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ABSTRACT

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program is the U.S. Department of Education's largest research and development investment designed to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools and help all students attain their full potential. Administered by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), the network of 10 regional laboratories works to ensure that those involved in educational improvement have access to the best available research and knowledge from practice. Each Regional Laboratory is guided by a governing board that represents constituents in its region. Under the guidance of their boards, the Laboratories work to provide information and technical assistance with research-based programs. In addition to promoting access to information, the Regional Educational Laboratories help create communities of learners and cooperate with other technical assistance providers funded by the Department of Education. Each Laboratory has a specialty area of research focus. A listing for each of the following laboratories includes address, director, OERI contact, states served, and specialty area: (1) Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University; (2) Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success; (3) Appalachia Educational Laboratory; (4) Southeastern Regional Vision for Education; (5) North Central Regional Educational Laboratory; (6) Southwest Educational Development Laboratory; (7) Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory; (8) WestEd; (9) Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory; and (10) Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. (SLD)

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# The Regional Educational Laboratories

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1997-1998



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2



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

# **The Regional Educational Laboratories**

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement**

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June 1998

# What Is the Regional Educational Laboratory Program?

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The Regional Educational Laboratory Program (the “Lab Program”) is the U.S. Department of Education’s largest research and development investment designed to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools and help all students attain their full potential. Administered by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), the network of 10 Regional Labs works to ensure that those involved in educational improvement at the local, state, and regional levels have access to the best available research and knowledge from practice.

## How Do Labs Serve Their Regions?

Each Regional Lab is guided by a governing board that represents the constituents in its region—including teachers, researchers, and high-level policymakers. Under the guidance of their boards, Laboratories:

- work with states and localities to implement comprehensive school improvement strategies by providing information, training, and technical assistance, and developing or implementing research-based programs;
- conduct development and applied research resulting in well-tested models for implementing systemic reform and for expanding exemplary isolated reform efforts on a broader scale;
- promote widespread access to information regarding research and best practice;
- create communities of learners to engage collaboratively with the Laboratory in development and dissemination;
- cooperate with other ED-funded technical assistance providers to create a nationwide education information and assistance system that can support educators’ and policymakers’ efforts to improve education; and
- forge strong links to the research community to promote the creation of new knowledge to improve education.

Laboratories are expected to pay particular attention to rural areas and to districts and schools that serve high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students.

## How Do Labs Serve the Nation?

The Regional Labs also work as a network, using their knowledge, experience, and expertise to develop and deliver products and services benefiting educators nationally. During the past five years, the Regional Laboratory Network has:

- brought together curriculum framework developers in math and science from 22 states to design ways to help those in other states with similar responsibilities;
- promoted the case method as a tool to help teachers improve their skills by teaching teachers how to prepare case studies, trained teachers in the use of the case method for pre-service and in-service instruction, and disseminated casebooks to thousands of educators nationwide;
- validated Laboratory-developed products and processes that have helped schools and enabled other Laboratories to provide technical assistance to spread these practices nationwide; and
- helped to identify or develop resources on critical issues facing urban education and made those resources available on the Internet to teachers.

## What Do the Labs Do?

During the current contract period the Laboratories are working with hundreds of schools and school districts, as well as states, research institutions, and community-based organizations, to explore effective ways to implement educational reforms. Two priorities will guide all Laboratory program work:

- helping educators and administrators to “put the pieces of educational improvement together” systemically to achieve educational excellence and equity for all students; and
- helping educators and administrators to expand systemic reform to benefit schools, and the educational programs within them, in all communities.

Each Laboratory has also been asked to develop one expertise as a *specialty area*. This will enable Laboratories to provide leadership and act as an expert resource both within their respective regions and to the Laboratory network. In addition, the specialty areas are aligned with dominant themes of the OERI National Institutes and the national Research Centers they support to encourage strong links between the creation and use of knowledge.

Thirty years after their creation, the Regional Labs continue to be vital partners with state and local educators, researchers, and policymakers in using research to tackle the difficult issues in education reform. The cumulative work of the Labs during this time has resulted in many well-tested programs and approaches that can make a measurable difference in improving education.

# LAB



## Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University (LAB)

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**Address:** 222 Richmond Street, Suite 300  
Providence, RI 02903-4226  
**Phone:** (401) 274-9548  
(800) 521-9550  
**Fax:** (401) 421-7650  
**E-mail:** LAB@brown.edu  
**Internet:** <http://www.lab.brown.edu>

**Director:** Dr. Phil Zarlengo

**OERI Contact:** Lynn Spencer (202) 219-2179; [lynn\\_spencer@ed.gov](mailto:lynn_spencer@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

**Specialty Area:** Language and Cultural Diversity



*The Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success*

## Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success (LSS)

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**Address:** Temple University/Center for Research in Human Development and Education  
933 Ritter Annex, 13th St. and Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
**Phone:** (215) 204-3030  
(800) 892-5550  
**Fax:** (215) 204-5130  
**E-mail:** [lss@vm.temple.edu](mailto:lss@vm.temple.edu)  
**Internet:** <http://www.temple.edu/departments/lss>

