REL Corner: Digital learning for students and educators

Learn about the REL Appalachia and its work, and dive into these resources from across the REL program on online/digital learning and collaboration for supporting educators and students.

- REL Online Courses resources page. This resource page provides a comprehensive list of publications, videos, and webinars for supporting digital learning. Resources include findings from a survey of Wisconsin teachers regarding student engagement in online instruction, a webinar exploring the alignment between professional development for online teachers and existing standards and using online format to expand access to Algebra 1.

- Using Technology to Support Postsecondary Student Learning: A Practice Guide for College and University Administrators, Advisors, and Faculty. This IES practice guide provides five recommendations for postsecondary student learning such as using technology to provide timely and targeted feedback on student performance and using varied, personalized, and readily available digital resources to design and deliver instructional content.

- Are Open Educational Resources the new textbooks? This REL Appalachia blog describes what open education resources (OER) are and their potential benefits in K-12 settings.

- Virtual/Online Program Effectiveness in Special Education. This Ask A REL response from REL MidWest shares research reports and descriptive articles on the effectiveness of online programs in special education settings and professional development for educators using these programs.

- Summary of Research on Online and Blended Learning Programs that Offer Differentiated Learning Options. This report from REL Central describes the influence on student achievement outcomes of K–12 online and blended face-to-face and online learning programs that offer differentiated learning options.

- Locating the Latest Research on K-12 Online and Blended Learning. This REL Southeast infographic provides resources for practitioners and administrators to navigate emerging research in virtual education.

- What are the characteristics of effective online professional development courses, particularly for ELA and social studies teachers? This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight practices for online professional development for teachers, including ELA and social studies teachers.

- [Online and Distance Learning in Southwest Tennessee: Implementation and Challenges.](#) This REL Appalachia report shares the challenges and opportunities surrounding online and distance learning course implementation in 12 rural districts in the Memphis area.

- [Can Online Learning Communities Achieve the Goals of Traditional Professional Learning Communities? What the Literature Says](#). This REL Mid-Atlantic report provides an overview of research on the effectiveness of online Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with discussions on how to move traditional PLCs online. Although the research is limited, studies suggest that online communities of educators can expand opportunities for teachers to reflect and collaborate without the usual limitations of time, space, and pace.

- [What does the research say about the most effective practices for designing and implementing online asynchronous learning models to increase teachers' content knowledge?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight online learning models for teachers' professional development, including math content knowledge.

- [How are states implementing open educational resource (OER) initiatives in K–12 settings, including platforms, accessibility, and standards or criteria for content inclusion?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight statewide efforts for K-12 OER initiatives and other platforms for content delivery.