

Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts, and States: Resources for Educational Leaders



Strong leadership is critical to the success of school districts and individual schools. The ten Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) across the nation have developed resources for educational leaders who work to prepare our youngest learners for school and to help them be successful in the early grades. The resources included here, which are representative of many that have been developed by multiple RELs, address a number of important topics, and may help educational leaders at the state, district, and school levels expand their knowledge in these areas. The resources are in a variety of formats including reports, infographics, fact sheets, toolkits, webinars, and videos. To access resources from any of the ten RELs, go to <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs>.

Ready Schools that Continue to Improve

Students need to be “school ready,” but schools need to be ready to receive students, too. Schools also need to continually improve the instruction and service they provide to students and families. These resources may help educational leaders ensure that they have student-ready schools that continue to improve.



[The Ready School](#) (Cross-REL product) *Infographic*



[Continuous Improvement in Education: A Toolkit for Schools and Districts](#) (REL Northeast & Islands) *Toolkit*



Kindergarten Entry Assessments—Using the Data to Help Students Succeed

States, districts, and schools collect all kinds of data to ensure their students are school ready. Products developed by RELs across the country can help educational leaders understand assessments and data in order to better support students.



[Measuring School Performance for Early Elementary Grades in Maryland](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Report*



[Kindergarten Entry Assessments](#) (REL Midwest) *Video*



[Children’s Knowledge and Skills at Kindergarten Entry in Illinois: Results from the First Statewide Administration of the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey](#) (REL Midwest) *Report*



Professional Development to Strengthen Early Literacy and Support English Learner Students

Educational leaders provide quality professional development opportunities for their teachers to ensure strong literacy instruction. RELs have produced resources that can help teachers of young learners.



[Professional Learning Community: Foundational Skills to Support Reading for Understanding in Kindergarten through 3rd Grade practice guide](#) (REL Southeast) *PLC*



[Professional Learning Community: Emergent Literacy](#) (REL Southeast) *PLC*



[Teaching English Learner Students](#) (REL West) *Webinars*



School Climate and Partnering with Families and the Community

It is important that schools provide a welcoming environment that fosters a sense of belonging for young children. In addition, developing positive relationships with families and the community can enhance the overall environment in the school. RELs have created a number of resources to help educational leaders consider ways to ensure that the climate in their schools is positive and conducive to learning and to develop partnerships with families, organizations, and the community.



[Shifting the Current School Climate - Sense of Belonging and Social and Emotional Learning](#) (REL Northwest) *Infographic*



[Supporting School Transitions for Young Learners: Considerations in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Fact Sheet*



[Strategies for Improving Attendance in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten: Toolkit for Districts, Schools, and Early Childhood Providers](#) (REL Mid-Atlantic) *Toolkit*



[Getting it Right - Reference Guides for Registering Students with Non-English Names, 2nd Edition](#) (REL Northwest) *Report*



[Sent to the Office - Is Oregon's K-5 Policy Reform Associated with Equitable Changes in School Discipline Actions for all Racial Groups?](#) (REL Northwest) *Report*



[It Takes a Village: How Community Organizations, Schools, and Families Can Work together to Support Early Childhood Literacy](#) (REL Midwest) *Video*



This infographic was developed by the cross-REL working group focused on school readiness and early education.

Check out these resources for families and teachers, too:

- [Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts and States: Resources for Families](#)
- [Strengthening Early Education in Schools, Districts and States: Resources for Educators](#)

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