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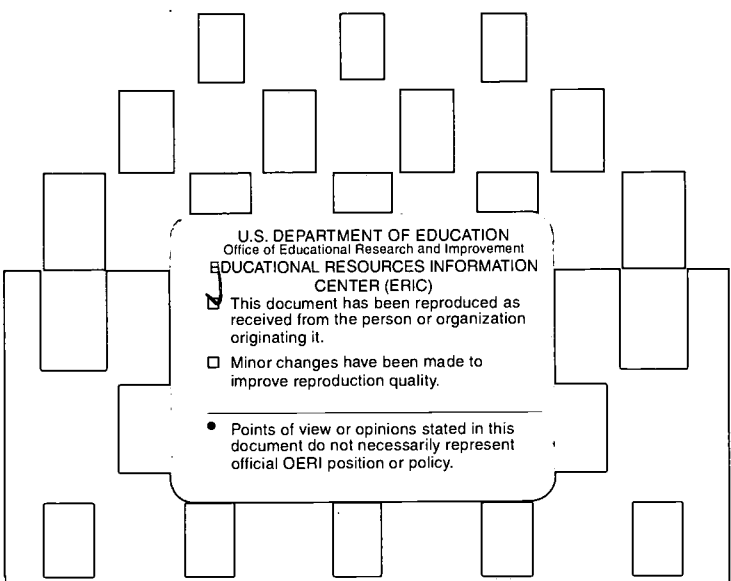
ABSTRACT

This brochure describes the Regional Educational Laboratory Program, established in 1965, which is a program that represents a large investment in research and development by the U.S. Department of Education to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools. In fiscal year 2000, the network of 10 regional laboratories supplied products to 1,635,492 clients; provided face-to-face services to 127,162 clients; and worked intensively with 630 school, district, or state sites that served 545,612 students and 34,023 teachers. In the contract period beginning in December 2000, the laboratories have two main priorities: advancing the procedural knowledge about transforming low-performing schools into high-performing learning communities and promoting the use of that procedural knowledge in policy and practice to help increase the number of high-performing learning communities. The laboratories address critical education problems in their regions, serve as national leaders in education research, and serve as part of the laboratory networking program. A brief description, with contact information, is provided for each of the regional education laboratories; (1) Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University (LAB); (2) Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success (LSS); (3) Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL); (4) The Regional Educational Laboratory at SERVE; (5) North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL); (6) Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL); (7) Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL); (8) WestEd; (9) Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL); and (10) Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL). (SLD)

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THE REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL LABORATORIES

BUILDING HIGH PERFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES 2001



ASSESSMENT DIVERSITY
STANDARDS
LEARNING SCHOOL CHANGE
FAMILY & COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP READING URBAN
RURAL TECHNOLOGY

TM033421

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

The Regional Educational Laboratories

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement**

U.S. Department of Education

Rod Paige

Secretary

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Grover J. Whitehurst

Assistant Secretary

Office of Reform Assistance and Dissemination

Pierce A. Hammond

Director

October 2001

What are the Regional Educational Laboratories?

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program, established in 1965, represents a large investment in research and development by the U.S. Department of Education to help educators, policymakers, and communities improve schools. In fiscal year 2000, the laboratories supplied products to 1,635,492 clients; provided face-to-face services to 127,162 clients; and recorded a total of 35,828,628 Web site hits. They worked intensively with 630 school, district, or state sites that involved 545,612 students; 34,923 teachers; 5,029 administrators; and 13,024 parents.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, the network of 10 Regional Laboratories continues to collaborate on initiatives of national significance, with the aim of creating valuable products and services for educators, parents, and policymakers.

What priorities are guiding the laboratories' work during the 2000–2005 contract period?

Under the contracts awarded in December 2000, the laboratories are working with hundreds of schools and school districts, as well as states, institutions of higher education, and communities, to transform low-performing schools—especially in high poverty areas—into high-performing learning communities. During this contract period, two priorities are guiding all laboratory program work. Laboratories are working to:

- advance the procedural knowledge (what we know) about transforming low-performing schools into high-performing learning communities; and
- promote the use of that procedural knowledge in policy and practice to help increase the number of high-performing learning communities.

In designing and carrying out their research and development activities, laboratories must ensure that they will serve rural areas and districts and schools that have high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students.

How can the laboratories help transform low-performing schools into high-performing learning communities?

The laboratories will help transform low-performing schools into high-performing learning communities by:

Addressing critical problems in their region. Over the years, schools have faced critical problems that make it difficult for all students to learn to high levels of academic achievement. Schools and school districts also have had difficulty finding and using the informational resources they need to create high-performing learning communities, and will continue to fall even further behind if the knowledge base is not expanded and information is not widely disseminated. Guided by their governing board that represents the constituents in its region, including teachers, researchers, and high-level policymakers, the laboratories' task is to use rigorous applied educational research to assist in solving site-specific problems and support development activities in their regions.

