



About the R11CC

The Region 11 Comprehensive Center (R11CC) is one of 19 regional centers across the nation that helps state education agencies implement, scale, and sustain evidence-based programs, practices, and interventions that support improved educator and student outcomes.

Nebraska

Developing Systems to Improve Outcomes for Students in Schools Receiving Targeted Support and Improvement and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement

Need: In 2019, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) identified 363 schools that qualify for one of two levels of extra assistance (known as Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement). The NDE identified these schools based on achievement gaps involving identified student groups. In 100 of the identified schools, the issue is low achievement among English learners. With this project, the R11CC is focusing on the needs of Nebraska's multilingual learners and the educators who serve them, aiming to identify barriers to student learning and helping them overcome those challenges with evidence-based solutions that can be piloted and then scaled.

How we're helping: The R11CC is teaming with the Nebraska Department of Education and Educational Service Unit #3, one of 17 agencies across the state that supports school districts, to increase the capacity of staff in two pilot schools to better support multilingual learners: Birchcrest Elementary in the Bellevue District and Karen Western Elementary in the Ralston District.

This year, we're helping our partners to:

- Develop a logic model, a graphical tool for visualizing a project, and all the resources it involves. Logic models are useful in all kinds of projects, so learning to create and use them will be beneficial to the team members throughout their careers.
- Use available data collected from a needs assessment to increase the team's knowledge of the systems and practices that could be improved, and to determine the need for further data collection in order to increase academic achievement outcomes for multilingual learners.
- Select practices that align with the identified supports needed to better assist multilingual learners. This involves learning what kind of data qualifies as evidence, if instructional materials are culturally aligned, and how to evaluate teaching practices for pedagogical excellence.

What we plan to accomplish: Because we're working with state-level experts, we believe the knowledge we gain from the two pilot schools can be used to create a model, which can be scaled up to benefit every extra-support school in Nebraska. By the time we exit this project in late 2024, we intend to help create a replicable system for improvement that can be implemented statewide. Because our approach is capacity-building, such a system will involve helping the state's educators become not just great classroom teachers and instructional leaders, but also experts at working with evidence to identify and solve problems.

To learn more, please contact R11CC Co-directors Joe Simpson at jsimpson@mcrel.org (307.222.5261) and/or Susan Shebby at sshebby@mcrel.org (303.632.5613).

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