CCNETWORK
Comprehensive Center Network

REGION 14
Arkansas
Louisiana
Texas

Region 14 Comprehensive Center Projects Alignment to the "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" Focus Areas

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Education announced the "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" initiative to use decades of research and professional experience to transform public education and advance education equity. There are three focus areas:

1 **Achieve Academic Excellence**

2 **Boldly Improve Learning Conditions**

3 **Create Pathways for Global Engagement**

Check out how the Region 14 CC's projects are supporting these focus areas

Achieve Academic Excellence

Project	Project Summary	Sample Activities
Launching a New Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Spending Dashboard for Louisiana	Supported the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) through assistance with data management and communication and to deliver an insightful and high-quality resource that brings transparency to Louisiana school systems	• Generated an automated machine learning algorithm that classifies local education agencies' (LEAs') ESSER investments according to categories established by the Region 14 Comprehensive Center (R14CC) and the LDOE • Gathered user data and translated feedback into actionable improvements to the dashboard
Sustaining and Progressing Louisiana's Literacy Strategic Plan	LDOE is implementing a Comprehensive Literacy state development program to advance the literacy skills of children from birth to grade 12 through the use of evidence-based practices, activities, and interventions	• Worked with LDOE on options for managing and overseeing the implementation of the statewide literacy plan • Created a system to evaluate, monitor, and help school-level literacy plans • Built a sustainability plan for the literacy initiatives • Facilitated the design of a Request for Application (RFA) for vendor support • Recruited 12 educators to serve as reviewers to help improve LEAs' literacy plans
Scaling the Science of Teaching Reading in Texas	Reading Academies were established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to support teacher knowledge and implement evidence-based practices informed by the Science of Teaching Reading (STR) to help improve student literacy achievement	• Convened a panel of statewide and national experts in STR to review the screening process for recruiting prospective Cohort Leaders • Increased the documentation of project tools, resources, communication structures, and protocols to establish project team alignment • Worked directly with TEA to create dashboards that illustrate performance data
Texas Formative Assessment Resource (TFAR)	Support TEA with data collection on current TFAR use to inform continuous improvement of assessment resources (TFAR is an online tool for Texas district and school staff to create, share, administer, and analyze formative assessment resources)	• Developed and administered an online survey of district- and school-level TFAR users to learn how they implement TFAR practices and understand how implementation differs across districts • Facilitated focus groups with district- and school-level TFAR users to gain detailed information on how the tool is employed at the classroom, campus, and district levels

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Supporting Arkansas's Special Schools in Becoming National Exemplars	Create one strategic plan for the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) and the Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD) that is aligned with the Arkansas Department of Education's (ADE's) strategic plan	• Supported ASBVI with developing the literacy and staff and systems components of its strategic plan, including determining what data the school would collect to understand whether it was progressing toward alignment with the plan • Supported ASD with aligning its strategic plan to the foundational literacy focus of ADE's strategic plan by assisting ASD in selecting a literacy curriculum • Trained ASD leadership in literacy instruction, classroom observations, effective coaching, and making data-informed decisions • Assisted ASBVI with planning and rolling out a school climate and culture survey
Bringing Technology and Data Visualization to the Texas Instructional Leadership (TIL) Program	Supported TEA in moving an Instructional Leadership professional development program to an online data collection system	• Gathered feedback from users to inform changes to usability functions to develop the best product • Built a reliable system for TEA to collect TIL coaching data • Built a year-to-year transition plan to ensure system sustainability
Louisiana Communications	R14CC along with partners at Mighty Citizen, supports the Louisiana Department of Education in working toward a refined communications operation that improves clarity, accountability, and alignment with the agency's vision, mission, goals, and priorities. We do this by collectively developing a user-centered approach to the LDOE's communication strategy, website, and branding to improve engagement and perception of the LDOE so that the agency may better support the school systems it serves	• Designed and launched a new brand, along with brand style guides, brand system design templates, and a promotional temporary landing page for the LDOE through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and iterative prototyping • Prototyped, designed, and launched a new branded system within GovDelivery for creating and delivering newsletters from the department • Completed information architecture and design prototypes of a newly designed website for the LDOE that reflects user research, surveys, focus groups, and interviews across the department and public

