

NOVEMBER 2023

Region 9 Comprehensive Center (R9CC) provides intensive capacity-building services to state education agencies and other education stakeholders in Illinois and Iowa. Our goal is to help regional leaders identify, implement, and sustain evidence-based programs and practices to address high-leverage problems and improve outcomes for students and educators.

R9CC has a three-pronged approach to supporting our region:

## Support Key Priorities

R9CC focuses on enhancing the capacity of state agencies, districts, and schools to make measurable progress in areas that are important to Illinois and Iowa.

**19** Projects

**12** Projects supporting Illinois

**5** Projects supporting Iowa

**2** Projects supporting Illinois and Iowa



**17** organizations represented by board members

## Connect Partners With Expertise

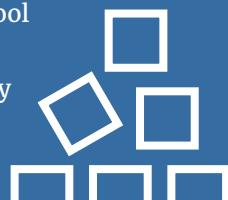
We connect state, district, and school leaders across Illinois and Iowa to leading experts and resources in the field of education.

R9CC has provided targeted capacity-building assistance for **30+** local education agencies (LEAs)<sup>1</sup>

**82+** Tools and resources developed 

**17** Partner organizations engaged, including:

- National Center for Safe Supportive Learning Environments
- Center on Great Teachers and Leaders
- Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest
- Illinois Association of School Business Officials
- National Center for Healthy Safe Children



## Elevate Success Stories

R9CC highlights success stories about state education agencies, districts, and schools in Illinois and Iowa that are using evidence-based practices to improve educational outcomes.

**48** Blogs shared (as of September 2023)

**5** Student-led webinars and blogs

**44+** Events hosted

**300+** Capacity-building/collaborative meetings

**17** Advisory board meetings (as of September 2023)



**244** Followers and reached **6K+** on Twitter

**190** Followers and reached **190K+** on LinkedIn

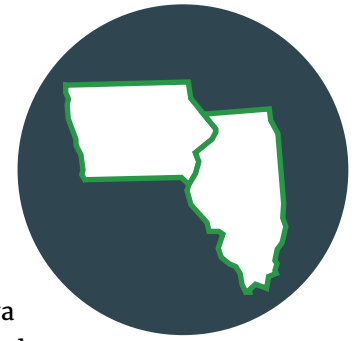
**691** Newsletter subscribers



<sup>1</sup> LEA is a term used in educational contexts to refer to public boards of education, public schools, school districts, or other agencies that are responsible for the education of students [EdSource. (2023). Glossary: Local education agency (LEA). <https://edsources.org/glossary/local-education-agency-lea>].

## Region 9 Comprehensive Center Work

R9CC's projects address challenges identified by education leaders in our region. We leverage our team's expertise, R9CC's Advisory Board Members, and partner organizations to address these needs. Our projects fall under four main topics:



### School Finance

R9CC is facilitating a community of practice (CoP) with state and district leaders in Iowa focused on effective and sustainable use of American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds. The R9CC team worked with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to facilitate a virtual peer-to-peer series to discuss how to strategically engage ESSER and Title I funds to support long-term resource allocation.

### School Improvement

R9CC is working with the Iowa Department of Education to gather insights from school and district leaders to identify what practices, interventions, or supports are needed to make improvements for comprehensive support and improvement schools. R9CC has also worked with ISBE to support and develop their state's school improvement process that aligns to their 2020–2024 Strategic Plan and Every Student Succeeds Act plan.

### Social and Emotional Learning/Student and Teacher Wellness

R9CC is supporting ISBE in a variety of wellness-related work, including facilitating convenings, and gathering and analyzing wellness initiative data. Our team also worked with districts in Illinois and Iowa to facilitate a CoP for instructional specialists related to implementation of social-emotional learning (SEL) practices.

### Teacher Recruitment and Retention



R9CC is working with ISBE to conduct stakeholder interviews and focus groups to identify common challenges related to educator recruitment and retention in Illinois. R9CC has also developed resource briefs that outline common challenges related to recruitment and retention of educators from underrepresented backgrounds.

For more information on our project work, scan this QR code.



## Impact Stories

Want to learn more about the impact of R9CC? Read about our work on our website:

-  [Empowering Regional Staff in Illinois to Improve Schools: R9CC and ISBE collaborated on improvements to ISBE's School Improvement process.](#)
-  [Getting to the Root of Illinois Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition: R9CC supported ISBE to identify initiatives to effectively target workforce pipeline issues.](#)



## Promising Practices From Illinois and Iowa

The Region 9 Promising Practices is a series of brief publications that highlight successful programs and innovations across Illinois and Iowa.

Scan the QR code to learn more.

