

Partnering with Education Stakeholders in **Oregon**

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

CURRENT ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



Improving equity in high school graduation and postsecondary education success

Oregon's state and local education agencies are committed to working together to build a seamless transition from high school to college and career. REL Northwest is partnering with stakeholders in the Graduation and Postsecondary Success Alliance (OR GPS) to support efforts that increase high school graduation rates and improve postsecondary education access and completion. The alliance focuses on closing equity gaps that affect historically underserved students. Specifically, OR GPS is tackling high school graduation, accelerated learning, cross-sector partnerships, and college access and affordability.



Using data and evidence to support high-quality early childhood education

When it comes to the positive impact of early childhood education on school readiness and long-term academic outcomes, the evidence is clear. Less clear is how to optimize the data collected by multiple early learning systems to make informed improvements for children and their families. On behalf of the Oregon Early Learning Collaborative (OELC), REL Northwest is conducting an inventory of statewide early learning data and planning meetings to build stakeholders' capacity to use data and evidence to inform program decisions. In addition, OELC is working with partners to conduct two studies. One will examine the transition from half-day to full-day kindergarten in Oregon. The other will focus on ways to encourage the early learning workforce to engage in continued professional development and work toward earning a certificate or degree in early childhood education.



Addressing the demand for bilingual teachers

Dual-language programs in Oregon and elsewhere have demonstrated positive impacts for English learner students. However, recruiting highly skilled bilingual teachers to meet the demand for dual-language programs remains a challenge for school districts. In response to this issue, Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Portland State University (PSU) have created a partnership to recruit, develop, and retain bilingual teachers, with an emphasis on bilingual teachers of color. With REL Northwest's facilitation, the Oregon Bilingual Teacher Pipeline Collaborative is building its capacity to use data to better understand its needs and current practices, as well as inform the development of an effective dual-language teacher pipeline program at PSU and PPS.





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.



Increasing equity in school discipline

Through the Equity in School Discipline Collaborative, school districts, state education agencies, community organizations, and institutions of higher education in Washington and Oregon are working together to increase equity in school climate and discipline. The collaborative allows for members to network, as well as share lessons learned on promoting a welcoming and caring school climate for all students. REL Northwest is facilitating the collaborative and supporting the creation of professional development tools to help school and district teams use data and evidence to improve school discipline policies and practices. In addition, REL Northwest is conducting a research study about how Oregon's school discipline legislation (H.R. 2192) is associated with reducing suspensions and expulsions.



Collaborating to improve the region's educator pipeline

Each state in the Northwest faces both unique and common educator pipeline issues, such as preparation, recruitment, equitable distribution, and retention. The Mountain West State Executives Dialogue brings together leaders of professional administrator associations in the region's five states to support their efforts in creating a more effective and equitable educator pipeline. Through a series of in-person and online small-group meetings and coaching sessions, the collaborative is examining data and discussing challenges regarding the regional educator pipeline, and is setting a common research and dissemination agenda.

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This document was prepared under Contract ED-IES-17-C-0009 by Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest, administered by Education Northwest. The content does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IES or the U.S. Department of Education, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.