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Parent Choice Schools in Bentonville	Coordinated community needs sensing, shared communications strategies, and school design teams, which will inform Bentonville Schools' design, implementation, and communication plans to carry out two elementary school redesigns	• Conducted community needs sensing with a survey and focus groups • Facilitated virtual and in-person site visits with exemplar model schools • Provided best practices and recommended tools for communications planning at the district and school levels • Drafted a Parent Choice Schools Playbook to document best practices throughout this process including a case study with lessons learned, which may be shared with other districts, states, and regions
Texas Performance Management	TEA has launched a process to determine how it will achieve the high-leverage goals to improve student outcomes. Alignment of Key Concepts (AKC) is the initiative from which TEA will address content topics and produce deliverables, and Planning and Performance Management (PPM) is the mechanism for oversight, accountability, and problem solving	• Produce change management AKC deliverables • Facilitate alignment and coherence across instructional framework, instructional leadership, special populations, and/or other related content topics
Texas Special Education	Develop evidence-based professional development (PD) courses for LEAs and teachers on the training and sustainable implementation of co-teaching and flexible grouping practices in inclusive classrooms	• Convene regional experts to discuss and review module outlines to build draft content modules for school leaders and classroom teachers
Louisiana Perkins Program of Study Value Stream Mapping	Bring heightened efficiency and streamlining to the process of Perkins program of study design and approval. LDOE and Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS) desire to build a culture of efficient operations and process improvement. By incorporating tools such as Lean Six Sigma Value Stream Mapping, LDOE will eliminate waste by developing an updated process for the Perkins program	• Provide Lean Six Sigma training for a select group of LDOE staff • Define and analyze data that identify opportunities for systemic improvement and assist in developing and implementing Lean processes

Boldly Improve Learning Conditions

Project	Project Summary	Sample Activities
Increasing Access to Effective Educators in Arkansas	Supporting the Arkansas Department of Education with the alignment of its programs in a talent development system and strengthening the metrics for evaluating impact	• Revised and strengthened Teach Arkansas Goals to align with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) comprehensive strategic goals • Region 14 Comprehensive Center analyzed the data used to create the Workforce Stability Index (WSI) and recommended variables for inclusion that positively relate to workforce quality: Experience, Attainment, Licensure, and Retention • Guided Office of Educator Effectiveness (OEE) staff in articulating and documenting the core competencies, knowledge and skills, and potential classroom roles of both the Lead and Master designations, developing an infographic that delineated the desired outcomes for those teachers • Developed a Talent Management Alignment workbook and corresponding Articulate module that can be used broadly by state education agencies (SEAs) to self-direct through the talent management alignment process
Texas Principal Residency Grant Program	Strengthening the Principal Residency Grant Program as a means to provide the districts with qualified leaders	• Created resources and trainings for the residents on program sustainability • Created a mentor-mentee matching tool that pairs potential principal residents with mentors to support them as they go through the program • Offered training on techniques for strategic recruitment, cohesive alignment to leadership competencies, and low-cost ways to sustain the work done by the Principal Residency Grant Program

Project	Project Summary	Sample Activities
Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment	Better equip local education agencies to strategically compensate educators as outlined in the Teacher Incentive Allotment	• Created a Spending Engagement Toolkit • Supported development of training sessions on strategic communications, project planning and management, funding for a strategic compensation plan, and the use of continuous improvement concepts to monitor the impact of strategic compensation • Assisted the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in creating a guide to going beyond compensation, a guide for paying for strategic compensation systems, and a payout calculator, as well as templates related to strategic compensation and project management planning
Texas School Mental Health	Supporting TEA in coordinating and implementing effective school-based mental health training and programs through a legislative task force, a statewide mental health plan, and professional learning opportunities	• Designed and launched a statewide mental health resources database to streamline data collection, better validate data quality, and publish publicly searchable results • Collaborated with TEA, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Texas HHSC), and South-Southwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (SSW-MHTTC) at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) to create the Texas School Mental Health Practice Guide and Toolkit • Supported the development of TEA's Statewide Plan for School-Based Mental Health

Create Pathways for Global Engagement

Project	Project Summary	Sample Activities
Individualized Graduation Plans	Support the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) in identifying high-quality providers of graduation planning, college exploration, and career transition services for Louisiana students	• Collaborated with a web development team from Canopy Ed to design and launch a public-facing vendor guide for school systems, counselors, and families to find services that best match their needs for graduation and postsecondary transition • Conducted interviews with vendors of electronic graduation-planning services and helped synthesize key characteristics and best practices for high-quality graduation planning products • Served as a thought partner to LDOE in designing the intake form for vendors applying to be included in LDOE's new Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) vendor guide
Industry Partnerships	Support efforts by Louisiana school systems to provide a greater variety of work-based learning opportunities to Louisiana students enrolled in career and technical education pathways	• Supporting LDOE staff in revamping Louisiana's existing work-based learning policy to bring it more in line with the modern labor market and student needs