



REL Appalachia at SRI International

Throughout this unusual school year, students' learning experiences have been varied, which for some meant more time out in nature, finding refuge in reading, or developing new technology proficiencies, while for others, it meant caring for an ailing family member or younger sibling, securing employment to contribute to the household income, or missing peer interactions. Some students have shown tremendous academic or personal growth; however, we need to consider the likelihood of a "COVID slide" for others. How can educators plan to meet students where they are and prepare for the challenges of supporting diverse academic and social-emotional needs after a year of modified learning environments? Let's lean into the seasonal rhythm of the academic calendar, which allows us to pause and reflect on what happened before and what lies ahead. To support that reflection, this newsletter includes timely resources that educators may use to plan for accelerating learning and addressing diverse student needs. To learn more about the work of REL Appalachia or if you are interested in partnering, we invite you to connect with us via [website](#), [Ask A REL](#), [Twitter](#), or at rel.appalachia@sri.com. We are here to support you.

Featured Stories

Encouraging growth mindset in mathematics



Adult attitudes toward math can influence children's math achievement as well as their perceptions of their own ability and their attitude toward the subject.

Growth mindset is the belief that abilities are not fixed but can be increased through hard work and persistence. When adults take on a growth mindset related to students' math abilities by praising effort and

focusing on strategies for improvement, they support the student in developing persistence and more positive attitudes toward the subject. These [Community Math Night materials](#) from REL Appalachia provide educators and families with tools to affirm students' math learning through positive feedback. Learn more about Community Math Nights and growth mindset from the resources [here](#).

Using evidence-based practices for learners struggling in math

High-quality, accessible math lessons can help support diverse learning needs this fall. REL Appalachia's mathematics team met with division and school leaders to share recommended evidence-based mathematics instructional practices for students who have disabilities and difficulties, as well as a process for planning high-quality, accessible math lessons. In addition, the team shared [meeting resources](#) that explored ways to strengthen professional development and collaboration. Check out more resources from the Student Success in Mathematics partnership [here](#).



Supporting successful postsecondary transitions through summer counseling



Connecting students with the support they need to understand and complete the steps to pursue postsecondary options after high school graduation is even more important and challenging this year. REL Appalachia's postsecondary experts facilitated a webinar focused on supporting students' transition to postsecondary education. They reviewed an evidence-based summer counseling strategy designed to support students during the challenging period between high school graduation and fall college enrollment. Participants also talked about practical considerations for local adoption of summer counseling and heard from practitioners who have successfully implemented transition supports. Learn more about the evidence-based practices [here](#) in the archived meeting materials.

Rethinking data for improvement, accountability, and support under COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the collection and use of data for district and school improvement, accountability, and support. In addition, pandemic-related challenges facing educators include trauma and increased social-emotional needs of students, which can affect their ability to learn. REL Southwest, REL Appalachia, REL Mid-Atlantic, and REL Northeast & Islands hosted a webinar to explore how schools and districts are rethinking their use of data to identify needs and challenges in schools and communities and provide targeted support and guidance. Explore event materials [here](#).

REL Program Resources

Other RELevant resources from across the REL Program

- [Using Assessments to Identify and Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps.](#) This virtual quick chat from REL Central shares methods and strategies for using assessments — with an eye to both virtual and in-person schooling — to identify student needs related to COVID-19 school closures. The presentation also provides strategies to support educators in developing a back-to-school assessment plan.
- [Personalized Instruction to Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps.](#) This virtual quick chat from REL Central shares options and supports for personalizing instruction to support students affected by learning disruptions. Topics include analyzing data, defining student expectations, and implementing actionable personalized instructional strategies.
- [Preventing Summer Learning Loss.](#) States and school districts typically provide summer academic activities for some students. Regardless of format, several components should be considered when planning summer learning opportunities. This infographic from REL Southwest highlights considerations for states and districts planning to provide summer activities.
- [Learning in the Time of COVID-19 Resource Spotlight](#) This REL Southwest resource provides a collection of infographics, blog posts, and other materials that respond to the evolving needs of educators, students, and families as we move into summer.

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