November 2020 REL Corner:
Returning to School During COVID-19

Learn about REL Appalachia and its work, and dive into these resources from across the REL program to learn about strategies and recommendations educators and schools can implement to support students' well-being, academic progress, and social-emotional learning during the transition to hybrid or in-person learning settings.

- Reopening Schools Safely: New Evidence on Mitigating COVID-19 Spread. This infographic from REL Mid-Atlantic provides research-based recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools. The infographic also shares computational model predictions of COVID-19 spread across six reopening scenarios ranging from business-as-usual to part-time attendance.

- Reopening Schools Safely While Mitigating COVID-19's Spread: How Many Days Should Students Attend? This blogpost from REL Mid-Atlantic shares details on the safest approach to reopening schools according to public health computational models and other related emerging evidence on COVID-19—a hybrid model that organizes students into smaller cohorts.

- Back-to-school metrics: How to Assess Conditions for Teaching and Learning and to Measure Student Progress During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This blogpost from REL Midwest provides recommendations for assessing teaching and learning conditions and measuring student progress during COVID-19. Educators are encouraged to consider metrics such as school- and classroom- level metrics, formative academic assessments, and well-being surveys for students, families and educators.

- Using Assessments to Identify and Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps. This virtual presentation 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.

- [Personalized Instruction to Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps](#). This virtual quick chat from REL Central shares options and supports for personalized instruction to support students affected by learning disruptions. Topics discussed include installing building supports, analyzing data, defining student expectations, and actionable personalized instructional strategies for teachers.

- [Resources for Implementing Tiered Systems of Support in Virtual or Hybrid Learning Environments](#). This blogpost from REL Appalachia shares resources for implementing MTSS/RTI and PBIS frameworks in virtual and hybrid settings to promote student supports, personalized learning, and engagement.

- [Introducing the U.S. School System to Newcomer Students and Families During— and After— the Pandemic](#). This blogpost from REL Northeast introduces the guide, *Starting School in the Unities States: A Guide for Newcomer Students' Families*, which provides newcomer students' families with recommendations for supporting immigrant students' transition to the U.S. school system during and after COVID-19.

- [Supporting Students Experiencing Trauma During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This blog post from REL Appalachia shares everyday virtual strategies educators can use to create and promote safe and predictable environments, relationship building, and self-regulation to support students dealing with trauma that can be adapted to hybrid settings.

- [Trauma-Informed Strategies to Support Students' Transition Back to School in the COVID era](#). This blog post from REL Mid-Atlantic outlines a five-phase trauma-informed process that involves assessing, planning, building capacity, implementing, and reassessing, to support students' transition back to school during COVID-19