

## RC6 Support for the SCDE

The [Region 6 Comprehensive Center \(RC6\)](#) is operated by the SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro and provides technical assistance to State Education Agencies (SEAs) in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Assistance is tailored to the needs of the individual SEAs while addressing the priorities of the U.S. Department of Education. Currently (as of April 2023), the RC6 has the following four projects underway at the request of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE).

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4
Improving Family Engagement Support to Districts and Schools (2021-present)	Supporting MTSS Implementation in SC (2020-2022)/Cross-State MTSS Collaborative (2022-present)	Support for the Office of School Transformation (2020-present)	Support for Consolidating Operations and Resources Efficiently (2022-present)

### Project 1: Improving Family Engagement Support to Districts and Schools

The SCDE defines parent engagement as when “parents and families are actively involved in the learning and development of all students to become college- and career-ready.” To the extent that schools and LEAs are successful in giving families the needed tools, skills, and information, then families are more likely to be better able to support their student. Moving families to a more “engaged” status, particularly in high-poverty communities, is a challenge faced by many low performing schools. Since 2021, the RC6 has supported the SCDE by 1) providing evidence-based information and relevant resources, 2) collecting and summarizing information to describe how schools are using the South Carolina Family Engagement K-12 Framework resource and self-assessment tools, and 3) assisting in the planning for the SCDE Family Engagement Summit, which is an annual cross-agency/cross-organization event focused on building knowledge statewide about successful family engagement strategies. To kick-off its support for the SCDE, in 2022, the RC6 completed a document called the [South Carolina Family Engagement Supports and Resources Guide](#). The RC6 also assisted the SCDE in planning their 2021 and 2022 Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Summits, including leading the registration and presentation proposal submission processes, coordinating sessions, and hosting the virtual platform. Recorded sessions were posted on the [RC6 FACE Summit webpage](#).

### Project 2: Supporting MTSS Implementation

In 2021-22, the RC6 supported the SCDE in their efforts to better understand the current status of MTSS implementation in the state. The support resulted in a RC6 report based on focus groups conducted with several districts and schools in South Carolina about their successes and challenges in implementing MTSS. One challenge identified by the RC6 report was the difficulty faced by high schools in developing schedules that allowed for needed interventions during the school day with students experiencing academic difficulties. The RC6 produced a document in 2023 in response to this identified challenge entitled ([Implementing MTSS in Secondary Schools: Challenges and Strategies](#)). In 2022, conversations with MTSS leaders across the three RC6 states resulted in a new direction for the RC6 support for MTSS implementation. That is, there was a desire among the MTSS leaders in the three states to collaborate with and learn from each other and from those in districts and schools who were implementing MTSS. Thus, in 2023 the RC6 is 1) facilitating opportunities for SEA MTSS leaders in Georgia, North Carolina,

and South Carolina to collaborate with and learn from each other and 2) synthesizing and sharing knowledge of secondary school-level MTSS implementation by identifying and collecting school “implementation journeys” via interviews and sharing these stories in a common format on an RC6 webpage. The RC6 will work with state leaders to disseminate this webpage to LEAs and share insights via webinars and other meetings. (See the [RC6 MTSS webpage](#) where secondary-level MTSS implementation stories will be featured.)

### Project 3: Support for the Office of School Transformation (OST)

In this project, the RC6 provides technical assistance to enhance the capacity of the SCDE to use an integrated, comprehensive model of tiered systems of supports to schools. The long-term goal is improvement of support from SCDE to districts and schools to meet the needs of underserved and underperforming students. This RC6 project helps build capacity of the SCDE in terms of improving connections across the SCDE and between the SCDE and LEAs and increasing the capacity of transformation coaches to work effectively with low-performing schools. RC6 support for the SCDE included assisting the OST with building school improvement coaching capacity. For example, the RC6 helped the executive leadership team and lead transformation coaches with refining the school needs assessment process (i.e., Diagnostic System Review process) and with improving communication processes for cross-agency collaboration with transformation coaches to better support low-performing schools. Assistance also included working with the Office of Federal and State Accountability (OFSA) team and other departments at the SCDE in conducting strategic planning discussions, including drafting a roadmap to develop and deploy a system of comprehensive support. Finally, the RC6 provided training on Implementation Science for 65 education associates and 12 lead transformation coaches.

### Project 4: Support for Consolidating Operations and Resources Effectively (SCORE)

The goal of this RC6 project is to help build organizational capacity for the SCDE in 1) working to develop and deploy a system of comprehensive support which relies on the collaboration and coordination of services across the agency; 2) improving connections between the SCDE and LEAs; and 3) aligning processes and procedures around the SCDE School Improvement Framework, comprehensive needs assessment, and school improvement plans. That is, in 2022-23, the RC6 team provides individualized consultative services to assist the SCDE in visioning, planning, and implementing improved alignment and coordination of key support systems to schools and districts as part of an agency-wide foundational focus on support for school and district improvement. RC6 support included providing strategic planning support to SEA directors in the co-creation of the new SCDE School Improvement Framework, CCNA, and One Plan. In the fall of 2022, the RC6 conducted three needs sensing meetings with 50 educators (including SCDE and LEAs across the state) and developed a one-page flyer about SCORE to create a common language and understanding of the implementation efforts in co-creating one statewide system for district and school improvement through collaboration and support.