



## REL Pacific Newsletter

*September 2022, vol. 3*



### From the Director

Dear Colleagues,

As we roll into the start of a new school year, REL Pacific sends our best wishes for a productive, enriching 2022/23! And as with all new beginnings, we are looking forward to engaging with new and returning teachers, school and system leaders, and our partnership members to co-develop innovative ways to help students succeed. We're also pleased to acknowledge several new initiatives underway by the jurisdictions in our region, such as formalizing hybrid instructional options, adopting web-based instructional tools, and identifying indicators of teacher effectiveness.

We've begun the first training, coaching, and technical support sessions of this new contract cycle with a couple of our partnerships, the Hawai'i Hui (Partnership) for All to Benefit from Hawaiian Education's Place-Based Education Networked Improvement Community project and the Palau Partnership to Support Teacher Effectiveness' Measuring Effective Teaching project. REL Pacific staff have also recently had the pleasure of working side-by-side with educators in Guam and the

Republic of Palau, and we are excited to travel to all our other partner jurisdictions in the near future.

Since our last newsletter, REL Pacific has launched three new partnerships: one with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) called the CNMI Data Wayfinding Partnership for the Improvement of Literacy; another with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) called the FSM Partnership to Improve Teacher Effectiveness by Developing and Implementing an Evidence-based, Culturally Sustaining Model for Instruction; and the third with Guam called the Guam Partnership to Support Student Success in Math.

To help you get to know the REL Pacific staff supporting these projects, we are continuing to introduce some key staff in this newsletter. This time we are featuring our interim deputy director and program manager, each of whom is happy to answer any questions you may have about REL Pacific partnerships, projects, and more.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or requests for assistance at [relpacific@mcrel.org](mailto:relpacific@mcrel.org).

Best regards,

Christina Tydeman  
REL Pacific Director

## New and Upcoming from REL Pacific



### Hawaii-Pacific Evaluation Association Conference

Dr. Christina Tydeman and Dr. Bradley Rentz will host a virtual poster session at the 2022 H-PEA Online Conference, October 11–13, to share how REL Pacific incorporates cultural feedback and contextualization as an integral part of communicating engaging, actionable research findings to stakeholders across the region. To learn more or register for the conference, press the button below.

[Register Here](#)



## Schools of the Future Conference

Ben Cronkright from REL Pacific and Chelsea Keehne from Kamehameha Schools will present a session at the SOTF Conference, taking place October 20–21 at the Hawaii Convention Center, on how Hawai'i Public Charter School Network leaders, select charter school leaders, and place-based, 'āina-based education teachers are working with REL Pacific to develop a framework for place-based and 'āina-based education program design and implementation. To learn more or register for the conference, click the button below.

[Register Here](#)

**Evidence-Based Strategies for Increasing Students' Math Performance**

**A Fact Sheet to Support Guam Teachers' Professional Learning and Coaching**

Guam's students have shown achievement gains over the last decade, including graduation rates rising from 28 percent in 2011 to 57 percent in 2016.<sup>1</sup> The Guam Department of Education's (GDOE) strategic plan aims to build on these gains and ensure that all 12 students are on track for graduation and college and career success.<sup>2</sup>

One area of focus for GDOE's five-year plan is to help more students increase their math proficiency. Recent ACT college readiness results indicate that students need additional math support as they progress through middle and high school.

**Percentage of Guam Students in Need of Math Support!**

Grade	Percentage
Grade 3	48%
Grade 5	66%
Grade 7	79%
Grade 9	80%
Grade 12	89%

2016/17 School Year Data<sup>3</sup>

GDOE is focused on supporting math teaching and learning across critical transition periods for students, such as when students move from elementary to middle school. The focus aligns with research on the importance of helping both elementary and middle school math students<sup>4</sup> to improve student proficiency, increasing the number and age of our students and retention at this transition point will support students' math achievement over time and their postsecondary readiness.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup>

**Addressing This Need: Professional Learning and Coaching for Teachers**

To support students' math learning during their transition from elementary to middle school, GDOE and REL Pacific are partnering to facilitate professional learning and coaching for grades 3 and 4 teachers on evidence-based math teaching strategies. This fact sheet provides examples of practices teachers can explore and an evidence-based process teachers and coaches can use for effective professional learning.

