



MIDWEST Comprehensive Center

at American Institutes for Research ■

Illinois



Stakeholder Engagement—MWCC provides expertise in bringing together internal and external stakeholders to give input on the design and implementation of policies. MWCC has extensive experience with facilitating groups to achieve desired outcomes and synthesizing stakeholder input into clear and actionable recommendations. MWCC has helped state education agencies convene task forces, advisory groups, and cross-division teams in a number of content areas.



Research and Content Expertise—MWCC offers expertise in identifying and compiling relevant data and information, as well as in translating complex information into accessible resources. MWCC's extensive experience with applying evidence and research to inform decision making and deep content knowledge allow MWCC to provide strategic guidance in the development of initiatives.



Implementation and Sustainability—MWCC supports initiative or policy implementation through the development of a course of action. MWCC has extensive experience with leading processes to help state education agencies, districts, and schools achieve specific tasks and outcomes outlined in the course of action, assess progress, and document lessons learned to inform sustainability. MWCC provides support in developing guidance, trainings, tools, and other resources that are key to the successful implementation and sustainability of initiatives.

Year 7 (October 2018–September 2019) Projects

INTENSIVE PROJECT 1 | Competency-Based Education Pilot

Goal | To collaborate with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on a pilot program to explore competency-based education.

Activities | MWCC is providing pilot sites with training, guidance, tools, and opportunities for networking. In addition, MWCC is building expertise and leadership capacity of experienced pilot sites, and refining implementation, data collection, and evaluation plans.

INTENSIVE PROJECT 2 | Teacher Retention in Chicago Public Schools

Goal | To work with the Chicago Public Schools Talent Office on differentiated professional learning to improve teacher retention in a cohort of 50+ hard-to-staff Opportunity Schools.

Activities | MWCC is offering an informational webinar and survey on teaching conditions, facilitating collaborative data interpretation, providing in-person coaching on learning conditions and school climate, and facilitating a community of practice for teacher mentors.

INTENSIVE PROJECT 3 | Addressing Discipline Disproportionalities

Goal | To collaborate with ISBE to support identified districts with high suspension and expulsion rates and racial disproportionalities in these rates.

Activities | MWCC is codesigning and implementing a conference presentation, webinar series, and virtual peer-to-peer learning network; 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; and providing thought partnership on enhancing the mechanisms for sharing discipline data and determining the role of equity in addressing disproportionality.

FAST RESPONSE PROJECT 1 | Stakeholder Engagement

Goal | To help ISBE engage stakeholders to shape the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) fine arts indicator measure.

Activities | MWCC is engaging in meetings with ISBE staff to serve as a thought partner and cofacilitator of the ESSA fine arts indicator workshop, and is modeling meeting facilitation and stakeholder feedback approaches that ISBE can recreate in future stakeholder engagement activities.

REGIONAL PROJECT 1 | Civic Performance Assessment Item Bank

Goal | To collaborate with the Center on Standards & Assessment Implementation and the McCormick Foundation to support the Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin SEAs in creating a performance-based assessment item bank for teachers.

Activities | MWCC is providing thought partnership and content expertise, and participating in cross-state meetings focused on creating and implementing a strategic plan for the database.

REGIONAL PROJECT 2 | Cross-State Competency-Based Education Conversation Series

Goal | To lead a community of practice for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio staff to share competency-based education (CBE) strategies and promising practices to better prepare students for postsecondary success.

Activities | MWCC is providing coaching and CBE implementation approaches, convening and facilitating cross-state meetings and events, acting as a liaison to national CBE experts, curating and synthesizing CBE research and resources, and facilitating action projects—such as identifying microcredential learning opportunities.

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