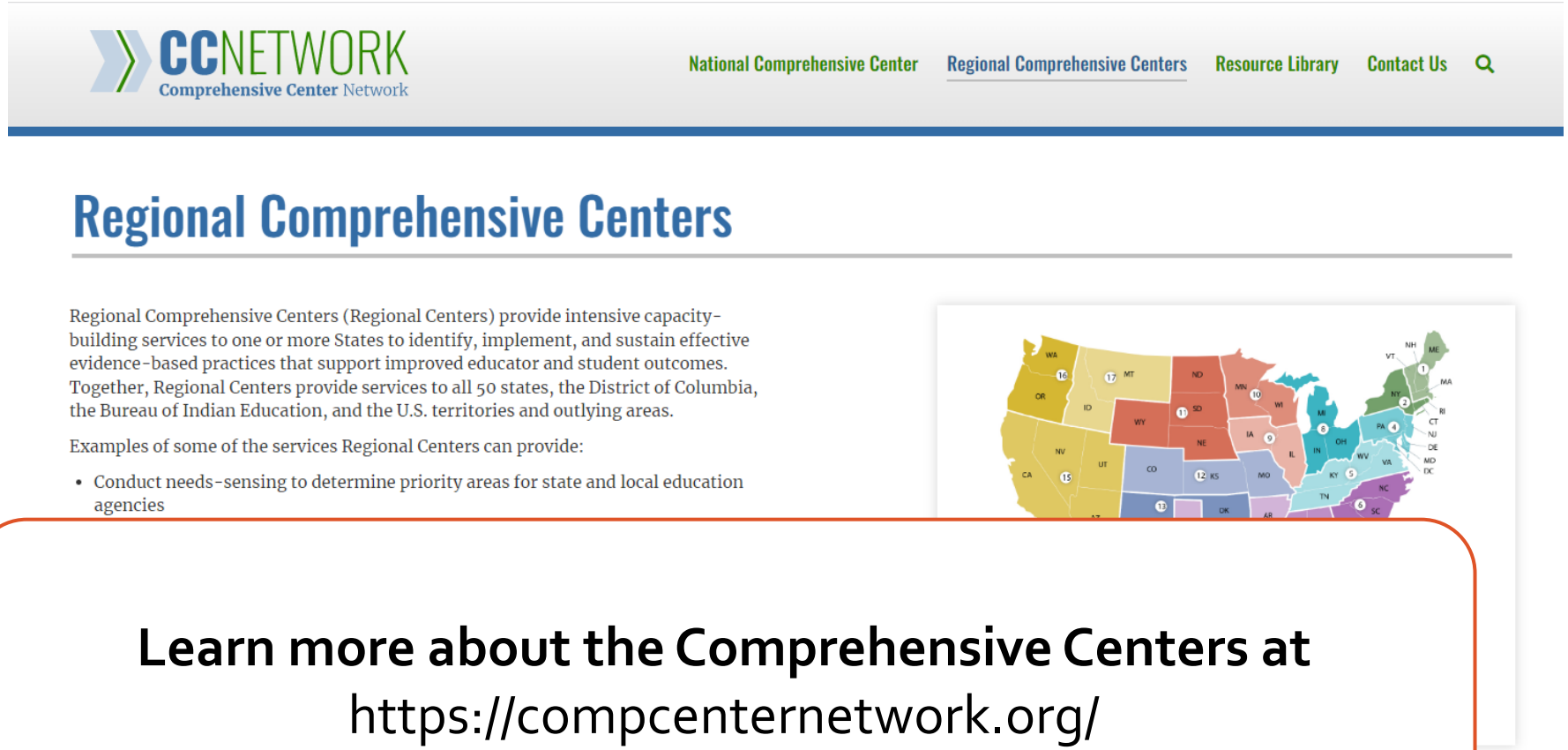
If your SEA has a need that the Comprehensive Center (or any federal TA program) may be able to address, please reach out to your region's CC.

Region	Organization	Director	Director Email Address
Region 1	AIR	Ellen Cushing	ecushing@air.org
Region 2	WestEd	Sarah Barzee	sbarzee@wested.org
Region 3	ETS	John Lockwood	jlockwood@ets.org
Region 4	Policy Studies	Jeanine Hildreth	jhildreth@policystudies.com
Region 5	Westat	Kimberly Hambrick	kimberlyhambrick@westat.com
Region 6	UNC Greensboro	George Hancock	ghancock@serve.org
Region 7	RMC Research	Robin Jarvis	jarvis@rmcres.com
Region 8	ICF	Caitlin Howley/TJ Horwood	caitlin.howley@icf.com/t.j.horwood@icf.com
Region 9	AIR	Aaron Butler	abutler@air.org
Region 10	Board of Regents Wisconsin	Alisia Moutry/Kim Gibbons	amoutry@wisc.edu/kgibbons@umn.edu

If your SEA has a need that the Comprehensive Center (or any federal TA program) may be able to address, please reach out to your region's CC.

