Empowering English Language Learners

The mission of RBERNs is to help school communities create educational environments that are safe, equitable and culturally relevant for English Language Learners (ELLs).

- We strengthen educators, parents and local communities with technical assistance, professional development and resource materials.
- We support the New York State Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) initiatives.
- We make ELL success happen.

Support for a Growing Need

Since 1982, RBERN has proven to be an invaluable resource for our ELLs across New York State.

As of 2020, there are an estimated 256,736 ELLs in New York State.

That number is growing – fast. Over the past five years, there has been an 18.2% increase in the number of ELLs in New York State.

RBERNs offer regional expertise that allows immediate response to educators and students in the field.

RBERNs collaborate with BOCES and Institution of Higher Education content specialists to build cross-content resources that support teachers of ELLs, but are also effective for all learners.

Statewide Impact 2019-20

RBERNs serve 256,736 English Language Learners

732 School districts supported

Total professional development sessions 922

3,436 parents received PD from RBERNs

2,871 administrators received PD

22,059 teachers & support staff received PD

The Power of Partnerships

The New York State Education Department Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages supports eight RBERNs, also referred to as technical assistance support centers, with seven regional RBERNs and one statewide Language RBERN. As a network, the RBERNs work in partnership with OBEWL to provide technical assistance and professional learning to the 732 school districts, 351 charter schools and 37 BOCES in NYS in order to improve instructional practices and ensure equitable educational outcomes of students who are ELLs.
Testimonials

“You provide outstanding professional development that I have been able to bring back and implement in my classroom and share with content teachers.”
- Teacher, English as a New Language

“RBERN resource specialists play a vital role in the development of ELL teachers.”
- Director, Bilingual Pupil Services

“The RBERN specialists are an integral part of our professional development plan as we work to support the learning of all of our students. They are flexible and available to push into the classroom, co-plan with teachers and provide stand-alone professional development on an as-needed basis.”
- APPR Administrator

“The RBERN leadership has been my greatest support and resource for accurate information, cutting-edge technology and informational intelligence. They support our ELLs, their families, and all of us who truly believe we are making a difference in the lives of ELLs. If there were a way to add more staff and funding to our RBERN, how many more lives would they be able to transform!”
- Coordinator of Bilingual Education & World Languages

“With a growing population of ELLs within our school community, RBERN has provided us with direction and support in how to best meet the needs of the students, families and faculty as a whole. Through their unwavering support, our district has improved in the areas of co-teaching, establishment of a second English as a New Language (ENL) Elementary Center, professional development, family engagement, regional scoring, and other nuances of the ENL pathways.”
- Supervisor of Special Programs

Contacts

NYS Language RBERN (Statewide)
New York University Metro Center
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Director: Ronald D. Woo
Email: nyslanguagebern@gmail.com
Web: https://research.steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/center/technical_assistance/program/language_rbern

Capital District RBERN at Questar III BOCES
10 Empire State Boulevard, Castleton, NY 12033
Tel: (518) 477-8771
Director: Carmen Diaz
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Hudson Valley RBERN at SW BOCES
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Executive Director: Carlos Sánchez
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Web: https://www.hudsonvalleyrbern.org/

Long Island RBERN at Eastern Suffolk BOCES
379 Locust Ave, Oakdale, NY 11769
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Executive Director: Christa Stevenson
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Web: https://www.esboces.org/lirbern

Mid-State RBERN at OCM BOCES
110 Ewood Davis Road, Liverpool, NY 13088
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Mid-West RBERN at Monroe 2 – Orleans BOCES
3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport, NY 14559
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