Serving as a national leader. Each laboratory is taking a leadership role in a significant education issue area. The goal of the work a laboratory conducts in its National Leadership Area is to advance the procedural knowledge and promote its use in policy and practice. Laboratories are synthesizing research-based information, disseminating the information both on regional and national levels, and providing cross-laboratory training to their region and the nation. The National Leadership Areas include: Assessment of Educational Achievement, Curriculum and Instruction Related to Reading and Language Mastery, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology, Expanded Learning Opportunities, Family and Community Involvement, Re-engineering Schools for Improvement, Standards-Based Educational Practice, and Teaching Diverse Students.

Serving as part of a laboratory networking program. Each laboratory is participating in collaborative activities with other laboratories to optimize the uses of laboratory resources, create nationwide resource collections, and apply experience across the laboratory network to specific problems. For example, all laboratories are involved in helping to maintain a best practices network so that people in every region can benefit from the work developed by other laboratories.

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

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You can also visit the following Web sites:

www.RELnetwork.org

This Web site is maintained by the laboratories and contains highlights of their activities, links to each laboratory's Web site, and a place to search and request laboratory publications.

www.ed.gov/prog_info/Labs

This Web site is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education. It provides information about laboratory program events and publications, and links to other laboratory sites.

LAB



Northeast and Islands Laboratory at Brown University (LAB)

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: Mary-Beth Fafard

OERI Contact: Annora Bryant (202) 219-2087;
annora.bryant@ed.gov

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

National Leadership Area: Teaching Diverse Students



Laboratory for Student Success

Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success (LSS)

Address: Temple University/Center for Research in Human Development and Education
933 Ritter Annex, 13th Street
and Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6091
Phone: (215) 204-3030
(800) 892-5550
Fax: (215) 204-5130
E-mail: lss@vm.temple.edu
Internet: <http://www.temple.edu/LSS>

Director: JoAnn Manning

OERI Contact: Susan Talley (202) 219-2129;
susan.talley@ed.gov

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

National Leadership Area: Educational Leadership



Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL)

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: Doris Redfield

OERI Contact: Mary Campbell (202) 219-2130;
mary.campbell@ed.gov

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

**National
Leadership Area:** Educational Technology

The REGIONAL at EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY | SERVE

The Regional Educational Laboratory at SERVE

Main Address: 915 Northridge Street, 2nd Floor
Greensboro, NC 27403-2112
Phone: (336) 315-7400
(800) 755-3277
Fax: (336) 315-7457
E-mail: info@serve.org
Internet: <http://www.serve.org>

Director: John R. Sanders

OERI Contact: Sharon K. Horn (202) 219-2203;
sharon.horn@ed.gov

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

**National
Leadership Area:** Expanded Learning Opportunities

NCREL

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory

"Applying Research and Technology to Learning"

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL)

Address: 1120 East Diehl Road, Suite 200
Naperville, IL 60563
Phone: (630) 649-6508
(800) 356-2735
Fax: (630) 649-6705
E-mail: info@ncrel.org
Internet: <http://www.ncrel.org>

Director: Gina Burkhardt

OERI Contact: Greg Dennis (202) 219-1919;
greg.dennis@ed.gov

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

**National
Leadership Area:** Educational Technology

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory



Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL)

Address: 211 East Seventh Street, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78701-3281
Phone: (512) 476-6861
(800) 476-6861
Fax: (512) 476-2286
E-mail: info@sedl.org
Internet: <http://www.sedl.org>

Director: Wes Hoover

OERI Contact: Deborah Williams (202) 219-2204;
deborah.williams@ed.gov

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

**National
Leadership Area:** Family and Community Involvement

McREL

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

Address: 2550 South Parker Road, Suite 500
Aurora, CO 80014-1678
Phone: (303) 337-0990
Fax: (303) 337-3005
E-mail: info@mcrel.org
Internet: <http://www.mcrel.org>

Director: J. Timothy Waters

OERI Contact: Irene Harwarth (202) 219-1756;
irene.harwarth@ed.gov

States Served: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North
Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

**National
Leadership Area:** Standards-Based Instructional Practice

WestEd

WestEd

Address: 730 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: (415) 565-3000
Fax: (415) 565-3012
E-mail: tross@wested.org
Internet: <http://www.wested.org>

Director: Gary Estes

OERI Contact: Gil Garcia (202) 219-2144;
gil.garcia@ed.gov

States Served: Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah

**National
Leadership Area:** Assessment of Educational Achievement



Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL)

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
Internet: <http://www.nwrel.org>

Director: Carol Thomas

OERI Contact: Kathy Fuller (202) 219-2281;
kathy.fuller@ed.gov

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

National Leadership Area: Re-engineering Schools



Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL)

Address: 1099 Alakea Street, 25th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 441-1300
Fax: (808) 441-1385
E-mail: askprel@prel.org
Internet: <http://www.prel.org>

Director: Ronald Toma

OERI Contact: Stephanie Dalton (202) 208-2497;
stephanie.dalton@ed.gov

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

National Leadership Area: Curriculum and Instruction Related to Reading and Language Mastery

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Department of Education
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Jessup, MD 20794-1398**

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