

# SOUTHEAST Comprehensive Center

at American Institutes for Research ■

American Institutes for Research (AIR) operates four regional comprehensive centers serving 13 states. The **Southeast Comprehensive Center** (SECC), funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, provides technical assistance (TA) to the state education agencies (SEAs) of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. SECC services are focused on building SEA capacity to support districts and schools to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for college or a career. SECC provides support across several reform areas, including school improvement, educator development and effectiveness, early childhood education, and standards and assessments. SECC brings experience and expertise to engage stakeholders in policy design and implementation, providing research and content expertise to inform initiatives and plan for high-quality implementation and sustainability.

## Mississippi

### Promoting Equitable Access

SECC provides expertise in convening stakeholders to inform content, design, and implementation of policies and initiatives that promote equity. SECC has extensive experience in facilitating groups to achieve desired outcomes and synthesizing stakeholder input into clear, actionable recommendations.



### Evidence-Based Technical Assistance

SECC provides expertise in identifying and compiling relevant and reliable evidence about what works in improving education outcomes. Extensive experience in applying evidence and research to inform decision-making and deep content knowledge allow SECC staff to provide strategic guidance in the development of policies and initiatives.



### Implementation and Sustainability

SECC supports policy and initiative implementation through the development of a course of action. SECC has extensive experience with leading processes to assist state education agencies, districts, and schools in achieving specific tasks and outcomes outlined in the course of action, assessing progress, and documenting lessons learned to inform sustainability. SECC also provides support in developing guidance, training, tools, and other resources that are key to successful implementation and sustainability of initiatives.



## Year 7 (October 2018–September 2019) Projects

### PROJECT 1 | Mississippi Educator Quality

**Purpose** | To collaborate with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to address the state's need for increased training and support on culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning (CLRTL) and to assist with identification of indicators of ineffective teachers.

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC presents evidence-based resources for Grades preK–12, co-develops professional learning modules, provides meeting resources on CLRTL practices, and serves as a thought partner in MDE's approach for developing indicators for identifying ineffective teachers.

### PROJECT 2 | Mississippi School Improvement

**Purpose** | To assist MDE with strengthening implementation of the state's system of support for low-performing schools (LPS).

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC provides evidence-based resources and materials (including implementation science frameworks) and ongoing meeting facilitation assistance to support MDE as it provides training and coaching support, develops policies and guidelines for its LPS, and reviews the guidelines of P–16 councils.

### PROJECT 3 | Mississippi Talent Management

**Purpose** | To support MDE in informing district- and state-developed plans to increase recruitment and retention of diverse-learner ready teachers, through the Talent for Turnaround Leadership Academy (T4TLA).

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC provides evidence-based resources, learning materials, and meeting facilitation to support development of a statewide plan for teacher recruitment and retention. For T4TLA, SECC delivers training on implementation and monitoring for continuous improvement, data-based decision-making, mentoring and induction, and CLRTL practices.

### PROJECT 4 | Support for Implementing College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessments

**Purpose** | To help SEAs strengthen their plans for implementing college- and career-ready standards (CCRS) and assessments.

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC supports SEAs in strengthening their plans for implementing CCRS and assessments via professional learning, facilitation, and provision of resources and learning opportunities through an online newsletter and webinars.

### PROJECT 5 | Ensuring School Readiness Community of Practice

**Purpose** | To support SEAs and other agencies (birth to third grade) with early childhood (EC) initiatives and improvement efforts.

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC provides opportunities for cross-state collaboration, problem-solving, and networking via an interactive online site, online newsletter to deepen awareness of EC developments, and webinars in which states can participate in professional learning with experts in the field.

### PROJECT 6 | Equity Dialogues: Increasing Opportunities to Improve Outcomes for Students

**Purpose** | To build the knowledge and skills of agency staff to support implementation of equity strategies by LEAs as the states implement their ESSA plans.

**Technical Assistance Approach** | SECC will facilitate one or more convenings of state and local leaders to share challenges and concerns in providing support to LEAs, share emails on topics of relevant interest, and provide a summary report of research-based strategies to address challenges faced by LEAs in implementing equitable educational opportunities across all student groups.

### Contact Information



**Beth Howard-Brown**  
Director  
803-936-0752  
bhoward-brown@air.org



**Tammie Causey-Konaté**  
Deputy Director  
504-828-1252  
tcausey@air.org

Find more information at <https://southeast-cc.org/>