

Early Childhood TA Connections

Connecting the Dots for Early Learning:
CEELO, Regional Comprehensive Centers,
Regional Education Labs, & State Education Agencies

MARCH 2, 2016



Agenda

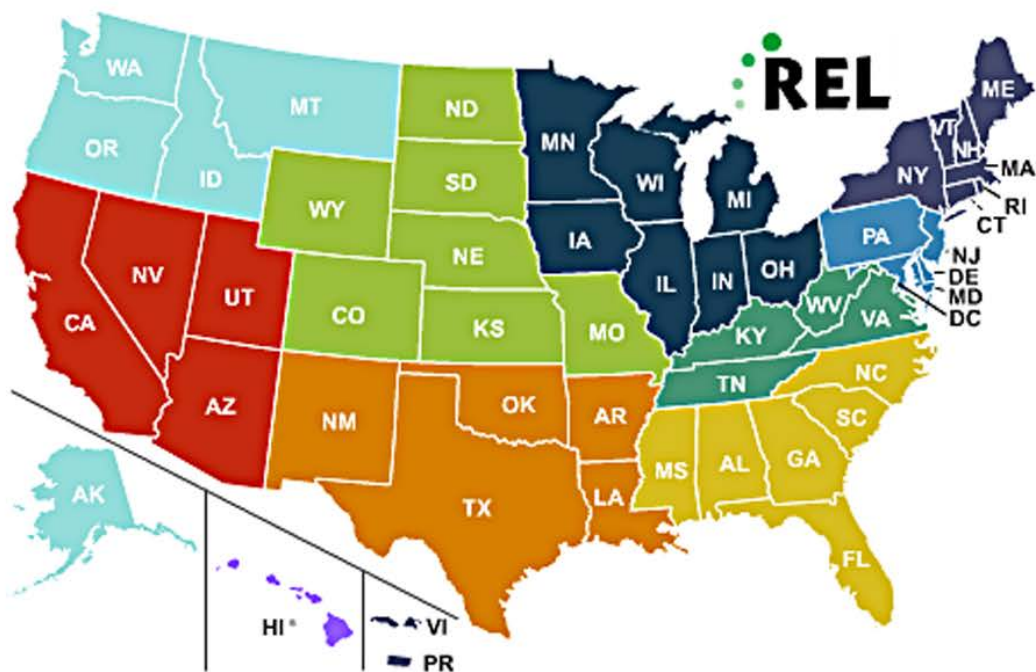
- Purpose and Goals of CONNECTIONS
- Getting to Know One Another: Similarities and Differences between CEELO, RCCs, and RELs
- Discussion: Working Together to Support States
- RCC, CEELO & REL Updates
- Looking Ahead



Regional Comprehensive Centers



The Regional Educational Laboratories



* The Pacific Region contains Hawaii pictured on the map and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, & Yap), Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, & the Republic of Palau not pictured on the map



Content Centers/CEELO



Getting to Know One Another

- Fiona Helsel
Deputy Director
REL NW/education northwest



- Donna Castle Richardson
Director, Central Comprehensive Center (c3)
TA Manager, South Central Comp. Center (sc3)



- Diane Schilder
Senior Research Scientist
CEELO/Education Development Center, Inc.





Understanding RELs

March 2, 2016
Quarterly CONNECTIONS Call
Fiona Helsel



1966

Regional Educational Laboratories...

"...ought to be conceived as comparable to large-scale laboratories in the defense and atomic energy establishments. Nothing less will do."



RELs build capacity & promote evidence use to improve academic outcomes

- Help states, districts, and schools **use their data systems**
- **Conduct and support high-quality research and evaluation** focused on regional priorities
- Help educational policymakers and practitioners **incorporate data and research into everyday decision making**



REL Program Priorities

- Identifying and retaining effective teachers and principals
- Increasing college readiness, access, and completion
- Enhancing early childhood education
- Improving low-achieving schools
- Adopting and implementing rigorous academic standards and assessments



