

American Institutes for Research (AIR) operates 4 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.

North Carolina



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 | North Carolina Instructional Improvement Systems

Purpose | To work with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to strengthen the Global Ready program through revised district and school renewal procedures and support for educators pursuing certification and to strengthen personalized learning practices through trainings and resources to promote consistent implementation statewide.

Technical Assistance Approach | SECC provides TA around qualitative data collection and use of data to inform the refinement of the Global Ready district and school renewal applications, co-develops qualitative data tools to collect information regarding educators taking professional development offerings toward the Global Educator Digital Badge, and co-facilitates trainings on personalized learning.

PROJECT 2 | North Carolina Student Success and Sustainability Project

Purpose | To provide TA to refine the regional support model and share research on education-based case management systems and data-based decision-making to inform district supports provided by NCDPI.

Technical Assistance Approach | SECC provides meeting facilitation TA and guidance (to include assistance with co-developing presentation materials for collective impact meetings and developing communication protocols and other documents to disseminate information about the regional structure) and shares resources on applicable systems and processes.

PROJECT 3 | 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 4 | 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 5 | 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 local education agencies (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



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