

Enhancing Community Well-being Through Partnerships in Education

PREL SERVICES

PREL
Areas of Service

Respect Reciprocity Relevance Responsibility



VISION

PREL envisions strong schools, healthy communities, and thriving cultures with Pacific hearts and global minds.

MISSION

Enhancing community well-being through partnerships in education.

Introduction

Since PREL was established more than 20 years ago, we have worked across a substantial part of the education spectrum. Our federal, state, and private contracts have varied in emphases throughout the years to include research and evaluation, professional learning, equity, standards and assessment development, and data systems and governance. No matter what the work, PREL has always had at its core four central ideas: respect, reciprocity, relevance, and responsibility. *Respect* means valuing the diversity of knowledge about education, health, and the environment that forms the foundation on which resilient communities are based. *Reciprocity* in the relationships that we build means investing long term in communities, with embedded staff and support for community experts, and sharing what we learn across the region. *Relevance*, which is critical to every aspect of our work, means working with local partners to cocreate meaningful programs and products that are rooted in their community's assets while addressing their needs. *Responsibility* reflects the collaborative nature of our work: PREL aims to partner with communities, sharing the responsibility for project initiatives, and in doing so, empowering students, educators, and community members to continue the work independently.

In both informal and formal settings, PREL brings expertise in bilingual education, mathematics, science, literacy, early childhood education, standards and assessment, workforce development, and teacher and leadership development. PREL's partners in this work include state and local agencies; nonprofit organizations; schools; libraries; community groups; child care programs; universities; business; foundations; and local, national, and regional associations.

While you will find particular areas of service described here, PREL has the capabilities and resources to provide customized services to meet your community's education needs.

Service Areas

1. College and Career Readiness: PREL's college and career readiness programs and partnerships expose students and their parents to study skills instruction, financial literacy, SAT/ACT entrance exam preparation, the college application process, job shadowing and internship opportunities, career fairs, community service/service learning opportunities, and much more. PREL partners with school systems and communities to provide coaching, counseling, and support to high school students and their families so that they are knowledgeable, prepared, and better equipped to navigate postsecondary education, vocational training, and other careers.

- **Featured Services**

- » STEM workforce development
- » Standards & assessment
- » Instructional material design
- » Mentoring & job shadowing

2. Instructional Leadership: PREL's professional learning services for instructional leaders put learning at the center of decision making. All services are grounded in research and customized to meet your needs.

- **Featured Services**

- » Responsive classrooms
- » Evaluation processes to improve instruction
- » Education technology & distance education
- » Using school-level data

3. Early Learning: PREL's early learning team provides services to strengthen partnerships within and among early childhood care and education, health care, and community organizations and agencies to promote and sustain comprehensive and effective early learning systems. Working closely with parents, teachers, librarians, community members, and policy makers, our services are designed to ensure that all children have the cognitive, physical, intellectual, and social-emotional supports they need.

- **Featured Services**

- » Standards & assessment
- » Professional learning: Teachers and leaders
- » Policy development & review
- » Customized technical assistance

4. English Learners & Bilingual Education: PREL's English learners and bilingual education team offers services to state education agency staff, teachers, school leaders, counselors, parents, and community members to strengthen collective efforts to improve student achievement in the medium of instruction, be it a Pacific language or English. Our services are designed to build background knowledge in English Language Learners (ELL's) and bilingual instructional models and programs for both English-medium and bilingual contexts; support learning through the development of language proficiency standards and assessments; create language resources for and with communities; and, provide hands-on professional learning for

teachers about instructional methods and strategies for English-medium and bilingual contexts that can be employed across the curriculum.

- **Featured Services**

- » Policy development & review
- » Language proficiency standards & assessment
- » Community resources
- » Professional learning: Multiple literacies

5. Research & Evaluation: PREL's research and evaluation team conducts research and evaluates education programs to determine what works in the field. We then use the findings to help enhance education outcomes for schools, teachers, families, and children. Finally, we provide education policy makers, researchers, school systems, program developers, and practitioners with information to make informed decisions about education policies, programs, and practices.

- **Featured Services**

- » Formative and summative program evaluations
- » Data collection & analysis
- » Evaluation design for grant applications
- » Research & customized technical assistance

6. Formative Assessment Processes: PREL staff offers services that highlight five critical attributes of effective formative assessment processes in the classroom: learning pathways, learning goals and criteria for success, descriptive feedback, self- and peer-assessment, and teacher/student collaborations. We provide support to instructional leaders, teachers, parents, and community members interested in actively engaging students in a systematic process intended to improve their learning.

