IES Institute of Education Sciences

April 2021 REL Corner:
Rethinking Data Use to Support Learning During and After COVID-19

Learn about REL Appalachia and its work, and dive into these resources from across the REL program to consider how educators and district leaders can rethink data use to support student learning during and after COVID-19.

- Rethinking Data for Improvement, Accountability, and Support Under COVID-19. This webinar from REL Southwest, REL Appalachia, REL Mid-Atlantic, and REL Northeast & Islands explores how schools and districts are rethinking their approach to data use to identify needs and challenges in schools and communities, and provide targeted support and guidance. Stay tuned for webinar materials, which will be posted on the event page soon.

- Re-Thinking Education Accountability Systems in Light of COVID-19. This webinar from REL Mid-Atlantic discusses the impacts of COVID-19 on K–12 accountability measures including what can and cannot be measured, what measures may have to be reworked, possible limitations of measures, and states' views on making decisions about their accountability systems in the upcoming school year.

- Toolkit for Assessing Learning Changes After Spring 2020 COVID-19 School Closures. This toolkit from REL Midwest is a step-by-step guide designed for district leaders who want to identify possible learning changes, understand how to use that knowledge to inform decisionmaking, and develop next steps for future analysis and planning. Toolkit resources include a one-page overview of the toolkit, a training video, guidelines for structured team discussions, corresponding workbooks, and additional resources to guide planning and decisionmaking.

- [Back-to-School Metrics: How to Assess Conditions for Teaching and Learning and to Measure Student Progress During the COVID-19 Pandemic](). This blog post from REL Midwest provides recommendations for assessing teaching and learning conditions and measuring student progress during COVID-19. Educators are encouraged to capture and consider school-level metrics (such as student and family wellness surveys and formative academic assessments) and classroom-level metrics (such as student surveys to "temperature check" and gather quick feedback and measures of student engagement).

- [Using Assessments to Identify and Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps.]() This virtual quick chat 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. 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 personalized instruction to support students affected by learning disruptions. Topics discussed include installing building supports, analyzing data, defining student expectations, and implementing actionable personalized instructional strategies.

- [Resources for Implementing Tiered Systems of Support in Virtual or Hybrid Learning Environments](). This blog post from REL Appalachia shares resources for implementing multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), Response to Intervention (RTI), and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) frameworks in virtual and hybrid settings to promote student engagement and personalized learning.