

# Partnering with Education Stakeholders in **Idaho**

REL Northwest's goal is to deepen collaboration and evidence use among educators and policymakers on important educational issues identified by stakeholders across Idaho and the Northwest region. ***Together, we are putting research into action.***

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



### Improving the recruitment and retention of effective educators

With many teachers leaving the profession and a smaller pool of certified candidates entering it, school districts across Idaho are struggling to fill open positions. REL Northwest is partnering with the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE) in the Idaho Educator Pipeline Alliance (IEPA) to examine the nature of the educator shortage and identify evidence-based solutions at both the state and district levels. Specifically, alliance members are examining data from a recent REL Northwest study to understand the recruitment and retention landscape and aligning the work of multiple stakeholders who are trying to address the issue. Additionally, we are working with the Mountain West State Executives Dialogue, through which state education administrator associations—including the Idaho Association of School Administrators—are supporting one another's efforts to create a more effective and equitable educator pipeline.



### Analyzing the equitable distribution of effective educators

REL Northwest is supporting ISDE's efforts to use data and analysis to investigate and address the equitable distribution of effective educators among minority and low-income students. A state-level analysis was completed in 2016 to determine the extent to which minority and low-income students were being taught by new teachers, highly qualified teachers, and out-of-field teachers. REL Northwest is now working with ISDE to conduct district-level analyses and identify next steps.



### Supporting effective science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction

In 2017, the Idaho Legislature passed a bill designed to encourage schools to develop comprehensive STEM learning environments. The new law will provide an opportunity for schools to be designated as sustaining, advancing, or emerging STEM schools. These classifications will serve as indicators for families looking for a school that provides a rigorous, integrated STEM curriculum. REL Northwest is assisting the Idaho STEM Action Center as it establishes criteria for each designation and identifies and creates baseline datasets to use as each school expands STEM programming.



### Increasing evidence use for collective impact

The Treasure Valley Education Partnership (TVEP) is a collective impact initiative involving nine school districts in southern Idaho that work together to improve outcomes along the cradle-to-career



educational continuum. REL Northwest is providing coaching support to TVEP on using research to find and implement effective practices for increasing readiness at both ends of the continuum—from helping families get ready for kindergarten to encouraging middle and high school students to consider postsecondary education.



### **Supporting the state technical assistance team for school improvement**

As part of Idaho's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, ISDE intends to form a state technical assistance team (STAT) to oversee districts' school improvement planning and provide the structure to support low-performing schools. REL Northwest will coach and assist the STAT on using the data collected by schools and districts to inform school improvement processes outlined in ESSA.



### **Scaling up efforts to support Native students' success**

REL Northwest is working across the region to increase awareness of effective strategies and programs for serving American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students. Specifically, we are building on our work with the Education Committee of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) through a partnership known as the Northwest Tribal Educators Alliance. With the long-term goal of using culturally relevant data and evidence to promote academic and community success for Native students, the alliance is expanding its membership to include more leaders in AI/AN education.

#### ***For more information:***



**Marybeth Flachbart**

208-863-0112

Marybeth.Flachbart@educationnorthwest.org



**Jennifer Esswein**

503-275-0651

Jennifer.Esswein@educationnorthwest.org

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