



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-090

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Cindy Hill

DATE: June 1, 2011

SUBJECT: McREL Seeks District Partners for Research Alliances

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO SHARE

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) is recruiting Wyoming districts to partner with McREL and the Wyoming Department of Education to develop research alliances. McREL intends to facilitate these alliances to help member districts learn, in a collaborative setting, to use existing data systems to inform and improve practice. These research alliances are part of McREL's bid for the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL), which is a five-year contract expected to begin in January 2012.

Districts that partner with McREL as part of these research alliances will participate in a strengths-based model, which will help cohorts of schools and districts with similar demographics share strategies to improve their instruction, curriculum, and ultimately school and student performance. McREL will be funded to help districts work together to identify research questions of local importance, use existing data systems to answer the questions, and interpret and apply the results in classrooms, schools and board rooms.

Research alliances will be established both statewide and regionally, depending on district need and interest. McREL is interested in hearing from districts across Wyoming that might have an interest in more effectively using data to guide decision making and in working with McREL staff. McREL has held the REL Central regional service contract to serve Wyoming and six other states since 1966.

Please contact Susan Vermeer Lopez at McREL (slopez@mcrel.org or 303.632.5563) by **June 3, 2011**, if you have any questions or are interested in learning more.

CH:rew