



Four Corners Regional Education Cooperative #1

Aztec Municipal Schools – Bloomfield Public Schools—Central Consolidated Schools—Farmington Municipal Schools—Gallup-McKinley County Schools—Zuni Public Schools—San Juan College

Four Corners Regional Education Cooperative #1 Activity Highlights Report: School Year 2022–2023

Four Corners Regional Education Cooperative #1 (REC-1) continues its growth in programs, capacity, and services to our member districts and educators statewide. Our programs, both externally and internally funded, are reaching deeper into school systems where they can make the most impact on student achievement and development. We are a small REC, but we do many great things!

Below are highlights of our activities during the 2022–2023 school year.

A. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Extending Equity into the Digital Workforce (EEDW)

REC-1 continued implementation of our 4-year, federally funded research project to explore students’ experiences in dual credit IT courses within the state’s early college high schools. In SY 22–23, we brought on the RAND Corporation as evaluation partners to significantly revise the evaluation model and better meet schools’ and students’ needs. As a result, we established partnerships with 8 early college high schools and began implementation of the research model that will continue over the next 2 years. Through these efforts, we also solidified our relationship and interaction with multiple higher education partners statewide. Info: <https://eedw.nmrec1.org>

Comprehensive Navajo Dual-Language Development (CNDL)

This project funded by the Kellogg Foundation explored multiple facets of the education system for, primarily, historically underrepresented populations, including career-technical education, dual language programming, and early childhood services. During SY 22–23, REC-1 focused on expanding the reach of year 1 dual language results across the region and enhancing early childhood education opportunities. These efforts led to strong, new partnerships with early childhood organizations and agencies, providers, and educators. Info: <https://nmrec1.org/dual-language/>

SEL4NM

With funding from the LANL Foundation, REC-1 continued support for the new SEL4NM organization, and assisted with organization set-up, expansion, policy development, and strategic growth. SEL4NM includes many of the top leaders, statewide and beyond, in social-emotional learning. Info: <https://nmrec1.org/sel4nm/>

CLIA Waivers

Through agreements and contract with the NM Department of Health, REC-1 incorporated 35 school sites into our “umbrella” CLIA waiver, designed to assist public and non-public school provide on-site testing for Covid, influenza, and pregnancy. Under this program, REC-1 holds the CLIA waiver and incorporates school sites. REC-1 provides regular site

visits to ensure compliance with the CLIA requirements. The contract to offer these services was renewed for an additional year. Info <http://www.nmrec1.org/cliawaivers/>

PED—RECA State Technology Initiative

REC-1 participated in the state technology initiative to help improve the use of technologies to enhance student learning. The project was funded through the NM PED, and implemented by the 10 RECs in the NM Regional Education Cooperatives Association (RECA). Our participation included production of 14 “tech bits” recorded technology training sessions, initial set up of a student-run technology help desk, direct funding of technologies for schools, a variety of professional development opportunities, and a digital learning coach available to support educators across the region. Info: <https://nmrec1.org/statewide-technology-initiative/>

Northwest NM School Leaders Network (NNMSLN)

Through an agreement with Aztec Municipal Schools, REC-1 serves as the fiscal agent, logistics facilitator, and thought partner for the NNMSLN, which is funded by the Frost Foundation and implemented by Aztec Municipal Schools. The core purpose of this project is to pair experienced administrators with new administrators in a mentoring relationship. Approximately 20 regional administrators will be served through this process. Info: <https://nmrec1.org/school-leader-network/>

Tips by Text

In partnership with REC #5, UNM, and RAND Corporation, REC-1 supported the enrollment of parents in the Tips by Text program, which delivers literacy and mathematics information and activities to parents of pre-school children. Info: <https://nmrec1.org/tbt/>

B. OTHER PROJECTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dual Credit Task Force

REC-1 collaborated with Representative Romero, Chair of the House Education Committee, to develop and sponsor a bill that would establish a dual credit task force. The intent was to understand the variety of programs and policies statewide, identify successful programs and high school-higher education partnerships, and find models to inform the education system. The bill passed the house and senate but was not signed into law.

Dual Credit IT Teacher Pilot Project

REC-1 collaborated with Representative Romero, Chair of the House Education Committee, and the director of the NM Center for Cybersecurity Excellence, housed at NM Tech, to establish a pilot program for training high school teachers to be dual credit instructors in cyber security and increase both student enrollment and student success in cybersecurity coursework and certificate acquisition. The bill passed the house but was not voted on by the senate.

ECHO Literacy

REC-1 collaborated with Project Echo, housed at UNM, to design a federally funded research project that would enhance elementary teachers' ability to provide effective reading instruction in our region and other select areas of the state.

Pre-K Educator Workshops

In collaboration with the San Juan County Early Childhood Coalition and the San Juan College Child and Family Development Center, REC-1 facilitated two well-attended workshops on integrating social emotional development and culturally responsive education in early childhood programs. Attendees represented every district in our region.

C. PARTNERSHIPS

Through our various projects and activities, REC-1 has created a strong network of partnering organizations and professionals. In reality, as a small REC, much of our success in providing high-value services depends on fostering and building partnerships. Sample partnering organizations include the following.

- Department of Health Office of School and Adolescent Health
- Gallup-McKinley County Early Childhood Coalition
- National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment
- NM Dual Credit Council
- NM Legislative Education Study Committee
- Project ECHO
- San Juan College Child and Family Development Center
- San Juan County Early Childhood Coalition
- School Health Advocate Network
- SEL4NM

E. NEXT STEPS / FUTURE PROJECTS

We have 4 major initiatives for which we will continue to pursue funding, in addition to our current programs:

1. Virtual school development
2. Mathematics and reading interventions
3. School safety enhancement
4. Teacher recruitment

We're undergoing a strategic planning process now with the coordinating council, which will be valuable for fine-tuning our future outreach and major programs and services.