

## **Making Connections: Culturally Responsive Practices to Close the Achievement Gap**

**October 12, 2017**  
**8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Central Time**  
**Cooperative Educational Service Agency 1 Office**  
**N25 W23131 Paul Road**  
**Suite 100**  
**Pewaukee, WI 53072**

### **Agenda**

**8:00–8:30 a.m.**

**Registration**

**8:30–8:45 a.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Deb Gurke, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest*

*Mary Gavigan, Executive Director, Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 1*

Leaders from REL Midwest and CESA 1 will welcome attendees to the event. Dr. Gurke and Kyle Fagan will introduce REL Midwest and provide an overview of the research practice partnerships it facilitates across the Midwest. Dr. Gurke and Fagan will provide a brief introduction to the Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance (MAGRA), which seeks to examine the Black-White achievement and increase the region's capacity to access, conduct, interpret, and make sense of achievement gap research. Mary Gavigan will introduce CESA 1 and acknowledge the districts in attendance at the event.

**8:45–9:00 a.m.**

**Review of Meeting Materials and Goals**

Staff from REL Midwest and CESA 1 will walk through the event materials and review the agenda and goals for the day's meeting. Participants also will have the opportunity to introduce themselves at their tables.

**9:00–9:45 a.m.**

**Session I: Laying Out the Challenge: Achievement Gaps in Wisconsin**

*Courtney Reed-Jenkins, Co-Leader, Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network; Special Education Team, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WI DPI)*

*Deb Gurke, Ph.D., REL Midwest*

*Madeline Hafner, Ph.D., Minority Student Achievement Network, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Staff from WI DPI will open the session by presenting an overview of achievement gaps in Wisconsin, as well as data on racial disproportionalities in discipline, special education, and specific disability categories.

Next, Dr. Gurke will share the MAGRA’s research agenda and alliance projects under way to consider efforts and strategies to close the Black-White achievement gap. Dr. Hafner, a MAGRA member and executive director of the Minority Student Achievement Network, will provide a response to the two presentations and discuss how MAGRA’s work relates to other efforts in the state. There will be five minutes allotted for questions and answers at the end of the session.

**9:45–10:00 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:00–11:00 a.m.**

**Session II: Reflection and Discussion: Digging Into Data With a Risk Ratio Approach**

*Kent Smith, Regional Coordinator, Wisconsin Response to Intervention Center (RtI Center)*

*Milaney Levenson, Regional Coordinator, Wisconsin RtI Center*

*Paula Kaiser, Professional Development Specialist, Wisconsin Information System for Education (WISE)*

Presenters from the Wisconsin RtI Center and WISE will introduce the concept of risk ratio, which examines the equity of outcomes between different groups. The presenters will outline the research base for the risk ratio approach, and provide an overview of how to calculate the risk ratios for different indicators. The presenters will also explain how risk ratios can be used to evaluate how well school practices are meeting student needs.

Following the overview, event participants will engage in an interactive activity to examine district student performance data from WISEDash. Participants will receive copies of their district’s risk ratio data in their registration folders.

For the discussion, individuals will be prompted to review the data individually during a brief self-reflection time (five minutes). Next, tables will engage in a facilitated group discussion to compare achievement trends and

gaps across different districts and schools (10 minutes). Finally, tables will share out with the group to identify common gaps and challenges across grade levels and schools.

**11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Session III: Culturally Responsive Practices to Close the Achievement Gap**

*Andreal Davis, Culturally Responsive Practices Statewide Coordinator, Wisconsin RtI Center*

*Michelle Belnavis, Culturally Responsive Practices Regional Coordinator, Wisconsin RtI Center*

*Paula Fernandez, Culturally Responsive Practices Regional Coordinator, Wisconsin RtI Center*

During this session, presenters from the Wisconsin RtI Center will lead a discussion on promising culturally responsive practices that can be used to address achievement gaps. The presentation will include a discussion of the research base for these practices, practical applications, and strategies specific to a special education context.

Following the presentation, event participants will have an opportunity to engage in facilitated table discussions about the challenges of and strategies to implement culturally responsive practices. Discussion topics will include the types of support and resources needed for teachers to implement culturally responsive practices and the types of classroom practices that allow teachers to be responsive to students' diverse needs.

**12:00–1:00 p.m. Lunch Break and Networking**

*The participant meals will be covered by CESA 1.*

**1:00–1:45 p.m. Session IV: Achievement Gap Research and Resources**

*Kyle Fagan, Researcher, REL Midwest*

*Michelle Same, Ph.D., Researcher, REL Midwest*

*Deb Kerr, Ph.D., Superintendent, Brown Deer School District*

Fagan and Dr. Same will provide an overview of two parallel MAGRA projects: an environmental scan of efforts in Wisconsin to close the Black-White achievement gap and a systematic literature review of policies, programs, and practices that have evidence of effectiveness at closing the Black-White achievement gap. The two projects culminated in a gap analysis to compare the results of the systematic literature review to efforts identified in the environmental scan, highlighting areas of agreement and discrepancy.

Dr. Kerr from Brown Deer School District will respond to the presentation and describe professional experience with connecting research to practice as part of efforts to close achievement gaps in her district.

**1:45–2:45 p.m.**

**Session V: Analysis and Planning Activity**

During this analysis and planning activity, attendees will have the opportunity to reflect on existing work in their districts and classrooms related to culturally responsive practices. Using a graphic organizer created for this event, attendees will take stock of efforts and plans currently under way in the district. Attendees will then identify gaps in efforts as well as specific strategies they plan to implement. During a facilitated sharing time, participants will share out next steps and goals with other participants.

**2:45–3:00 p.m.**

**Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks**

Gavigan from CESA 1 will provide closing remarks and prompt participants to complete the stakeholder feedback survey before leaving the event.