## Evidence-Based Strategies for Increasing Students' Math Performance

Check out this new fact sheet from REL Pacific that provides examples of evidence-based practices teachers in grades 5–6 can use in the classroom to support their students' math learning. The fact sheet also describes a process that teachers and instructional coaches can use to guide their professional learning about the strategies. Developed to support our partnership project with the Guam Department of Education, the strategies and guidance in the fact sheet can also be useful to educators across the Pacific Region and U.S. states.

[View Fact Sheet](#)

# REL Pacific Partnerships

Last quarter, we introduced you to our partnership projects in Hawai'i and Palau. This quarter, let's take a look at Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



## Guam

To ensure that students' math proficiency stays on track for future college and career success, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) is taking efforts to strengthen its math curriculum and instruction across multiple grade levels.

In support of this effort, REL Pacific's partnership work with GDOE is focused on increasing educators' capacity to use evidence-based math instructional practices. The partnership is also promoting collaboration among teachers, instructional coaches, school leaders, and central office administrators for the development and sharing of effective lessons and instructional strategies. Additionally, the partnership will study course-taking patterns to help teachers and administrators better understand students' math pathways from middle school through high school and better target resources to support students at risk for low math achievement.



## **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is building a stronger culture of data use at the classroom, school, and systemwide levels, particularly regarding K–3 student literacy instruction and learning outcomes. REL Pacific is supporting CNMI PSS as it identifies strategies and creates and delivers professional development to strengthen data-driven decision-making processes across schools regarding student reading interventions within PSS' multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). The CNMI Data Wayfinding Partnership is named for the traditional system of navigation through which wayfinders use observational data of the seas and skies to guide their travels across the open ocean.

This partnership will develop resources to help CNMI educators gain a deeper awareness of the evidence-base for Tier 2 interventions and will study patterns of how PSS' students are being flagged for those interventions. The partnership will also design and deliver professional learning for teachers to enhance their data literacy and understanding of effective Tier 2 reading interventions and deepen their understanding and use of formative assessment.

# Meet Our Staff!

Each quarter, we introduce you to some of our REL Pacific staff members, all of whom are committed to supporting and serving you as you tackle your problems of practice.



## **Dr. Dale Lewis**

is the interim deputy director of REL Pacific. Dr. Lewis assists REL staff with providing research, training, coaching, and technical support for evidence-based systems and practices, developed in collaboration with partnership members and stakeholders across the region. Dr. Lewis also serves as director of the Region 12 Comprehensive Center, a U.S. Department of Education-funded program serving the state education agencies in Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri.

## **Ms. Susan Ryan**

is REL Pacific's program manager, helping the team by tracking the progress of projects and deliverables, compiling and reviewing financial and staffing information, and developing progress reports. Previously, as analyst and consultant at McREL, Ms. Ryan has reviewed, revised, and developed academic standards documents for language arts, social studies, career and technical education, and content areas for numerous districts, state agencies, and national organizations.



*Keep an eye out for our next newsletter to meet more of our staff!*

# Items of Note from Across the REL Program

Following are a few recently created resources from across the REL program on topics related to current REL Pacific partnerships and projects.

## **Analyzing Teacher Mobility and Retention: Guidance and Considerations Report 2**

This report from REL Northeast & Islands is a guide for education system leaders, policymakers, and analysts who are interested in studying teacher mobility and retention. The second in a two-part set, this report presents guidance on how to interpret differences in mobility and retention rates by teacher, school, or district characteristics; analyze year-to-year trends in mobility and retention; compare mobility and retention rates across districts or states; and examine how the implementation of a policy related to teachers might be associated with teacher mobility or retention.

[View Guide](#)

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## **Infographic: The Sum Is Greater Than the Parts: Engaging Community to Promote Math Learning**

This infographic from REL Appalachia offers ideas for creating school–community partnerships that can help increase students’ self-confidence and achievement in math.

[View Infographic](#)

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## **Infographic: Supporting Your Child in Developing Math Skills For Future Success**

This infographic from REL Appalachia provides insights on how students’ math success opens doors to college and careers, and gives tips for families on how to support children in developing math skills.

[View Infographic](#)

# REL Pacific Resources



## COVID Resources

Check out the RELs' COVID resource page for updated information and resources for educators and families.

[See More](#)



## Products

Check out REL Pacific's products page on the new IES website! Click to see our research studies, blogs, and infographics!

[Read More](#)



## Research Tools

Looking for relevant, actionable research tools? Click the link below for a variety of resources across 24 topic areas!

[Explore More](#)

## We're on Twitter!

Follow @RELPacific on Twitter to stay up to date on our current work and exciting events!



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