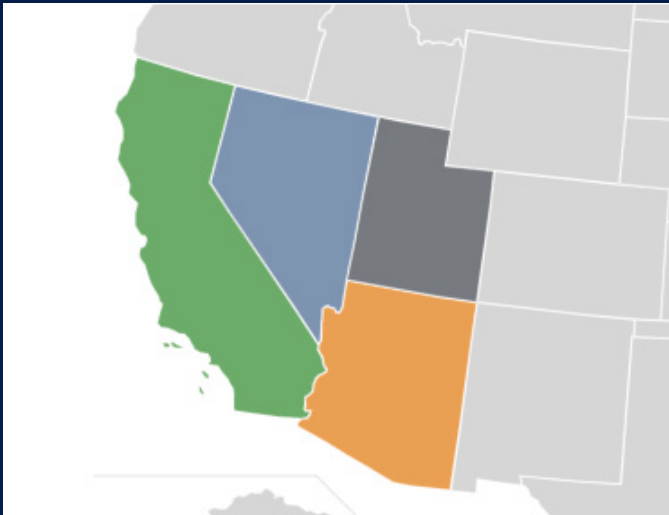


# Regional Educational Laboratory West

## Improving outcomes for students and educators

### Our mission

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) West helps bridge education research and practice. We partner with educators and state and local leaders in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah to build their capacity to make evidence-informed changes that improve student outcomes.



Our partners include:

- State education agencies
- County offices of education
- Regional development agencies
- School districts and charter organizations
- Institutions of higher education
- Student, family, and community organizations

### Our approach

We collaborate closely with regional partners who are poised to make improvements in their education systems. We help them address their high-leverage needs using our knowledge of the evidence, while taking into consideration local education contexts.

REL West collaborates with partners to:

- Provide insights and solutions through training, coaching, and technical support
- Conduct research to address problems of practice and policy
- Develop evidence-based resources and tools
- Disseminate guidance on research-based policies and practices

REL West is one of 10 regional educational laboratories funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education. REL West is administered by WestEd, a nonprofit research, development, and service agency.

Our REL West team includes researchers, technical assistance providers, content experts, and strategic communicators with expertise in supporting partners to enact positive changes.

## Current partnership spotlights

REL West is partnering with a school district in California to identify, test, and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce discipline disparities and establish the conditions for Black students to learn and succeed.

The work includes:

- conducting rigorous research on interventions, such as empathic discipline practices and strategies that address student mindsets, and
- engaging in continuous improvement processes to implement, test, and refine evidence-based policies and practices.

REL West is partnering with a school district in Nevada to strengthen the use of evidence-based tiered interventions in a multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) framework to reduce chronic absence.

The work includes:

- developing an action plan and conducting ongoing data analysis to monitor progress and
- conducting research on evidence-based chronic absence interventions.

## What our partners are saying

“[REL West] truly listened to the needs [and] interests of our agency and utilized a ‘strengths-based’ approach to design activities.”

“Our REL West collaborators continually asked the questions necessary to improve understanding, articulate findings, and provide actionable resources.”

“[REL West] provided detailed data and best-practice information so we could invest our limited resources in the most effective way.”

## Highlights of past partnership work

In our previous cycle of work, REL West:

- **Improved education and health outcomes** of preK-elementary students in California
- **Strengthened cross-sector college and career planning** using student data in California and Arizona
- **Increased the effective use of early warning indicators** as students transitioned from middle to high school in Nevada
- **Improved literacy instruction** by coaching teams to engage in teacher inquiry in Arizona and Nevada
- **Increased understanding of school readiness** related to income, ethnicity, and English learner status in Utah



## Leadership area: Supporting multilingual, bilingual, and heritage language students

---

REL West provides leadership across the 10 regional educational laboratories to support multilingual, bilingual, and heritage language (MBH) students.

In this capacity, REL West:

- Takes an **asset-oriented approach** to supporting multilingual, bilingual, and heritage language students
- Supports **educators' use of high-quality research and evidence-based strategies** to improve MBH language students' achievement
- Establishes a **framework for using research when working with states, districts, and schools** to inform programmatic and policy decisions to improve learning environments for MBH language students and draw on their strengths
- Supports stakeholders' use of high-quality **research, data, and evidence** to improve outcomes for MBH language students

## Teacher and Parent Support

REL West also provides free resources for teacher and parent support of English learner students, including:

- Downloadable tools
- Practice-focused videos
- Guidance for facilitators and coaches



## Resources to put evidence-based practice into action

---

REL West develops tools and resources to support teachers, administrators, and practitioners at all levels of the system. Here are a few examples of our work:

### English learners

- Connecting Classroom Instruction to Activities at Home: Family and Caregiver Activities [[resource collection](#)]

### Early learning

- Joyful Reading, Writing, and Creative Expression With Young Children [[video collection](#)]

### Evidence use in education

- Use and review of evidence in education [infographic collection: [Reviewing a Research Study](#), [Effect Size Basics](#), [Creating Effective Surveys](#)]

### Reducing chronic absence

- Promoting attendance [[video collection](#)]

### Increasing equity

- Supporting students' academic mindsets [infographics: [Academic Mindsets and Behaviors](#), [Self-Affirmation Activities](#)]

### Postsecondary pathways

- Moving from local to regional data-driven decisionmaking [video: [Rural Career Pathways Collaboratives](#)]

### Supporting teachers and leaders

- Facilitating Improvement Professional Learning Modules [[video collection](#)]
- Supporting Principals: What do the experts say? [[video collection](#)]


---


## Contact us

 [@REL\\_West](#)

 [RELWest@WestEd.org](mailto:RELWest@WestEd.org)

 <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/region/west>

 Dr. John Rice, REL West Director  
[jrice@wested.org](mailto:jrice@wested.org)

 Dr. Lenay Dunn, REL West Deputy Director  
[ldunn@wested.org](mailto:ldunn@wested.org)