

Our Regional Initiatives

October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014

Regional-01: Building Capacity in Rural Districts to Implement Reform

All four state education agencies (SEAs) in the ARCC have noted their concern about rural local educational agency (LEA) capacity to implement new reforms, particularly in view of their smaller budgets and staffing. ARCC technical assistance is designed to introduce SEAs to strategies to help LEAs increase their local capacity to undertake reform. ARCC will facilitate Rural Working Group planning meetings to select at least one strategy per state for building LEA capacity for reform. ARCC will also help SEA staff determine how to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies, advise SEA staff throughout implementation, and facilitate their review of evaluation findings and planning of refinements.

Regional-02: Building SEA Meta Capacity to Implement LEA and School Reform

All four states in the Appalachia region continue to have persistently low-performing schools and districts, and state education agency (SEA) executives need to guide, monitor, and administer district and school improvement reforms. ARCC will provide a variety of technical assistance to help SEA executive team members improve their knowledge of techniques and strategies for supporting LEAs and schools implementing improvement reforms. The ARCC will offer on-site seminars, a one-day customized workshop, and an annual regional seminar on multiple capacity dimensions for state executive teams, as well as individual coaching and mentoring for interested SEA executive team members. ARCC will design and conduct targeted and customized technical assistance sessions on leadership; data management, trend analysis, and data-driven decisions; building collaboration, networking, and resource management capacity.

Regional-03: Building Multistate SEA Capacity to Implement Reform

All four state education agencies indicated interest in collaborating across the region to identify performance exemplars and implement best practices in the key priority reform areas. The ARCC will plan and offer a variety of services to SEAs:

- The Idea Forum, to include four webinars on emerging issues of interest to the ARCC states, involving authors and researchers, ARCC staff, and SEA staff members in the presentations
- The Professional Development Series of webinars or web conferences for SEA staff members on capacity building technical assistance
- At least one regional cross-network virtual or on-site work session for SEA staff members on information, skills, structures, or processes needed to implement improvement reforms
- Capacity building benchmarking assessments for each state education agency
- State and regional benchmarking consultations on improvement strategies and processes for state education agencies

- The ARCC (Re)Design Team to provide customized consultation and assistance to SEA staff members who wish to redesign organizational functions and processes for capacity building
- State and regional executive coaching sessions for SEA executive teams that are working on expanding and refining leadership capacities
- State and regional instructional consultation for SEAs interested in guiding district and school improvement teams

Lastly, ARCC will continue to strengthen the services provided to states by training ARCC technical assistance staff and state coordinators on advanced capacities and process skills.