



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

THE DIRECTOR

September 21, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) supports ten Regional Education Laboratories (RELs) across the country, which are charged with supporting applied research and development, disseminating school improvement practices widely, and providing technical assistance to education agencies in their regions. Operating under the current contract, the RELS have conducted high quality, peer-reviewed research and worked closely with many education stakeholders to use this research to improve practice and policy.

As we approach the time for awarding new contracts for the RELs, we are looking to improve our services to REL stakeholders—those of you working on the ground to make a difference in the lives of school children. This is why I am writing you today to request your input on this next round of contracts for REL services.

We are currently refining our vision for this regional outreach as part of the upcoming REL program competition – and we need your help in determining what is working, what needs to be improved and the kind of resources and services educators most need from their regional labs. I welcome any and all suggestions, whether you know a great deal or nothing at all about how the program works. If you would like to view the specific responsibilities of the REL program, you may refer to the attached excerpt from the legislation.

Please send your suggestions to Comments.REL@ed.gov by October 15. All comments received by this date will be read and considered during the development of the new proposal. I also encourage you to forward this request to anyone interested in providing suggestions on how to make the REL program as effective, relevant and useful as possible.

Thank You,

John Q. Easton