



Testimonials from School Districts

Kori Goracki, ACGC Elementary Principal

ACGC Elementary had the privilege of working with the Regional Centers of Excellence for three years. RCE walked side-by-side with us: not ahead of us telling us what to do and not behind us pushing us to do something. They walked beside us as a guide and as a support system which soon turned into a trusted source for our staff. RCE imbedded in ACGC the tools we needed to sustain our efforts and continue to have success in our system long after our direct support from RCE concluded. ACGC is truly thankful for the vast amount of services provided to us by RCE as it was a key component of our school improvement efforts!

Adrienne Eickman, Instructional Facilitator at Cass Lake-Bena Elementary

I personally have benefited very much from the Regional Center. The RCE has provided PD and specific support that has been very helpful for our whole staff, but what has been most valuable to me has been having someone (or several someones) to be a second opinion, a second set of eyes, and a partner in untangling the school improvement process. As a new instructional facilitator, I often feel like I am taking a step into darkness. I have never felt like I have a silly question or an issue that is too small to ask the RCE for help with, and even if my questions have been silly, the RCE staff has always dealt with me very respectfully and answered all of my questions thoroughly, quickly, and in a way that always makes me feel like my questions are welcome. Thank you!

Bao Vang, Elementary Principal at Community of Peace Academy

The work that we have done with our advocate, Kelly Frankenfield from SE/Metro Regional Center of Excellence has helped our school improvement team move our school forward. The focus on one intervention and the support we have received from Kelly is integral to our success. Instead of focusing on many initiatives, we were able to focus on our one usable intervention and really develop our teachers' knowledge and skill in that area. Kelly provided resources, kept us on track to know where we were heading and gave us useful feedback on how we are progressing on our goals. Working together with Kelly and the resources with SE/Metro Regional Center of Excellence has helped our team be successful in building our leadership capacity.

Nicholas Pretasky, Director of Northern Lights Community School

Our Regional Centers of Excellence Advocate has spent the time to understand the needs of our students and family to better improve our school. Our advocate has worked along side us to help us better reach the mission and vision of our school. The Regional Centers of Excellence do not just change your school, they understand the importance of improving it.

Leona Derden, Elementary Principal at Northport Elementary

I have enjoyed partnering with the COE and their help to support school improvement efforts at my school has been AWESOME!

Jill McGowan, Elementary Principal at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Elementary

Coming in to a recently designated Priority school as a new principal required some immediate assessment of current processes in place. Collaborating with the Northern Sky Regional Center of Excellence, we did a needs assessment and began creating a sustainable implementation process to help move school improvement efforts forward. Having a strong leadership team is a critical component of the implementation process because you can't do it alone and the success is based on building school-wide capacity.