



MIDWEST Comprehensive Center

at American Institutes for Research ■

Wisconsin

The **Midwest Comprehensive Center** (MWCC), funded through a U.S. Department of Education grant, provides technical assistance to the state education agencies of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. MWCC services focus on building capacity and providing support to state education agencies, districts, and schools to improve student outcomes. MWCC provides support across a number of areas, including school improvement, educator development and effectiveness, college and career readiness, and standards and assessments. MWCC brings experience in engaging stakeholders in policy design and implementation, providing research and content expertise to inform initiatives, and planning for high-quality implementation and sustainability.



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 | Educator Career Pathways

Goal | To provide thought partnership and content expertise to support DPI's PK–16 regional councils, which allow multiple school districts to work with local educator preparation programs.

Activities | MWCC is working with DPI to codevelop a process for supporting the development of regional councils, facilitating a pilot regional council to provide a model, and codeveloping a plan for scaling up to seven regional councils across the state.

INTENSIVE PROJECT 2 | Social-Emotional Learning and Online Student Safety

Goal | To provide thought partnership and content expertise as DPI and partners create a common knowledge base on the intersection of social-emotional learning (SEL), school safety, and digital learning.

Activities | MWCC is providing the research base through a literature review, helping DPI develop deeper knowledge of student views through focus groups, and expanding DPI's resources and programming, such as train-the-trainer modules and infographics.

FAST RESPONSE PROJECT 1 | Teaching Culturally: Aligning Resources With Evidence

Goal | To increase and improve culturally responsive practices and to have a better understanding of how leaders and educators in Wisconsin use available resources to enact school-level practices that are culturally inclusive, respectful, and responsive to better meet the needs of American Indian/Native American students.

Activities | MWCC is collecting stakeholder input on how available resources and supports are utilized and is cocreating an outline of research-based practices, available resources, and identified needs and gaps.

FAST RESPONSE PROJECT 2 | Developing Teacher Leadership and Voice

Goal | To provide support to DPI staff as they explore the training, tools, support, and exemplars teachers need to maximize their impact beyond the classroom.

Activities | MWCC is helping DPI determine what guidance and resources already exist that give teachers some direction about how to develop as a teacher leader and is supporting DPI in creating a model of teacher leadership to help teachers grow as empowered leaders.

REGIONAL PROJECT 1 | Civics Performance Assessment Item Bank

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

Activities | MWCC is providing thought partnership and content expertise to support SEA participants to identify and vet civic performance assessments. MWCC is participating in cross-state meetings focused on creating and implementing a strategic plan for the database.

REGIONAL PROJECT 2 | Social-Emotional Learning

Goal | To support SEAs in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin as they develop SEL tools and resources and to engage with districts around SEL implementation.

Activities | MWCC is codeveloping SEL tools and resources with SEAs, pilot testing the tools and resources, and providing thought partnership and content expertise on resource creation and collection of feedback.

REGIONAL PROJECT 3 | American Indian Education Community of Practice

Goal | To lead the State Education Agency American Indian Education Community of Practice and participants in discussions of current work and best practices in four areas: language and culture, academic achievement, educator recruitment and retention, and youth development and wellness.

Activities | MWCC is facilitating regular conversations and professional development activities among the community of practice participants, building political capacity through work with key stakeholders and organizations, and developing a mentorship program for new participants.

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