



Regional Educational Laboratory West

WestEd's Regional Educational Laboratory West (REL West), serving Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah, is part of a national network of 10 RELs funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences whose mission is to provide research, analytic support, and resources that increase the use of high-quality data and evidence in education decision-making.

WestEd has served as the regional educational laboratory for the four-state western region since inception of the national system in 1966, and recently won the contract to continue this important work over the next five years, 2012-2017.*

How We Do Our Work

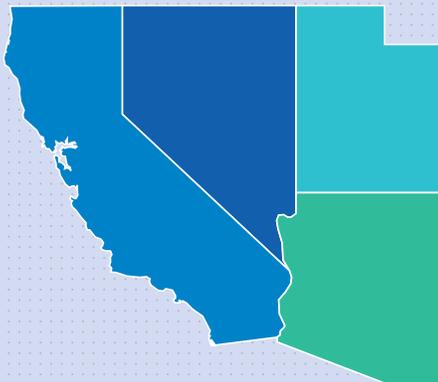
Most REL work is carried out in partnership with educators – from state and local decision-makers to district and school support providers and practitioners – through REL West's eight regional research alliances. Alliances consist of multiple stakeholders, from schools and districts to states and other support partners. REL West's role is to provide coordination, research, and analytic support.

Regional Priorities

Each REL West research alliance addresses one or more of four priorities that are critical to the region's education improvement efforts. These priorities reflect an ongoing and continuous needs assessment conducted to ensure that our work is meeting our constituents' needs to:

- Increase college and career readiness and success
- Strengthen educator effectiveness
- Accelerate achievement among English learners
- Enhance school climate and student achievement in low-performing schools

Ask a REL



Ask a REL is a service provided by the Regional Educational Laboratories (REL) program and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences (IES). Educators, researchers, policymakers, and others may submit their education-focused questions or requests through the Ask a REL website and instantly connect with the REL in their region. REL West provides referrals, reports, references, and regionally specific educational information in response.

Ask a REL is accessible at
<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/askarel/index.asp>

Contact Us: website: <http://relwest.WestEd.org> email: relwest@WestEd.org phone: 866.853.1831

*The RELs are authorized under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Part D, Section 174 [20 U.S.C. 9564].

REL West Research Alliances

Members actively contribute to defining each alliance's learning agenda, and commit to participating in meetings, accessing and preparing data, and conducting analyses. They prioritize a small number of projects designed to advance their learning agenda each year, with REL West providing:

- Reviews of research and descriptions of potential improvement strategies;
- Events that facilitate exchange of ideas and research-based knowledge;
- Inventories of data and consultation on developing longitudinal data systems;
- Workshops on analytic methods, such as use of longitudinal data or growth measures;
- Technical assistance on design and analysis of evaluations;
- Descriptive and analytic research studies, especially those mining existing data;
- Coordination of networked improvement inquiry, including protocols, data analysis, and reporting; and
- Support to incorporate data-based practices into regular decision-making.

The collective result, both for individual alliances and other interested stakeholders in the region as a whole, will be a growing body of knowledge in the four priority areas, an expanding set of tools and processes to support action, and enhanced capacity to work effectively to bring about and sustain change.

California Office to Reform Education (CORE) Alliance

Goal: Collaborate across districts so that all students will be college and career ready. **Membership:** Eight school districts, CORE staff, American Institutes for Research (AIR), California Education Partners.

Community College Alliance on Career and Technical Education

Goal: Support students' career aspirations through basic skills development and technical training while in college that improves students' placement in local labor markets. **Membership:** California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Career Advancement Academies, Career Ladders Project, selected California community colleges.

Dropout Prevention Alliance for Utah Students with Disabilities

Goal: Decrease the dropout rate for students with disabilities and prepare them to successfully transition to postsecondary education or workforce training. **Membership:** Utah State Office of Education, National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, selected Utah school districts, Utah support and service agencies.

Educator Effectiveness Alliance

Goal: Staff every classroom with an effective teacher and ensure that teachers and leaders become more effective over time. **Membership:** Arizona and Nevada Departments of Education, Utah State Office of Education, Southwest Comprehensive Center, selected teacher union representatives, district administrators, state and district research staff, policymakers.

English Learner Alliance

Goal: Significantly increase student achievement and college and career readiness for English learner (EL) students through better targeting of EL support programs as key to strengthening school improvement efforts. **Membership:** Arizona Department of Education, Nevada Department of Education, Utah State Office of Education.

Middle Grades School Climate Alliance

Goal: Learn how to improve school climate in middle schools, and facilitate the systematic use of data-based inquiry practices at the school and district levels to strengthen efforts to improve school climate. **Membership:** School- and district-level teams in Arizona and California, Arizona and California Departments of Education, Alliance for the Study of School Climate, researchers from California State University, University of California at Santa Barbara, and University of California at Los Angeles.

Nevada Education Alliance

Goal: Improve students' opportunities to graduate on time and to be prepared for postsecondary education when they graduate. **Membership:** Three collaborative work groups: (1) Southern–Clark County School District and county institutions of higher education (IHEs), (2) Northern–Washoe County School District and county IHEs, (3) Rural–15 remaining Nevada school districts and rural IHEs.

Silicon Valley Research Alliance

Goal: Prepare students for college eligibility by ensuring adequate preparation in math, beginning in the middle grades and continuing through high school, as measured by student achievement results in targeted grade levels. **Membership:** Nine school districts located in Silicon Valley, California; Silicon Valley Education Foundation; ALearn; Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley; MDRC; university faculty.