

Webinar: Using Assessments to Identify and Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps

Strategies for all districts serving students in grades K-12

A Publication From Regional Educational Laboratory Central at IES

To access the RELs' evidence-based COVID-19 response resources, visit <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/covid-19>.



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Primary Audience: Superintendents **Secondary Audiences:** Principals and Instructional Leaders

Preliminary research suggests that school closures related to COVID-19 will have a negative impact on student learning, potentially exacerbating achievement gaps. As schools and districts reopen, they will need to assess the impact of disrupted learning and use the data to inform instructional practices. This Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Central webinar presented on June 4, 2020, shares considerations for conducting assessments when students return to school and describes what resources are needed to effectively implement the assessments in different scenarios (online, in-person, hybrid). Presenters from two districts share their considerations and strategies for implementation.



Evidence-Based Recommendations

Need for assessment

- Academic impacts of school closures: [Projecting the Potential Impacts of COVID-19 School Closures on Academic Achievement](#)

Assessment planning

- Classroom assessment techniques: [Teachers' Perceptions About the Use of Classroom Assessment Techniques in Elementary and Secondary Schools](#)
- Educational assessment concepts: [Basic Concepts and Technical Considerations in Educational Assessment: A Primer](#)

Assessment for learning

- Generating personalized learning data: [Forum Guide to Personalized Learning Data](#)



Related Resources

- Implementing diagnostic testing: [Validating Classifications From Learning Progressions: Framework and Implementation](#)
- Policies to support student data use: [Time to Act: Making Data Work for Students](#)

Questions to Consider



- How does the need for student assessment in fall 2020 differ from prior years?
- How are you prioritizing what to assess when students return?
- What resources do educators need in order to use assessment data effectively?
- What are potential gaps in assessment data and available resources?
- How is your district planning to administer assessments, given your scenario for returning in the fall and other student needs?

The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences funds a network of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs). Each REL serves a designated region of the country and works in partnership with educators and policymakers with a mission of supporting a more evidence-based education system to improve outcomes for students. In response to the impact of COVID-19 on education systems, the RELs collaborated to produce evidence-based resources and guidance.

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