

## PURPOSE

The Center on Innovation & Improvement helps regional centers in their work with states to provide districts, schools, and families with the opportunity, information, and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students.

## INNOVATION

Innovation is an idea, invention, or way of doing business that is a departure from the norm. Innovation in education is the constant search for the best way for each student to learn. Options for students and parents provide multiple paths to student success and create incentives for schools to innovate and to show results. The Center on Innovation & Improvement identifies and encourages successful innovations engendered by options.

## IMPROVEMENT

While research has cataloged the practices found in successful schools, we have less understanding of what it takes to move a mediocre school toward excellence. Yet that is the central task of school improvement. The Center on Innovation & Improvement studies the process of improvement, including its motivating factors, its necessary competencies, and its systemic components. The Center turns findings into practical recommendations for state policies, programs, and practices that move schools forward.

## PRIORITIES

The Center's current priorities are:

- Supplemental Educational Services
- Restructuring and Turnarounds
- Statewide Systems of Support

## SERVICES

The Center's services to regional centers include those listed below. Information provided on the Center's website is useful to state personnel, school administrators, teachers, and parents as well.

- Website at [www.centerii.org](http://www.centerii.org)
  - Database on school and district improvement, restructuring, supplemental educational services
  - Tracking of state progress
  - Research, reports, tools with search engine
- Institute for School Improvement and Education Options (annual)
- Solution finding for regional centers
- Monthly e-newsletter on school improvement (with CCSSO), monthly resource Spotlights
- Regional Center-State TA Retreats
- Consultation, Presentations, Webinars
- Handbooks, Guidebooks, and other publications, including:
  - *Handbook on Restructuring and Substantial School Improvement*
  - *Handbook on Statewide Systems of Support*
  - *Evaluating Supplemental Educational Service Providers*
  - *SES Outreach to Parents*
  - *School Turnarounds*

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*The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of the supporting agencies, and no official endorsement should be inferred.*

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The Center on Innovation & Improvement is a partnership of the Academic Development Institute (Lincoln, IL), Temple University Center for Research in Human Development and Education (Philadelphia, PA), and Little Planet Learning (Nashville, TN).

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INFORMATION TOOLS TRAINING

CENTER ON

INNOVATION & IMPROVEMENT

Twin paths to better schools