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Institute of Education Sciences

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REL NORTHWEST
Regional Educational Laboratory

Supporting AK's Literacy Efforts

Literacy is the highest priority of Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development (AK DEED). Attendance at its statewide Science of Reading Symposium (April 29-May 1, 2022) certainly showed that education stakeholders are committed to AK DEED's goals of improving student reading outcomes and cohesively planned science of reading instruction.

Alaska's students performed far below the national average in English Language Arts on the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), as more than 70 percent of students scored below the proficient level at both Grades 4 and 8.

AK DEED requested the support of REL Northwest as it analyzed its reading data to present at the Symposium. REL Northwest staff provided technical support to AK DEED staff members in analyzing student data on literacy and reading from early childhood assessments, PEAKS, NAEP, and a district survey focused on reading practices, curricula, and assessments.

"We were pleased to jump right in with AK DEED's dedicated efforts to improve student reading outcomes," said Katie Drummond, Director of REL Northwest. "The Science of

Reading Symposium provided a valuable opportunity for educators, school and district leaders, school board members, community and tribal leaders, and parents to hear national and local leaders discuss topics about evidence-based approaches to instruction. We are eager to continue working with Alaska partners on the critical equity-focused human-right of reading."

Read the rest on our Website **…**

Condition of Education

The annual report from the Institute of Education Sciences summarizes more than 50 online indicators to present a picture of education in the U.S.

Read the Report

Introducing the REL Northwest Governing Board

The REL Northwest Governing Board provides strategic guidance on REL Northwest work to maximize local effectiveness and leverages its regional networks to amplify and disseminate REL products. REL Northwest conducted its first Governing Board meeting in May. We are pleased to introduce our Governing Board:

Alaska

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Vanessa Hiratsuka, Co-Director of Research and Evaluation, University of Alaska Anchorage
Lisa Parady, Executive Director, Alaska Council of School Administrators

Idaho

Joel Wilson, Deputy Superintendent, Idaho State Department of Education
Nichole Cruser, Principal, West Elementary School (Mountain Home)

Montana

Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Montana, Office of Public Instruction
Jayne Downey, Associate Dean, Educator Preparation Director, Center for Research of Rural Education, Montana State University

Oregon

Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Education
Kali Thorne Ladd, Executive Director, Children's Institute
April Campbell, Director, Office of Indian Education, Oregon Department of Education

Washington
Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent, WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Brian Jeffries, Policy Director, Partnership for Learning/Washington Roundtable
Min Sun, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations, Leadership & Policy, University of Washington

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REL Northwest leadership met this month in Portland, Ore., to discuss our upcoming work.

Recommended REL Reads

REL Mid-Atlantic: It's not just academic—social and emotional stress from the pandemic is taking its toll on students, families, teachers, and leaders

REL Midwest: Introducing the Data-Informed Leadership for Equity Partnership: Using data to improve student sense of belonging

REL Appalachia: Practical Resources to Support Early Learners' Transitions to School

REL Northwest: Who We Are and What We Do, How We Approach Our Work and Our Guiding Principles

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