

## Regional Educational Laboratories and Regional Comprehensive Centers: Addressing high priority needs at the state and local level





The U.S. Department of Education's Regional Educational Laboratory and Comprehensive Center programs collaborate to meet their shared mission of improving student outcomes by helping educators and decisionmakers apply research evidence to policy and practice.



### Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs)

RELs work in intensive partnerships with practitioners and policymakers. Together, they design, develop, and carry out activities that use data and evidence to achieve meaningful improvements in student outcomes. The REL program is administered by the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education.





#### Building, sharing, and promoting evidence-based practice and informing policy by:

-  Delivering customized training, coaching, and technical support to build capacity for applying evidence to practice.
-  Conducting rigorous applied research in response to local and regional priorities.
-  Providing engaging and interactive thought partnering opportunities to consider how research evidence might inform policy or practice.
-  Developing toolkits to help educators use recommendations from [What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guides](#) in the classroom.

### Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs)

The RCCs partner with state education agencies (SEAs) to provide high-impact, customized, and responsive support to increase student achievement. The National Comprehensive Center develops and delivers high quality universal capacity-building products and services addressing pressing national education needs and challenges. The Regional and National Centers are administered by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

#### Supporting implementation and policy by:

-  Strengthening SEA effectiveness to plan and implement large-scale reforms.
-  Increasing SEA capacity to assist districts and schools in meeting achievement goals. This includes partnering to deliver services to local education agencies (LEAs) by sharing lessons learned from rigorous research by the RELs and others.
-  Providing in-depth knowledge and expertise through vetted resources and opportunities to connect with experts and colleagues across the country.
-  Supporting states to implement their Consolidated State Plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

# Contacting Your REL or RCC

Your REL and RCC partner to support your state’s educators, communities, and policymakers. To connect with your REL or RCC:

- Visit the REL website at <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/> and click on your state. Scroll to “Connect” at the bottom of the page.
- Visit the Comprehensive Center Network website at <https://compcenternetwork.org/meet-centers> and click on your state to find contact information and projects.

## Engaging State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

RELs and RCCs focus on regional, state, and local needs. To do so, they conduct on-going needs assessments with SEA and LEA leaders and staff, some of whom serve on advisory boards. These education leaders play a critical role by sharing their knowledge and perspective with RELs and RCCs, ensuring they both address high priority needs.



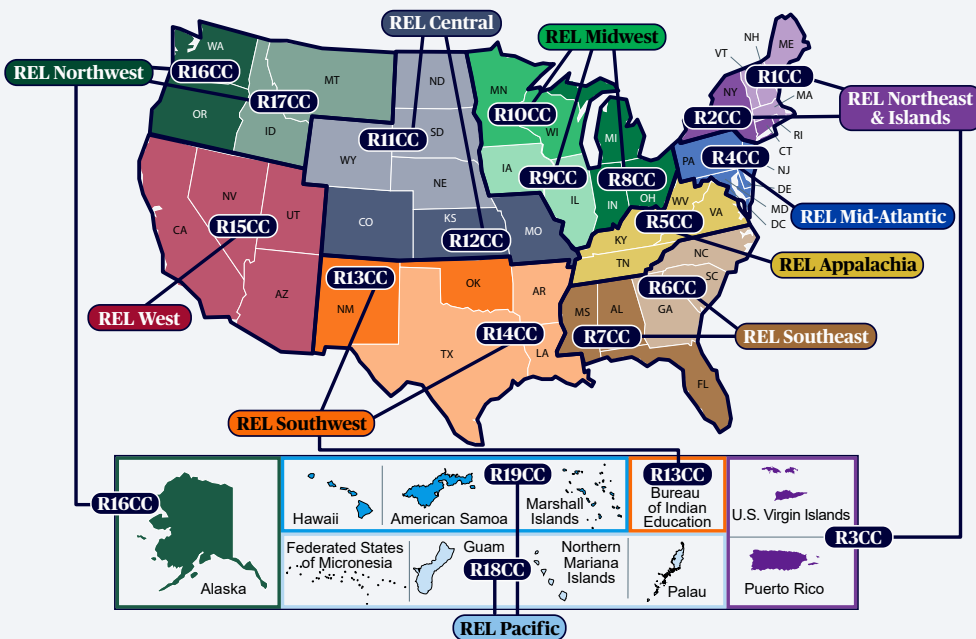
**Each state’s chief state school officer**, or designee, serves on the Governing Board for their REL. Educators and policymakers from early childhood through postsecondary education, including SEA staff members, district superintendents, building principals, and classroom educators, also partner with RELs to use data and evidence to improve education.



**Each RCC** establishes an advisory board of a broad range of partners. The board includes each state’s chief state school officer, or designee, as well as representatives of local and regional educational agencies, institutions of higher education, parents, educators, principals, administrators, business owners, policymakers, expert practitioners, and researchers.

## Engaging institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, and other state and local agencies

RELs address policy and practice issues that span pre-school through adult education, including postsecondary learning. RCCs focus on preschool through grade 12 education. Colleges and universities, state and local education agencies, and education-related organizations in communities can collaborate with us by joining partnerships and workgroups, supporting or participating in professional development activities, and sharing the work of RELs and RCCs with their colleagues and communities.



REL Region	RCC Region/ States Served
Northeast & Islands	Region 1: MA, ME, NH, VT
	Region 2: CT, NY, RI
	Region 3: PR, U.S. VI
Mid-Atlantic	Region 4: DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA
Appalachia	Region 5: KY, TN, VA, WV
Southeast	Region 6: GA, NC, SC
	Region 7: AL, FL, MS
Midwest	Region 8: IN, MI, OH
	Region 9: IL, IA
	Region 10: MN, WI
Central	Region 11: NE, ND, SD, WY
	Region 12: CO, KS, MO
Southwest	Region 13: Bureau of Indian Education,* NM, OK
	Region 14: AR, LA, TX
West	Region 15: AZ, CA, NV, UT
Northwest	Region 16: AK, OR, WA
	Region 17: ID, MT
Pacific	Region 18: Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Palau
	Region 19: American Samoa, Hawaii, Marshall Islands

\*BIE schools are served by RCC 13 and the REL covering the region in which they are located.