

Our Goals

The Southeast Comprehensive Center (SECC), funded by the U.S. Department of Education, provides high quality technical assistance to the state departments of education in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

The goals of the SECC are to

- ▶ build the capacities of states in its region to implement the programs and goals of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and
- ▶ build states' capacity to provide sustained support of high-needs districts and schools.

SECC works with each state in its region to provide access to and use of information, models, and materials that facilitate implementation of and compliance with NCLB.

Our Work

For staff of the state departments of education (SDE) in our region, we provide NCLB scanning services, electronic updates, and a rapid response service.

NCLB Scanning Services

Through coordination and consultation with the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), the content centers, and other regional research and service agencies, SECC continually identifies reliable and relevant information related to implementation of NCLB. Types of information include USDE regulations and public statements regarding NCLB goals, provisions, and outcomes; SDE planning and compliance documents, reports, and other relevant communication; state requirements, models, and materials; and media coverage of the states' implementation and outcomes. SDE staff members are able to obtain password-protected access to the NCLB Scanning Service.

Electronic Updates

At least quarterly SECC will provide e-mail updates to SDE staff highlighting information identified through NCLB Scanning Service, furnished by USDE, other comprehensive centers, and cooperating service providers. Subscribers to this service submit topics of particular importance to their work, and SECC staff customizes updates in response to such feedback.

Rapid Response Service

To assist SDE staff in promptly addressing queries from policymakers or school/district personnel, SECC compiles evidence-based information to help inform them on aspects of their own work. To ensure quality responses, SECC staff conducts interviews with clients to gain thorough understanding of the query and the context in which the information will be used.

SECC also provides sustained support in instructional leadership and instructional practice to assist states with meeting the challenges of high-needs schools and districts. SECC works with existing structure within each state to provide training, technical assistance, and information resources for a network of state-identified service providers, who, in turn, work with staffs at schools and school districts identified for school improvement.

Instructional Leadership

SECC provides training and technical assistance to service providers assigned to work with local leadership teams of principals, instructional supervisors, and teachers to build their capacity to (a) conduct needs assessments and select a focus for improvement efforts, (b) establish goals and develop plans, (c) select and implement research-based instructional materials and approaches, (d) monitor activities designed to improve student outcomes, and (e) collect, reflect on, and analyze data to evaluate the impact of actions on student achievement.

Instructional Practice

SECC provides training and technical assistance to service providers assigned to work with teachers to improve classroom practice, focusing on evidence-based approaches, strategies, and materials in priority areas identified by each state, including literacy, mathematics, science, and integration of technology. Particular attention is provided to specific needs of English language learners, special education students and students at risk of failing to complete high school.