

Webinar Agenda: Evidence-Based Strategies to Foster Student Agency

Regional Educational
Laboratory
Central

From the National Center for Education Evaluation at IES

Overview

Date and Time: Friday, November 20, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. MT

Location: Virtual

Presenters

- Tom Schmidt, principal of Legacy High School in Bismarck, North Dakota
- Suzanne Hiller, professor at Hood College
- Marc Brodersen, senior researcher at REL Central
- Jeanette Joyce, senior research at REL Central

Facilitator

- David Yanoski, researcher at REL Central

Description

This REL Central webinar will present an overview of the research on the importance of student agency and its relationship to academic growth and achievement. Tom Schmidt, principal at Legacy High School in North Dakota, will then discuss why the school adopted a flexible-time system as a way to develop student agency and increase personalization. REL Central will share findings from the *How Legacy High School Students Use Their Flexible Time* study. Schmidt will discuss key lessons learned from the study and describe how Legacy High School is responding to some of the findings. Finally, Suzanne Hiller, an expert on student agency, will present evidence-based strategies to improve student agency and discuss the connection between Legacy High School's experience and the research base on student agency.

Participants will gain an understanding of the following:

- The importance of student agency in supporting academic growth and achievement.
- The findings from the REL Central study on Legacy High School's flexible-time system.
- The ways in which a flexible-time system can increase student agency and personalization.
- The strategies to develop student agency and personalize learning.

Agenda

1:00–1:05 p.m. Welcome and Introduction

Facilitator: David Yanoski

Yanoski will introduce the presenters and provide an overview of the webinar objectives, format, and platform.

1:05–1:15 p.m. Background Research on Student Agency

Presenters: David Yanoski and Suzanne Hiller

Yanoski and Hiller will provide an overview of the research on student agency and discuss its relationship to academic achievement and growth.

1:15–1:25 p.m. Legacy High School’s Flexible-Time Approach to Student Agency

Presenter: Tom Schmidt

Facilitator: David Yanoski

Schmidt will discuss Legacy High School’s flexible-time system. This segment will include a review of the theory of action underlying the school’s use of flexible time to develop student agency and a discussion of the process through which the school adopted the system.

Participants will respond to a poll about their interest in adopting a flexible-time system.

1:25–1:40 p.m. Lessons Learned from Legacy High School’s Flexible-Time Approach to Student Agency

Presenters: Marc Brodersen, Jeanette Joyce, and Tom Schmidt

Facilitator: David Yanoski

Brodersen and Joyce will provide a brief overview of the history and context of the REL Central study *How Legacy High School Students Use Their Flexible Time* and share key findings from the study. Schmidt will discuss Legacy High School’s interpretation of the findings, identify key lessons learned, and share how the school is using the findings to improve the effectiveness of its flexible-time system.

Brodersen and Schmidt will respond to one to two questions posed by participants in the chat box.

1:40–1:55 p.m. Evidence-Based Strategies to Develop Student Agency

Presenter: Suzanne Hiller

Facilitator: David Yanoski

Hiller will discuss how findings from the REL Central study are connected to the research on developing student agency. Hiller will also share concrete, evidence-based strategies that districts, schools, and classroom teachers can use to improve student agency and support personalization.

Hiller will respond to one to two questions posed by participants in the chat box.

1:55 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Closing

Facilitator: David Yanoski

Yanoski will close the webinar by describing how participants can access resources and a recording of the webinar. Participants will then take a feedback survey.

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