



REL Appalachia at SRI International

As the COVID-19 pandemic challenges our nation's families, educators, and leaders, access to effective learning opportunities and other services that schools provide is more important than ever. To support your efforts to keep our children healthy, safe, and engaged, the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Appalachia shares resources to promote continuity of learning and keep students on the path to success. Remember, we are here for you and available to support the work in your school, district, or state during these uncertain times. Connect with us via our [website](#), [Ask A REL](#), [Twitter](#), or at rel.appalachia@sri.com.

Featured Stories

Supporting Postsecondary Transitions During COVID-19

Join REL Appalachia and our partners on **May 14, 2020, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT** for a virtual chat on strategies and considerations for supporting students in preparing for postsecondary transitions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The chat will focus on logistical and nonacademic supports for keeping students on the path to postsecondary, such as supporting students and families in completing and making updates to FAFSA applications; understanding financial aid award letters and comparing costs; as well as addressing summer melt and providing students with social-emotional supports. [Register today](#).



Educator and Family Resource Collection



In response to COVID-19, all ten RELs from across the country collaborated to produce a series of evidence-based resources about teaching and learning in a remote learning context as well as other considerations brought by the global pandemic. Find upcoming virtual

learning opportunities and resources by topic for educators and families on the [REL COVID-19: Evidence-Based Resources page](#).

Measuring and Improving MTSS/RTI Implementation

Most state education agencies and districts have a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) or response to intervention (RTI) framework to improve core instruction for all students and address the needs of students at risk for poor learning outcomes. Now more than ever, state and district leaders are interested in how to improve the



implementation of MTSS/RTI to support students who may enter school behind expectations in the fall. Join REL Appalachia and our partners on **May 28, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT** for the first of a two-part series on tools and approaches to measure and improve the implementation of MTSS/RTI frameworks. [Register today](#).

REL Appalachia Expert Spotlight

Senior Researcher and Technical Assistance Provider



Dr. Laura Kassner joins the REL Appalachia team after years of serving students and families at the Virginia Department of Education and as an educator in a rural school system. Laura's expertise includes innovative teacher professional development models, video-enhanced peer coaching and feedback mechanisms, and high-quality teacher-child interactions. She enjoys

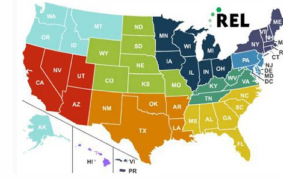
making research accessible and relevant as a member of our dissemination team, [Student Success in Mathematics partnership](#), and [Community Math Nights project](#).

Laura is eager to learn about and support families and educators in their approaches to continuity of learning in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and she faces the challenge firsthand as she balances work with providing academically and emotionally enriching experiences to her three children, ranging in age from 4 to 8.

REL and Partner Resources

REL Resource Corner

Check out resources from across the REL program on digital learning for students and educators in [our latest REL Corner](#).



Featured Ask A REL Responses

Find answers to our recent [Ask A REL](#) questions from the region and [submit your own question](#).

- [What does the research say about state policies and programs to promote culturally responsive instruction, equity and inclusion, positive school climates, and to counter implicit bias in schools?](#)
- [What is the evidence for a place-based learning approach to improve student outcomes, particularly for rural students?](#)

Partner Resources

Access U.S. Department of Education and partner program resources to support educators and caregivers across the country as they respond to COVID-19.

- The Comprehensive Center Network's collection of [Resources for Continuity of Learning](#) shares free resources organized by type, topic, grade level, and audience.
- The What Works Clearinghouse database of [Studies of Distance Learning](#) highlights the research available on the effectiveness of various distance-learning practices.
- U.S. Department of Education's [COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#) provides links to resources for elementary and secondary schools and higher education institutions, as well as at home activities for children.

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Independent, unbiased research support for your state's education priorities

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