

Dear Colleague,

As the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and a member of the United States Department of Education's Mid Continent Regional Advisory Committee, we want to inform you about an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of state and local educational agencies to improve schools in our region. Our Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), one of ten established by the U.S. Secretary of Education, is charged with conducting an assessment of technical assistance needs of states, districts, schools, and other education stakeholders in this region. In March, the committee will submit a report to the Secretary that will help the U.S. Department of Education establish funding priorities for a set of new regional technical assistance centers.

The U. S. Department of Education is requesting your comments and input regarding the technical assistance needs of educators to implement the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). You and your colleagues can actively participate and provide input to this process by registering on the RAC Web site at <http://www.rac-ed.org> and posting your comments in the public discussion area. Registration will automatically subscribe you to our E-bulletins that provide updates on regional information and notification of regional events.

If you do not wish to register, you may provide input on education and technical assistance needs by email to mayc@iel.org, (Subject Header: Mid Continent Comments) or by mail to:

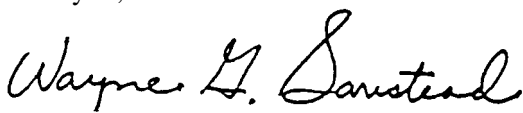
Mid Continent Region RAC Support
ATTN: Courtney May
The Institute for Educational Leadership
1001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

The Mid Continent RAC will be holding additional public meetings to assess the educational needs within the region. The committee will be looking for input from the stakeholders they represent and the public. These meetings will be broadcast through web-based technology on the following dates: **Tuesday, January 4, 2005**, **Thursday, February 10, 2005**, and **Thursday, March 10, 2005**. All three meetings will take place from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m. CST**. You may register to attend these meetings via the Internet at <http://www.rac-ed.org>. For other questions or comments, please contact Courtney May at mayc@iel.org.

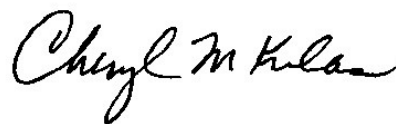
We hope you will pass this information on to other individuals involved with education in North Dakota along with taking the time yourself to get involved in this important process. Please visit the Web site at www.rac-ed.org to stay up-to-date on the status of the needs assessment project in your region. This is a wonderful opportunity to voice your concerns to the U.S. Department of Education about the technical assistance needs of the state of North Dakota and local school districts.

If you have any questions regarding the RAC project, please contact the RAC Support Office at The CNA Corporation: rac@cna.org (Subject Header: Mid Continent Comments).

Thank you,



Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent



Cheryl M. Kulas, Mid Continent Regional Advisory Committee Member