- **Featured Services**

- » Professional learning: Five attributes
- » Formative processes for diverse learners
- » Short Assessments for Literacy (SAL) K-3
- » Short Assessments for Mathematics (SAM) K-3

7. Standards & Assessment: PREL's educational assessment work helps education agencies and educators determine what students should know and be able to do in relation to standards and curriculum. Our work includes formative, summative, and diagnostic assessment and is used to measure student or system performance. It is also used for accountability at the school, state, and federal level.

- **Featured Services**

- » Culturally responsive assessment
- » Alignment and crosswalk studies of standards & assessments
- » English language proficiency standards & assessments
- » Large-scale assessment

8. Data Systems & Governance: PREL's data systems development and quality management team provides customized services to education and community stakeholders. Our staff collaborates with education agencies, facilitating communication among statisticians, survey methodologists, practitioners, policy analysts, researchers, and the public.

• **Featured Services**

- » Database development
- » Data analysis & data quality reviews
- » Customized technical assistance
- » Professional learning: Data-driven decision making

9. Mathematics & Science: PREL has a history of leading U.S. Department of Education and National Science Foundation funded mathematics and science research projects, conducting evaluations and providing implementation support and product design in both formal and informal learning settings. Our pioneering work in ethnomathematics studies the merger of cultural knowledge and mathematics, and how indigenous communities experience mathematics as a complex combination of attitudes, computational skills, and conceptual understandings.

• **Featured Services**

- » Standards, curriculum, & assessment
- » Materials development
- » Professional learning: Mathematics & Science
- » Research & evaluation

10. Arts and Humanities: The Pacific Center for the Arts and Humanities in Education (PCAHE) at PREL provides technical assistance and capacity building for schools, museums, libraries, and community arts education organizations. PCAHE delivers professional development workshops to improve learning in and through the arts. To assist educators with the creation and delivery of innovative and engaging standards-referenced arts and humanities learning opportunities, PREL offers workshops and forums focused on storytelling, music, visual arts, history, and aesthetics.

• **Featured Services**

- » Arts education research & professional learning
- » Standards & curriculum development
- » Picturing Science
- » Image-to-Word/Word-to-Image

11. Equity: PREL works collaboratively to help public schools and their communities incorporate educational equity into policies, procedures, and classroom practices to ensure that students receive what they need to succeed academically. PREL's Equity Center provides training and technical assistance on issues related to equity in education to ensure that all children, regardless of race, sex, sexual preference, or national origin, have equal access to quality education and the opportunity to develop high academic standards in reading, math, language arts, and other core subject areas.

• **Featured Services**

- » Policy, standards, assessments, & strategies
- » Differentiating instruction for English language learners
- » Professional learning: Equity leadership
- » Creating policies for safe schools & bullying prevention

12. Policy: The Policy Center at PREL provides nonpartisan, research-based information for policy makers, education stakeholders, and interested members of the public. In particular, the center seeks to better public understanding of how educational performance relates to a nation's civic health and the strength of its local and national economies.

• **Featured Services**

- » Analyses of proposed or enacted legislation
- » Convening policy makers & education stakeholders
- » Customized technical assistance
- » Policy briefs for key audiences

13. 21st Century Skills: PREL is committed to promoting critical thinking and providing engaging and empowering learning experiences both in and out of school that prepare youth to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in the global community. The development of 21st century skills is embedded in PREL's library and information literacy initiatives tailored to strengthen a range of literacies for all ages and in a wide range of educational environments.

• **Featured Services**

- » Designing engaging learning spaces
- » Project-based inquiry learning
- » Professional learning: 4Cs
- » E-learning technical assistance

14. Family & Community Engagement: PREL's work in engaging families and communities includes evaluations of early learning programs, assistance to early learning programs, and consultations to help shape school policies that support effective parent, family, and community involvement. We provide technical assistance to local and regional programs to develop resources for practitioners, and direct two U.S. Department of Education Parent Information and Resource Centers.

• **Featured Services**

- » Planning & technical assistance
- » Professional learning: Parental involvement
- » Cultural Awareness Responsiveness Education (CARE): Understanding and supporting Micronesian students in our schools
- » Parent empowerment: Supporting ELL/Micronesian parents in their children's education



Following PREL's mission, *enhancing community well-being through partnerships in education*, we envision strong schools, healthy communities, and thriving cultures with Pacific hearts and global minds. Throughout the Pacific, a region of diverse languages and cultures, PREL collaborates with local communities and agencies using the proven results of research to transform education and promote dynamic reciprocal learning communities built on strong social and cultural capital. PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Hawai'i, with offices in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

Community

Education

Partnerships

Responsive



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Transformative Place-based Asset-driven Embedded