July 2020 REL Corner: Implementing Inclusive Education through Culturally Responsive and Universal Design for Learning Practices

Learn about the REL Appalachia and its work, and dive into these resources from across the REL program to consider how school leaders can build greater understanding of cultural responsiveness while teachers can create inclusive environments for all students, especially students with disabilities, through practices such as Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Building Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness

- Culturally Responsive Instruction: Best Practices and Supports. This blog post from REL Midwest shares five research-based practices to support students of all cultures. The post underscores the importance of collaboration and communication within the school and building relationships with families to support students from all cultural backgrounds.

- Culturally Responsive Leading and Learning: Addressing Equity Through Student and Family Voice. This blog post from REL Pacific includes strategies educators can implement to support culturally responsive education during the transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategies and recommendations focus on addressing equity by developing opportunities to amplify student and family voice, building collaborative relationships with students and families, and exploring social justice and community issues.

- Guidance Manuals for Educators of English Learners with Disabilities. This Ask A REL response from REL West provides updated information from guidance manuals to assist educators in identifying and supporting English learners with suspected disabilities from nine states (Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Vermont, and Virginia) and two localities in California (San Diego Unified School District and the California SELPA Administrators Association).

- [Assessment Accommodations for English Learners](). This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles addressing whether assessment accommodations can meet English learners' needs without altering constructs being assessed.

Supporting Students with Disabilities

- [What research has been conducted on UDL and literacy?]() This Ask A REL response from REL Southeast shares research reports and descriptive articles describing strategies and practices to support UDL with a focus on literacy and students with developmental disabilities.

- [The History and Future of Special Education: Implementing Quality Services Through the Implementation of Inclusive Models](). This archived webinar from REL West presents research about the basic tenets of inclusive education, data on national and state outcomes for students with disabilities, and shared attributes of different inclusion models.

- [Improving MTSS/RTI Implementation Through Measurement](). This blog post from REL Appalachia suggests five practices for developing MTSS/RTI implementation assessment tools to improve the quality of core instruction for all students and address the needs of students at risk of underperforming.

- [Plan and Deliver: Educating Students with Disabilities in Remote Settings](). This blog post from REL Midwest includes tips and considerations for educators serving students with disabilities in remote settings, including strategies for implementing the UDL framework.

- [Special Education and Mental Health: Promising Strategies for Special-Need Students in Inclusion Settings](). This Ask A REL response from REL Southwest shares research reports and descriptive articles addressing strategies to support the academic needs of students with low-incidence disabilities in inclusive settings.