**Director:** Dr. Margaret C. Wang

**OERI Contact:** Gregory Dennis (202) 219-1919; [gdennis@inet.ed.gov](mailto:gdennis@inet.ed.gov)

**States Served:** Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC

**Specialty Area:** Urban Education



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## Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL)

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**Address:** Post Office Box 1348  
Charleston, WV 25325-1348  
**Phone:** (304) 347-0400  
(800) 624-9120  
**Fax:** (304) 347-0487  
**E-mail:** aelinfo@ael.org  
**Internet:** <http://www.ael.org>

**Director:** Dr. John R. Sanders

**OERI Contact:** Kathy Fuller (202) 219-2281; [kathy\\_fuller@ed.gov](mailto:kathy_fuller@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

**Specialty Area:** Rural Education



*SouthEastern Regional Vision for Education*

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## Southeastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE)

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**Main Address:** Post Office Box 5367  
Greensboro, NC 27435  
**Phone:** (910) 334-3211  
(800) 755-3277  
**Fax:** (910) 334-3268  
**E-mail:** [info@SERVE.org](mailto:info@SERVE.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.serve.org>

**Director:** Dr. Donald C. Holznagel, Interim

**OERI Contact:** Deborah Williams (202) 219-2204;  
[deborah\\_williams@ed.gov](mailto:deborah_williams@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina,  
and South Carolina

**Specialty Area:** Early Childhood Education





# NCREL

## North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL)

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**Address:** 1900 Spring Road, Suite 300  
Oak Brook, IL 60521-1480  
**Phone:** (630) 571-4700  
(800) 356-2735  
**Fax:** (630) 571-4716  
**E-mail:** [info@ncrel.org](mailto:info@ncrel.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.ncrel.org>

**Director:** Dr. Jerl Nowakowski

**OERI Contact:** Mary Campbell (202) 219-2130;  
[mary\\_campbell@ed.gov](mailto:mary_campbell@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

**Specialty Area:** Educational Technology

# SEDL

## Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL)

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**Address:** 211 East Seventh Street  
Austin, TX 78701-3281  
**Phone:** (512) 476-6861  
(800) 476-6861  
**Fax:** (512) 476-2286  
**E-mail:** [jpollard@sedl.org](mailto:jpollard@sedl.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.sedl.org>

**Director:** Dr. Wesley A. Hoover

**OERI Contact:** Gil Garcia (202) 219-2144; [gil\\_garcia@ed.gov](mailto:gil_garcia@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

**Specialty Area:** Language and Cultural Diversity

# McREL

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## Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory (McREL)

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- Address:** 2550 South Parker Road, Suite 500  
Aurora, CO 80014-1678  
**Phone:** (303) 337-0990  
**Fax:** (303) 337-3005  
**E-mail:** [info@mcrel.org](mailto:info@mcrel.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.mcrel.org>
- Director:** Dr. J. Timothy Waters
- OERI Contact:** Annora Bryant (202) 219-2087; [annora\\_bryant@ed.gov](mailto:annora_bryant@ed.gov)
- States Served:** Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Specialty Area:** Curriculum, Learning, and Instruction

# WestEd

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## WestEd

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- Address:** 730 Harrison Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
**Phone:** (415) 565-3000  
**Fax:** (415) 565-3012  
**E-mail:** [tross@wested.org](mailto:tross@wested.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.wested.org>
- Director:** Dr. Glen H. Harvey
- OERI Contact:** Sharon Horn (202) 219-2203; [sharon\\_horn@ed.gov](mailto:sharon_horn@ed.gov)
- States Served:** Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah
- Specialty Area:** Assessment and Accountability



## Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL)

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**Address:** 101 SW Main Street, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97204  
**Phone:** (503) 275-9500  
(800) 547-6339  
**Fax:** (503) 275-9489  
**E-mail:** [info@nwrel.org](mailto:info@nwrel.org)  
**Internet:** <http://www.nwrel.org>

**Director:** Dr. Ethel Simon-McWilliams

**OERI Contact:** Carol Mitchell (202) 219-2128; [carol\\_j\\_mitchell@ed.gov](mailto:carol_j_mitchell@ed.gov)

**States Served:** Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington

**Specialty Area:** School Change Processes



## Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL)

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**Address:** 828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 500  
Honolulu, HI 96813-4321  
**Phone:** (808) 533-6000  
**Fax:** (808) 533-7599  
**E-mail:** [askprel@prel.hawaii.edu](mailto:askprel@prel.hawaii.edu)  
**Internet:** <http://www.prel-oahu-1.prel.hawaii.ed>

**Director:** Dr. John Kofel

**OERI Contact:** Joe Wilkes (202) 219-2186; [joe\\_wilkes@ed.gov](mailto:joe_wilkes@ed.gov)

**States Served:** American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpel, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau

**Specialty Area:** Language and Cultural Diversity

For more information about the Regional Educational Laboratory Program please contact either:

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13



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