



# REL Pacific Newsletter

March 2024, vol. 9



## From the Director

Dear Colleagues,

Happy spring! As we welcome this new season and school systems across the region approach a much-deserved spring break, REL Pacific would like to acknowledge all of the hard work, long teaching days, and dedicated educator efforts that brought all students to this point.

We recognize that at this time of year, teachers, school leaders, and administrators are focused on preparing for annual standardized assessments. As your teams begin planning for summer professional learning activities, REL Pacific staff are here to support you in the ways that we can—for example, through professional thought partnering in your initiatives or through training and coaching support. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

REL Pacific would like to extend a warm welcome to four education leaders in the Pacific region, who will join the REL Pacific family as new governing board members. We are excited to work with the following educators in their leadership roles:

- Minister Joe Bejang, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) minister of Education, Sports, & Training.
- Mr. Junior Paul, RMI acting commissioner of the RMI Public School System.
- Dr. Lawrence Camacho, commissioner of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public School System.
- Dr. LJ Rayphand, Caroline College and Pastoral Institute (Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia) dean of Outreach Education.

Speaking of the REL Pacific family, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of several education leaders across the Pacific—many of whom were dear

friends and colleagues who shared our passion for supporting students and teachers and promoting culturally sustaining education for all. Our sincere condolences and heartfelt thoughts go to the families and education communities across the region.

Additionally, we'd like to take this opportunity to provide updates on our applied research studies and toolkit:

- *CNMI Identifying Core Components of Interventions for English Learner Students Study*: The study team is in the final stages of completing an evidence and gap map, which is a visual display of the existing research evidence on interventions in a specific area of interest—in this case, outcomes related to literacy.
- *CNMI Tier 2 Interventions Descriptive Study*: Our proposal for this study was approved by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences (IES) in January, and the study team is collecting data in CNMI this month.
- *Examining Math High School Course-Taking Patterns in Guam*: Our proposal for this study was recently approved by IES, and we are currently securing data-sharing agreements with the Guam Department of Education, University of Guam, and Guam Community College.
- *Palau Teaching Pathways Study*: We are currently developing an infographic to provide Palau Community College and the Ministry of Education with practitioner-friendly, actionable study results, which will be accompanied by an evidence memo describing the methodology, technical details, and results.
- *Secondary Writing Toolkit*: We have completed usability testing on the toolkit and submitted materials to IES for its first phase of review. We've also initiated [recruitment efforts](#) with the Hawai'i Department of Education for an evaluation study of the toolkit, and we've begun developing our toolkit webpages. We also recently published an [infographic that gives an overview of the toolkit and the teacher practice guide it supports](#).

Finally, we hope you will consider joining us for an hour-long webinar, [Strategies for Gaining Insight Into Teacher Well-Being: A Webinar Workshop for School and Change Leaders \(Part 2\)](#) on March 12 at 12:00 p.m. HST. This webinar was developed with Palau and American Samoa partnership members in mind, but all district and school leaders are welcome. Please see below for more information on the webinar and access to the recording of Part 1. We hope to see you at the Part 2 webinar!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or requests for assistance at [relpacific@mcrel.org](mailto:relpacific@mcrel.org).

Best regards,  
Christina Tydeman  
REL Pacific director

# Upcoming Webinar

## Strategies for Gaining Insight Into Teacher Well-Being: A Webinar Workshop for School and Change Leaders

**Part 2 of the Series: Levels of Use**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 12:00–1:00 p.m. HST**

Join REL Pacific for an [interactive webinar for school and change leaders](#) on growing teacher professional practice and well-being. Drawing from the Concerns-Based Adoption Model, this free webinar series introduces practitioner-friendly tools school leaders can use for collecting and acting on informal data about their teachers' self-described feelings and behaviors.

### Format of This Two-Part Webinar Series

Focus on continuous school improvement and teacher well-being.

- Part 1: Teacher thoughts and feelings about improvement efforts.
- Part 2: Teacher implementation and use of programs, practices, and innovations.



REL Pacific Infographic: *How to Grow Teacher Well-Being in Your Schools* (2020)

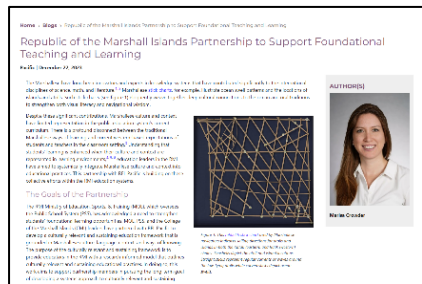


Part 1, which focused on “Stages of Concern,” was held on February 13. The recording and materials will be posted [here](#).

