



Each issue of Education Connections introduces readers to the latest ventures in research, evaluation, technical assistance, and training for our clients. Our first issue's theme is data in education, considered through the lens of ICF-led data initiatives: Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Mid-Atlantic's support for early childhood data use and the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center's (ARCC) work with the Virginia Department of Education to encourage instructional practices based on formative assessment.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information about ICF in education. Our expertise extends from early education to K-12 schooling, to postsecondary education and workforce development. The solutions we devise with our clients enhance their capacity to achieve the outcomes they seek.

## REL Mid-Atlantic Advances Early Childhood Data Use

We know data can play a major role in defining strategies for helping children succeed.

REL Mid-Atlantic is assisting educators to identify ways to manage data from multiple systems. To assist states, REL Mid-Atlantic facilitated a regional working group that looked at ways to design, manage, and use state data systems for early childhood education decision making. Our [Early Childhood Data Systems: Putting Data to Work](#) report presents the group's findings.



Visit [this link](#) for additional information about REL Mid-Atlantic's support for using early education data, including tools for data collection, analysis, and reporting.

## ARCC Partners with Virginia to Support Formative Assessment



The Virginia Department of Education has partnered with the ARCC to support the use of formative assessment instructional practices. During the 2014-2015 academic year, teachers, principals, and coaches from six Virginia divisions (as local school districts are called in the state) participated in a first-year pilot of an online professional learning modules and communication through Google+. Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents reported an increase in their use of formative assessment with their students, and 69% thought that using formative assessment had improved student result. For more information about the formative assessment instructional practices initiative, visit the ARCC at [this link](#).

## ISO EDUCATION SPECIALIST

If you want to work on the leading issues of the day, if you want your work to reflect your passion in life, if you truly want to make the world a better place, then work at ICF International.

We seek an **On-Call Education Specialist** to work on technical assistance projects in such key areas as standards and assessments, accountability, school turnaround, educator evaluation and support, data systems to improve instruction, STEM, dropout prevention, and technology integration. You will collaborate with teams to develop and deliver assistance that blends opportunities for clients to enhance their substantive knowledge and skill with opportunities to build organizational strength. Basic qualifications include a minimum of a Master's degree, experience as a senior leader in a state department of education, and excellent oral and written communication skills. Visit [this link](#) for more details.