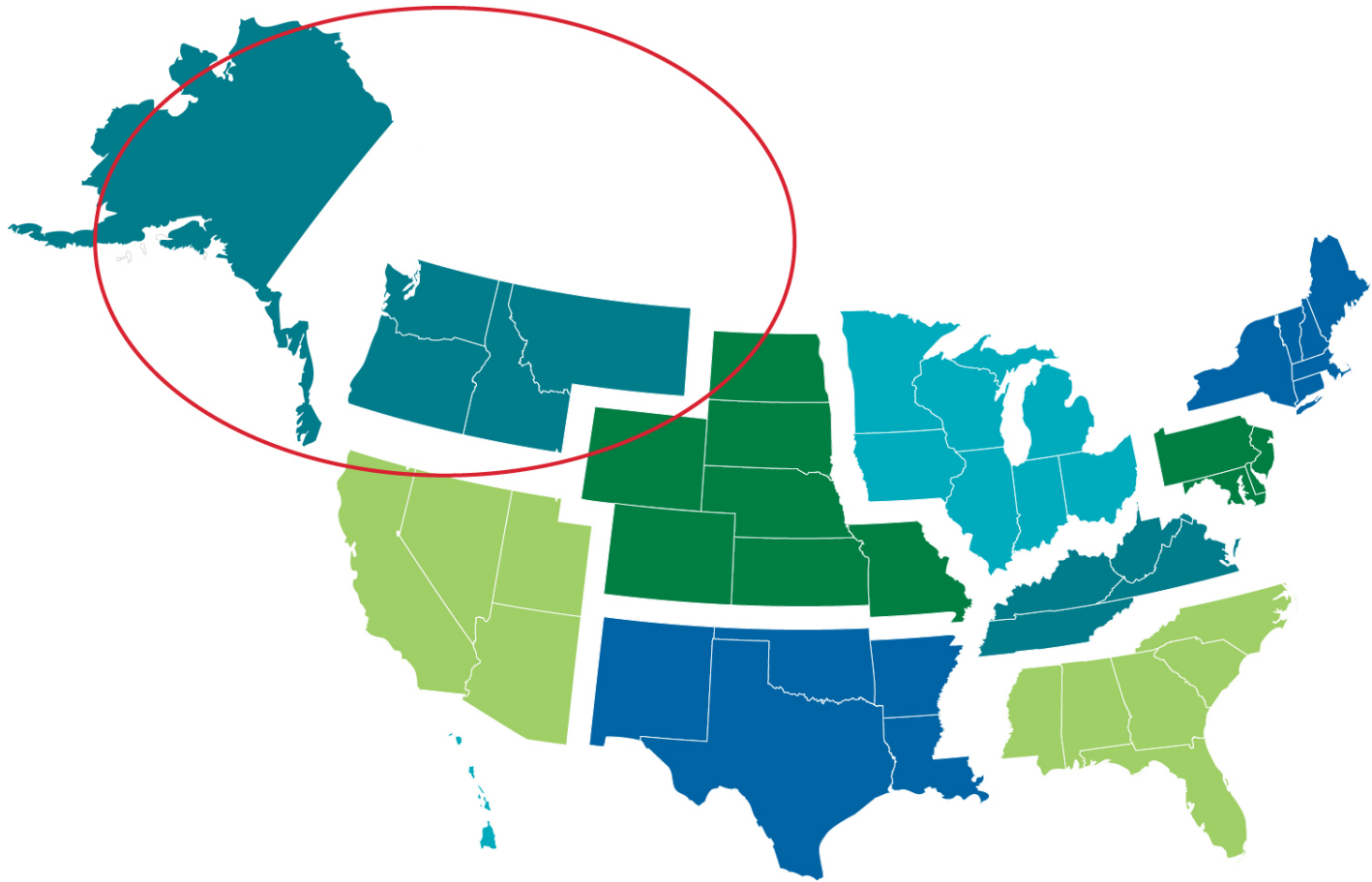
Research Alliance

“ A group of stakeholders who share a specific educational concern and agree to work together to learn more about the concern so that they can make sound decisions to improve education outcomes.”

(REL Performance Work Statement, April 2011)



REL Northwest Region



What do RELs do?

- Work with research alliances to meet stakeholder needs
 - Research partners – conduct applied research studies
 - Data and analysis coaches – provide technical assistance
 - Bridge builders – convene webinars and other events



REL Northwest Early Childhood Education Working Group

- Alaska
- Oregon
- Washington



REL and Comprehensive Center Collaboration

- State coordinators
- Leverage each program to meet stakeholder needs
- Utilize content centers
- Ultimate goal: build capacity of stakeholders to use data and evidence (RELs) and to implement initiatives (CCs)



For more information

Fiona Helsel

fiona.helsel@educationnorthwest.org

educationnorthwest.org

@educationnw



Regional Comprehensive Centers



Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs)

The Comprehensive Centers Program is authorized by Title II of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002. The Centers provide TA to SEAs to build their capacity to

- support local education agencies (LEAs or districts) and schools, especially low-performing districts and schools;
- improve educational outcomes for all students;
- close achievement gaps; and
- improve the quality of instruction.



Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs)

The role of the RCC

- RCCs and CCs work together to build state capacity by aligning TA to meet SEA needs to implement, support, scale-up, and sustain initiatives statewide.
- The Centers provide training and TA in the implementation and administration of programs under ESEA and in the use of research-based information and strategies.



Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs)

- Examples of C3, SC3, and CEELo TA
 - **Cost of Preschool Quality (CPQ) Tool**
 - Develop state CPQ projects
 - Create state projections for multiple scenarios
 - Communicate results to partners for decision making
 - **ECE Standards in Oklahoma**
 - **Handwriting Standards in Kansas**



For more information

Donna Richardson
drichardson@oe.edu
www.sc3ta.org
www.c3ta.org



Content Centers/CEELO

What are Content Centers?

- Center on College and Career Readiness and Success
- Center on Innovations in Learning
- Center on Standards and Assessments Implementation
- Center on Great Teachers and Leaders
- Center on School Turnaround
- Center on Building State Capacity and Productivity
- Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes



What is CEELO?

■ What is CEELO?

- National technical assistance (TA) center funded through the U.S. Department of Education (ED)
- Partnering organizations: National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University; Education Development Center, Inc.; Council of Chief State School Officers; National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE)

■ Who funds CEELO?

- Office of School Support and Rural Programs within ED provides most of the funding for CEELO
- Preschool Development and Expansion Grants (PDG) provide supplemental funding to CEELO to support states with PDG grants; jointly administered by ED and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



CEELO's Target Audiences

- **Who is CEELO's target audience?**
 - CEELO works **primarily with early childhood specialists** in state departments of education (and the state specialists' organization is a partner with CEELO)
 - State specialists tend to be mid-level professionals within state education agencies
 - In contrast, regional centers and labs work primarily with chiefs and deputy chiefs
 - CEELO is also charged with providing TA to **other state agencies** that oversee Birth-school-Kindergarten
 - State child care administrators, early intervention specialists (who might work in departments of public health), Departments of Early Learning, etc.



CEELO's Target Audiences

- CEELO is charged with coordinating with **other TA providers**
 - **Example ED-funded TA centers:** regional technical assistance centers, comprehensive centers, and OSEP-funded technical assistance centers
 - **Example other TA centers:** Early Head Start and Child Care training and technical assistance centers, OSEP-funded technical assistance centers, and private technical assistance organizations such as the National Governor's Association or the BUILD Initiative



What does CEELO do?

- Provides responsive TA to:
 - Improve states' knowledge about and use of early childhood **comprehensive assessment systems**
 - Enhance the **use of assessment data and other information to improve program quality**
 - Increase the knowledge and skills of the early learning **workforce**
 - Strengthen the **alignment of birth through 3rd grade** educational policies and systems
 - Increase the **coordination** of resources and policies **across statewide systems**
 - **Build State Education Agency capacity**



What does CEELO do?

- Provides responsive TA by:
 - Responding to information requests
 - Supporting peer-to-peer sharing
 - Providing time-limited support such as serving as a keynote speaker for a statewide meeting
 - Providing intensive support through ongoing meetings and consultation

<http://preschoolmatters.org/2016/02/10/building-the-capacity-of-state-early-childhood-administrators-ceelo-fy2015/>



What does CEELO do?

- Provides strategic TA by:
 - Supporting topical peer exchanges
 - Hosting a learning table on teaching and learning
 - Convening a national meeting (called the Roundtable)
 - Supporting a leadership academy



For more information

Diane Schilder
dschilder@edc.org
www.ceelo.org



Discussion



- How can our 3 entities maximize our collective expertise, support and effectiveness to meet the Birth - 3rd Grade early education goals of SEAs?
- What opportunities exist for collaborative TA moving forward?
- What is the best way to share information so we are not a burden to our primary target audiences?
- What evidence have you seen of shifting state policy, practice or research as a result of our collaborative work?



Updates

- Regional Comprehensive Centers
- CEELO
- RELs



Looking Ahead

- Future CONNECTIONS opportunities
- Closing thoughts





CEELO

Center on Enhancing
Early Learning Outcomes

A large, dark green, abstract graphic element resembling a stylized hand or a leaf, positioned to the right of the text.

www.ceelo.org

info@ceelo.org

THANK YOU!

