

PARTICIPATE TODAY!

To participate in the RAC assessment process, go to our web site, www.RAC-ED.org, and register as a public user in your region. As a registered user, you can post comments and testimony at our on-line public hearing and attend the on-line public meetings.

If you do not wish to register, you may provide comments by email to:

RAC@cna.org

Subject header: [Region] Comments

Or by mail to:

[Region] RAC Support Office
Attn: Dr. Arthur Sheekey
The CNA Corporation
4825 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22311-1850

The RACs are supported by The CNA Corporation under contract to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Contract No: ED-04-CO-0043.



RAC Support Office
The CNA Corporation
4825 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22311

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT



www.RAC-ED.org

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES?

The U.S. Secretary of Education appointed 10 Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to advise the U.S. Department of Education on the technical assistance needs of educators in ten geographic regions across the nation. The RACs are conducting an educational needs assessment of their regions and will submit a report to the Secretary in March 2005, identifying the challenges each region faces in improving student achievement as well as technical assistance needs.

The results of these assessments will be used to assist the Secretary in establishing funding priorities for new comprehensive technical assistance centers and regional educational laboratories that will help state education agencies, school districts, and schools to implement the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

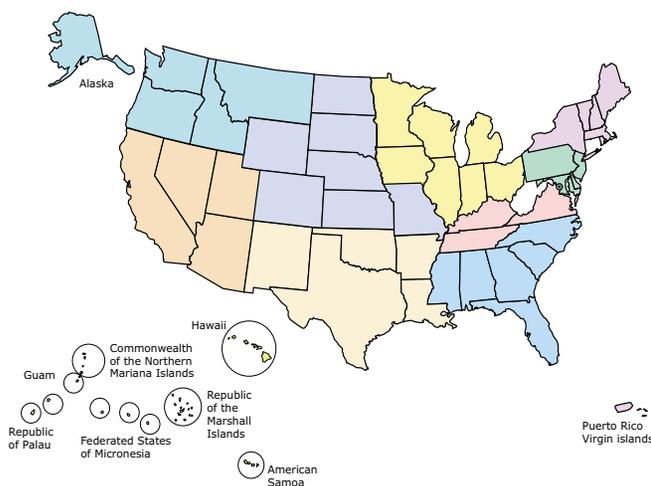
WHO SERVES ON THE RACs?

Each RAC includes one or more representatives from each state in the region. The number of members on any given RAC reflects the size of that region. The majority of RAC members include parents, local education agency representatives (including rural and urban), and practicing educators (teachers, principals, administrators, school board members, and local school officials).

Business persons, researchers and representatives of institutions of higher education make up the remainder of the committee. Each state education agency is also represented.

WHAT ARE THE 10 REGIONS?

- Region 1: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina
- Region 2: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- Region 3: Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah
- Region 4: Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia
- Region 5: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands
- Region 6: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC
- Region 7: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Region 8: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin
- Region 9: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Region 10: Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, And Yap), Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.



WHEN DO THE RACs MEET ?

Public meetings for the RACs will occur January thru March 2005. Each RAC has its own schedule of meetings, which is posted on the RAC web site, in the Federal Register, and in announcements from various organizations that are assisting in an outreach effort.

Meetings involving a majority of RAC members, including substantive discussions or data gathering activities, must be open to the public. RAC meetings are governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which sets forth the standards for the formation and use of advisory committees. Requirements in the FACA guide the conduct of RAC meetings with individuals, agencies, and organizations that aim to assess a region's educational and technical assistance needs.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

The final reports will address:

- Critical educational needs of states and local communities, particularly those related to improving school performance and student achievement and implementing NCLB
- Regional technical assistance requirements to meet the needs of different stakeholder groups
- Opportunities for comprehensive technical assistance centers and laboratories to effectively meet ongoing and emerging education needs.