

Institute and Webinar Support Effective Early Learning



Providing support for early childhood educators was the focus of a regional convening hosted by the Southeast and Midwest Comprehensive Centers (SECC and MWCC) at American Institutes for Research (AIR) on September 26–28, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia. During the [Nurturing High-Quality Early Learning and Leadership Across the PreK–3 Continuum Early Childhood Institute](#),

state-based teams explored the progress and challenges of other states and strategies for improving learning supports for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Pictured is Dr. Jim Squires, senior fellow at the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) and the National Institute for Early Education Research, facilitating a session.

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Staying on Track in Year 6

During winter 2017, SECC leaders, Drs. Beth Howard-Brown and Tammie Causey-Konaté, with the state liaisons, met with state education agency (SEA) senior leadership and other SEA staff throughout the Southeast. Based on the identified priorities and projects in SECC states, the region continues to focus on implementation efforts for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In each meeting, SECC provided updates from the U.S. Department of Education on the expectation of focusing on impact and reducing the number of intensive projects. The meetings transitioned into a review of Year 5 work, project outcomes, and a discussion of state priorities and anticipated evidence of impact.

In addition to specific projects addressing low-performing schools, effective teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, and diverse learners, all five states asked to continue their involvement with two regional projects: Ensuring School Readiness Community of Practice and Support for Implementing College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessments. To ensure that project work stays on track, state liaisons and project leads will continue to meet frequently with SEA contacts and will work closely with SECC leadership to address any challenges or concerns.

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Upcoming Events

Innovative Schools Summit

- June 20–23, 2018
Renaissance Marriott, Atlanta, Georgia
- July 10–13, 2018
Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada

[Event site](#)

Education Commission of the States' 2018 National Forum on Education Policy

June 27–29, 2018

Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, District of Columbia

[Event site](#)

ASCD Conference on Teaching Excellence Pathways to Equity

June 29–July 1, 2018

Gaylord Texan Resort Hotel & Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas

[Event site](#)

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