

## Competency-Based Education Pilot

The Midwest Comprehensive Center (MWCC) is continuing its collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on a pilot program to explore competency-based education (CBE). Since 2016–17, MWCC support has included trainings, site coaching, book studies, guidance on developing learner competencies, and implementation plan templates.

### What are we doing?

- Developing and providing pilot sites with training, guidance, tools, and opportunities for networking
- Building expertise and leadership capacity of experienced pilot sites so that they can serve as statewide CBE resources
- Refining implementation, data collection, and evaluation plans

### Expected outcomes

- Pilot sites have increased knowledge and skills to implement their local CBE initiatives successfully.
- ISBE staff report improved availability of statewide resources for new pilots and other districts and better understanding of implementation progress.
- ISBE staff have increased clarity regarding roles and increased capacity to sustain the CBE pilot in the future.

## Teacher Retention in Chicago Public Schools

MWCC is working with the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Talent Office on differentiated professional learning to improve teacher retention in a cohort of 50+ hard-to-staff Opportunity Schools. The support model is designed to fill gaps that CPS noted through a review of school- and cohort-level teaching conditions data.

### What are we doing?

- Offering an informational webinar and survey on teaching conditions
- Facilitating collaborative data interpretation
- Providing in-person coaching on learning conditions and school climate with schools' leadership teams
- Facilitating a community of practice for teacher mentors

### Expected outcomes

- CPS and school leaders have an improved understanding of local barriers to teacher retention and a differentiated support model that can be used in the future.
- Participating schools increasingly use data in decisions.
- Mentors have a greater capacity to support new teachers.

## Addressing Discipline Disproportionalities

In October 2018, ISBE identified districts with high suspension and expulsion rates and racial disproportionalities in these rates. Districts on this list will now create a board-approved plan to address the disproportionality. MWCC is collaborating with ISBE to support the identified districts.

### What are we doing?

- Codesigning and implementing a conference presentation, webinar series, and virtual peer-to-peer learning network to deepen understanding of disproportionality and how to address this issue
- Analyzing and providing feedback on select district action plans
- Submitting an Ask A Regional Educational Laboratory request for a list of evidence-based practices that state and local education agencies can consider
- Providing thought partnership on enhancing the mechanisms for sharing discipline data and determining the role of equity in addressing disproportionality

### Expected outcomes

- ISBE distributes to districts a suite of resources designed to address discipline disproportionalities.
- District staff participating in the peer network report improved access to resources and support to address discipline disproportionalities in their district.