Executive Connections

The ARCC has established the Executive Connections project to offer a virtual professional learning community for state board of education members and state education agency (SEA) executives. The ARCC staff will moderate the virtual learning community to enable peer-to-peer learning about different approaches for managing and resolving issues faced by these states. The ARCC will schedule, facilitate, and keep records of quarterly virtual meetings, with topics selected by state education leaders. The ARCC will develop a quarterly webinar series and publish Save the Date announcements for upcoming meetings. By focusing on peer-to-peer networking, identifying common challenges, and exploring best practices, the ARCC will help state education leaders enhance their professional efficacy in support of coherent policy making and procedures. The ARCC will also provide technical assistance as requested, on such topics as strategic planning, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation, succession planning, and sustainability.

Beyond College: Enhancing Career Readiness

The ARCC created the Enhancing Career Readiness project to connect SEA staff across the region in peer-to-peer discussions about their career pathways initiatives. SEA staff will learn about tools and strategies for communicating the benefits of career and technical education (CTE) programs and engage with other SEA staff responsible for CTE to discuss shared issues. The ARCC will also facilitate virtual meetings or webinars about topics of interest, such as middle school CTE alignment and career pathways, district/regional advisory councils, postsecondary incentives, and validated industry credentials. SEA staff may benefit from expanding their network of peers with CTE expertise, exploring new strategies to reform career readiness in their states, and communicating more effectively to students, parents, and businesses. The ARCC team will also coordinate with the West Virginia Department of Education to revise the Simulated Workplace student survey before its administration.

Building SEA Capacity to Support Students with Literacy-Based Disabilities

SEAs in the region report a need for technical assistance to build their capacity to put into action best practices in literacy screening, identification, instruction, and intervention for students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia. They report the need to empower schools to build local capacity to support students with literacy-related disabilities, create a multi-tiered system of support framework, and improve understanding among school staff of data and interventions, including access to professional development and resources. The ARCC will collaborate with SEAs to build their knowledge and capacity, as well as the capacity of schools and districts, to implement effective screening, identification, and instructional support for dyslexia and other reading disabilities. To provide SEAs with a firm foundation on critical issues, the ARCC team will collaborate with SEAs in the region to develop and facilitate peer-to-peer and regional learning opportunities in two focus areas: 1) intensifying interventions for students with, or at risk for, literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia, to maximize reading success; and 2) testing the feasibility of and suggesting revisions to a *Technical Assistance Providers Guide to Building Capacity in SEAs to Support Students with, or At-Risk for, Literacy-Related Disabilities*. Additionally, ARCC will provide technical assistance and consultation as the state pilots the National Center on Improving Literacy tools, resources, and systems.