



ARCHES Intentional Collaborative Building (ICB)

The ARCHES Intentional Collaborative Building (ICB) is a capacity-building effort designed to support, grow, and sustain a collaborative. ICB services address the specific challenges of a collaborative, bolster its leadership capacity, and support the extension of collaborative efforts to collect and utilize student-level data to monitor the impact of initiatives on closing resources and opportunity gaps. The ICB leverages the expertise of ARCHES and its Alliance Network to share best practices and provide support in areas such as: facilitation, research, relationship-building, and development of collaborative evaluation systems.

Through the ICB process, ARCHES partners closely with a collaborative by delivering technical assistance to support the collaborative's progress in moving to the next level of implementation. The ICB uses the ARCHES Diagnostic Collaborative Assessment Tool (ACDT) that provides data across nine essential collaborative drivers. The ICB activities are unique to each local context and the scope of support is clearly articulated and agreed upon by both the collaborative and ARCHES which ensures that support is responsive to the needs and context of each collaborative.

Specific goals of the ICB process include:

- Support the collaborative to extend their collection and utilization of data to monitor efforts that close equity, opportunity, and resource gaps;
- Enhance the capacity and sustainability of the regional collaborative;
- Improve student outcomes as they relate to the ICB Initiative;
- Strengthen the relationship between ARCHES and the collaborative so that both entities can leverage a network of expertise that supports continuous learning, professional growth, and leadership development; and,
- Share lessons learned and recommendations for program improvement, sustainability, expansion, and resource development with ARCHES Executive Team (ET), relevant collaborative partners, and the ARCHES Alliance Network.

The ICB experience is designed to document the extent to which a collaborative has achieved all or most of the goals detailed above as well as demonstrate growth on the ACDT for the areas identified as part of the ICB. Additionally, the ICB experience offers the opportunity to assess the extent to which the collaborative was satisfied with the services from ARCHES.

ARCHES has implemented ICBs with the following three regional collaboratives:

- [African American Regional Education Alliance](#);
- [Madera County Compact](#); and,
- [Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative](#).

Joy Soares, Director of College and Career, for the Tulare County Office of Education concluded her assessment of the ICB process as follows:

“I wouldn’t change anything about the ICB process and the results that have been delivered. In a high functioning collaborative environment, which is what I believe ARCHES and Tulare-Kings have developed, the lessons learned along the way create improvement as we move through the work. We are in a great place with our projects.”