**Register Now!**

## Partnership Overviews and Updates

### Republic of the Marshall Islands Partnership to Support Foundational Teaching and Learning



[This blog post](#) introducing the RMI Partnership to Support Foundational Teaching and Learning explores RMI innovation, discusses the goals of the partnership, and details training, coaching, and technical support projects.

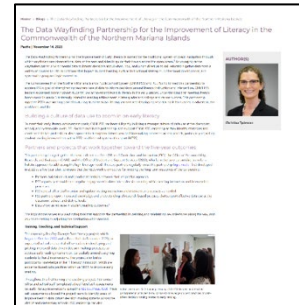
The [RMI partnership](#) includes key leaders from the Ministry of Education (MOE), Public School System (PSS), and College of the Marshall Islands (CMI). The partnership aims to deepen MOE, PSS, and CMI knowledge and

capacity to design and eventually implement a culturally relevant and sustaining Marshallese education framework that encourages student engagement and school connectedness, which supports student learning and performance. The partnership will also develop ways to support the sustainability and scalability of the framework.

## The Data Wayfinding Partnership for the Improvement of Literacy in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

This [blog post](#) gives an overview of the CNMI Data Wayfinding Partnership for the Improvement of Literacy.

The [partnership](#) includes key leaders from CNMI PSS and aims to improve a culture of data use by engaging leaders in building teachers' skills and knowledge to strengthen student support systems, and promoting broad and deep engagement of stakeholders in efforts to advance student achievement.



## Infographic Teaching Secondary Students to Write Effectively: Practice Guide and Toolkit Overview

This [infographic](#) provides an overview of the What Works Clearinghouse's *Teaching Secondary Students to Write Effectively* practice guide and the associated Secondary Writing Toolkit being developed by REL Pacific. The toolkit will provide educators with practical resources and activities for understanding and advancing their instructional practices. REL Pacific is entering the evaluation study phase of the toolkit development.

If you are in Hawai'i and are interested in having your classroom or school join the toolkit evaluation study, please let us know!



[Download the PDF](#)

[Join the toolkit study!](#)

## Meet Our Staff



**Diana Hirabayashi**  
 As a communications manager, Diana contributes to the design and development of our newsletters, blog posts, and infographics, as well as presentations, webinars, and other events to meet client and stakeholder needs. She also provides editorial support for REL Pacific staff, reviewing and copyediting training material, research briefs, articles, and reports.

### **Kanoa Ishihara**

As an administrative specialist, Kanoa provides logistical planning and digital support for various REL Pacific projects. Using his expertise in a variety of content creation platforms, Kanoa assists with the design and delivery of multiple products. Kanoa also supports our quality control processes.



### **Rochelle Rojas**

Rochelle serves as an administrative specialist and supports our management, reporting, coordination, and collaboration. She helps maintain our project schedules, coordinates meetings and travel, and assists with the Honolulu office responsibilities. Rochelle also promotes communication among our internal and external stakeholders using various collaborative tools and software.

## Resources of Note from the U.S. Department of Education

### **New School Pulse Panel Data for Three Pacific Jurisdictions**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has released updated [School Pulse Panel](#) data from American Samoa, CNMI, and Guam. The October 2023 datasets include information about student learning gaps/recovery, staff vacancies, and prevalence/types of tutoring available for students. To find the data, scroll to the bottom of the [linked page](#), and look for the “Outlying Area Public Schools” section.

### **What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Intervention Report**

In its latest [intervention report](#), the WWC provides an evidence snapshot of [Building Blocks](#), a math curriculum that aims to develop preschool children’s knowledge of math. The WWC found Tier 2 moderate evidence that Building Blocks improves math achievement.

### **Overview of State Education Reform Activities**


NCES has issued updated information on state-level elementary and secondary education reform efforts. The [State Education Practices](#) website compiles information and data on programs and policies that states are enacting to support reform efforts in eight topic areas: enrollment and attendance policy, school choice, high school completion, early childhood and kindergarten, accountability, staff qualifications, state assessments, and subject-specific policy.

### **2024 National Educational Technology Plan**

The U.S. Department of Education released the [2024 National Educational Technology Plan \(NETP\): A Call to Action for Closing the Digital Access, Design and Use Divides](#). While previous NETPs have served as surveys of the state of the field, [this 2024 NETP](#) frames these three key divides as limiting the transformational potential of educational technology to support teaching and learning.

## REL Pacific Resources






The REL Pacific blog shares stories and highlights from our partnership work in the region.

**Blog**



REL Pacific's peer-reviewed applied research studies showcase original work with education system partners.

**Research**




REL Pacific resource publications include infographics, fact sheets, videos, and more.

**Resources**



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