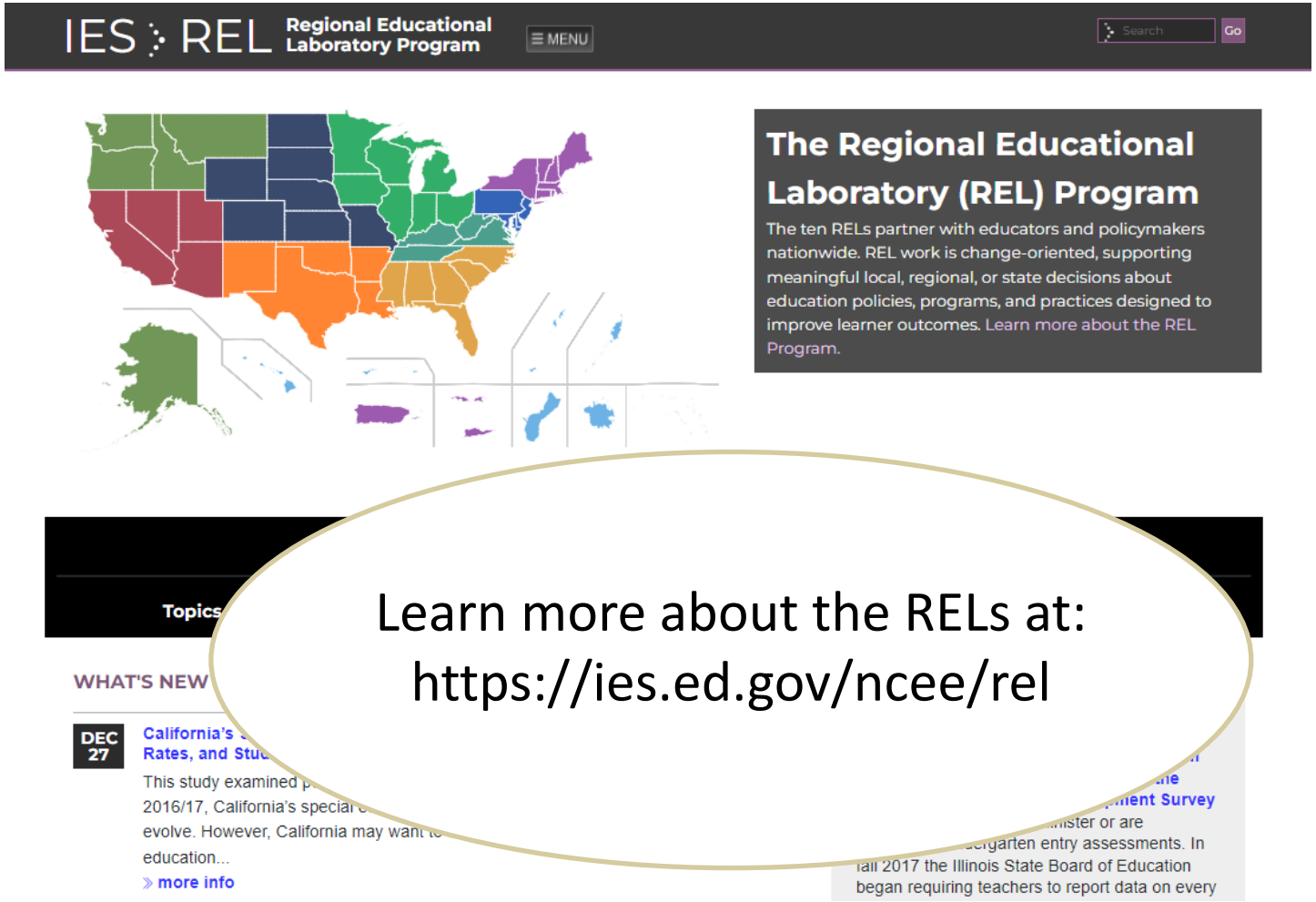
Region	Organization	Director	Director Email Address
Region 11	McREL	Joe Simpson	jsimpson@mcrel.org
Region 12	McREL	Dale Lewis	dlewis@mcrel.org
Region 13	WestEd	Marie Manusco	mmancus@wested.org
Region 14	Westat	Kristin Nafziger	kristinnafziger@westat.com
Region 15	WestEd	Kandace Jones/Kate Wright	kjones@wested.org/kwright@wested.org
Region 16	SERCC	Bernie Sorenson	bernies@serrc.org
Region 17	RMC Research	Robin Jarvis	jarvis@rmcres.com
Region 18	PREL	Emerson Odango	odangoe@prel.org
Region 19	PREL	Melly Wilson	wilsonm@prel.org
National Center	Westat	Allison Crean Davis/Jill Lammert	allisoncreandavis@westat.com jilllammert@westat.com

For more information!



Learn more about the Comprehensive Centers at
https://compcenternetwork.org/

For More Information!



Learn more about the RELs at:
https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel

Contact Information

Danielle Smith

Director, Program and Grantee Support Services

Danielle.Smith2@ed.gov

Chris Boccanfuso

Branch Chief, Regional Educational Lab Program

chris.boccanfuso@ed.gov

Elisabeth Lembo

Program Officer, Comprehensive Center

Elisabeth.Lembo@ed.gov

Thank You!!!