



About the R11CC

The Region 11 Comprehensive Center (R11CC) serves the states of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, collaborating with state and regional education agencies to provide high-quality, intensive capacity-building services using strategies rooted in research.

Wyoming

Developing and Implementing a Comprehensive K-3 Reading Program to Improve Outcomes for Struggling Readers

Need: The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) identified a need to select and implement evidence-based reading programs, assessments, and interventions for K-3 students. However, many rural school districts attempting to identify, implement, and evaluate evidence-based practices (EBPs) often face issues of staff shortages and technical capacity. As a result, certain groups of students, particularly Native American students, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities, persistently struggle with reading.

How we're helping: The R11CC is partnering with the University of Wyoming's Literacy Research Center and Clinic as its team provides professional learning in EBPs for educators at Wind River Elementary School in Fremont County School District #6 and Arapahoe Elementary School in Fremont County School District #38. We are helping the university standardize several processes related to effective professional learning, and we helped our partners develop and share a WDE literacy policy document. We also supported the pilot schools as they worked to develop logic models, conduct needs assessments, select specific literacy improvement goals, develop literacy knowledge management sites and participate in professional development activities based on their selected EBPs.

This year, continuing to work with our pilot schools, we'll:

- Oversee on-site literacy learning opportunities for each pilot school to support implementation of their selected EBPs.
- Conduct listening sessions with project teachers and principals after completing the first semester learning activities to determine continuous improvement strategies.
- Develop and implement organizational long-term outcomes for both pilot schools.

What we plan to accomplish: The goal of this project is to develop and implement selected literacy topics (narrative, opinion, and informational writing and expressive and receptive vocabulary) to improve outcomes for K-3 students struggling in reading. We believe that this partnership will help teachers and principals select, implement, and evaluate EBPs and that the project can be scaled statewide.

How we're building sustainability: Through our work to support statewide implementation, we'll continue to communicate with educators and raise awareness of the importance of the WDE K-3 Literacy Guidance Framework and we'll discuss a plan with WDE to systematically update the framework. We'll also assist the pilot schools' English language arts leadership teams to build their capacity to continue focusing on literacy in their school improvement plans.

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To learn more, please contact R11CC co-directors:

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