Learning Innovations (LI) informs policy and practice throughout the United States through these major areas of work:

**Special Education Technical Assistance** is provided by the National Center for Systemic Improvement, Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting, and direct services to school districts.

**School Improvement Services** include teacher and leader effectiveness, courses in assessment, mathematics and reading instruction, critical thinking, data use, and other areas. Provide assistance to state departments of education to support educational equity and excellence through the Northeast Comprehensive Center.

**Justice and Prevention Research Center** leads research and evaluation studies addressing school and community safety, criminal and juvenile justice, and public health and other prevention areas.

**Educational Research and Evaluation Studies** are conducted through the Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands. Staff also conduct evaluations of federally funded and state-level educational programs.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Operating two national centers funded by the Office of Special Education Programs: National Center for Systemic Improvement and Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting. These centers, along with two subcontracts on the IDEA Data Center and the IDEA Data Management Center, provide national leadership for improving outcomes for children with disabilities.

- Established WestEd’s Justice & Prevention Research Center, which conducts research and evaluation studies on school and community safety, criminal and juvenile justice, and public health and other prevention topics; and produces widely used publications, including a report on research evidence on reducing youth gun violence.

- Providing school improvement services to multiple school districts in the Northeast. Established a partnership with the New York State Council of State Superintendents, enabling information about WestEd’s services and programs to reach approximately 700 superintendents.

- Developed and provided numerous workshops on practitioner data use and a companion toolkit for the Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands (REL-NEI). Also conducted a scan of state policies and plans regarding the use of student learning objectives in educator evaluation.
Leadership Academy for Experienced Special Education Administrators
Designed to develop and enhance leadership skills for experienced special education administrators, leading to positive education outcomes for students with disabilities and their families.

Reading to Learn
Designed to increase student achievement in reading and writing.

Math Pathways & Pitfalls (MPP)
A K–8 intervention curriculum that increases the academic achievement of diverse students.

Dual Language Program Development and English Language Learner Instruction
Provides professional and program development and coaching for districts and schools.

Educator Quality and Evaluation
Provides support to develop and implement effective educator evaluation systems.

Featured Projects

National Center for Systemic Improvement
Provides states with technical assistance for school districts and local early intervention service programs to improve education results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities.

Northeast Regional Comprehensive Center
Increases state capacity to help districts and schools meet student achievement goals.

Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands
Provides research and technical assistance for state, district, and school educators to increase their use of scientifically based evidence to make decisions that lead to improved student achievement and reduce performance gaps among student groups.

Formative Assessment for Maryland Educators
Developing a statewide professional development program to support the use of formative assessment in the classroom.

Massachusetts Safe & Successful Youth Initiative
Provides services to move young men from a life of gangs and involvement in gun violence to engage with school, employment, and other pro-social activities. WestEd, in partnership with the American Institutes for Research, is evaluating the initiative’s impact.

Visit the LI web page, WestEd.org/program/learning-innovations/, to learn more about this program, including services, research, resources, and projects.

Featured Research

School Safety Experiments
Involved in three large-scale randomized controlled trials to test the impact of selected school safety/climate interventions.

Restorative Justice in U.S. Schools
Examining the current landscape of restorative justice programs and practices in United States kindergarten–12th grade schools.

Police-Led Crime Prevention at K–12 Schools
Conducting a systematic review of research on the increased role of police in education settings and whether that might be leading unnecessarily to more youth getting involved in the court system for minor school offenses.

Redesigning Teacher Evaluation: Lessons from a Pilot Implementation
Comparing new district teacher evaluation systems in the New Hampshire districts that received a School Improvement Grant, measuring implementation fidelity, and examining implementation factors.

Evaluation of the Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports Initiative
Conducted a multi-year, multi-method evaluation of the implementation and results of this statewide initiative.

Featured Resources

Practitioner Data Use in Schools: Workshop Toolkit
Leading Every Day: Actions for Effective Leadership, Third Edition
Growing into Equity
Motivation to Learn: Transforming Classroom Culture to Support Student Achievement