



Your Quarterly News & Updates

As educators, researchers, policymakers, and family members, we devote much of our time and energy to preparing highly skilled, motivated, and self-sufficient young people to lead us into the future. Our daily efforts lay a foundation for students' academic, social-emotional, and career success. REL Appalachia (REL AP) serves as a partner in this challenging but rewarding endeavor. Engage with some of REL AP's resources, activities, and experts on measuring career readiness, postsecondary transition success, social-emotional learning, and more. Remember, we are a resource for you and are available to support the work in your school, LEA, or SEA! Connect with us via our [website](#), [Ask A REL](#), [Twitter](#), or at relappalachia@sri.com.

Featured Stories

Laying the Foundation for Postsecondary Success Webinar

Paving the Pathway to College and Careers: Laying the Foundation for Postsecondary Success, scheduled for November 7, 2019 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm EST, will be the first of a three-part series on strengthening the transition from high school to postsecondary education and careers. This first training webinar will focus on postsecondary (college and career) knowledge, including strategies that support student and family understanding of the expectations and norms of postsecondary education and training, and expose students and families to career paths. [Learn more](#) about this virtual event and [register here](#).



Measuring Career Readiness



The question of how schools can best prepare students to enter the workforce is raised constantly in settings from classrooms to boardrooms; the answer, however, remains elusive. In an effort to identify the meaning of “career readiness” and how to assess it, REL Appalachia brought together representatives from all ten RELs as well as nationally recognized experts to map the national career readiness landscape. Learn about the common themes that researchers identified and next steps for this effort in REL AP's [blog post](#).

Building Bridges to College and Career Workshop

Self-efficacy and growth mindset are social-emotional skills linked to successful transition from high school to postsecondary education and training. Wednesday, October 23, 2019, REL AP staff shared tools and resources at Eastern Kentucky University on preparing students with social-emotional skills for successful postsecondary transitions. The session provided research based strategies for building school culture, growth mindset, and self-efficacy. Check out the [workshop materials](#) to learn more.



REL Appalachia Content Expert

Improving Postsecondary Transitions



Ms. C.J. Park, co-lead of the Improving Postsecondary Transitions partnership and a senior researcher, has over 10 years of experience focused on understanding and evaluating programs that support student success in high school and transition into postsecondary. In her research on postsecondary readiness, C.J. has examined efforts to build and expand career themed pathways in high school aimed at preparing students for college and career, Early College high schools and other high school reform efforts, and strategies to prepare at-risk youth for postsecondary success. In her role as partnership co-lead, she supports regional stakeholders in eastern Kentucky by bringing rigorous research on nonacademic strategies to support postsecondary transition through technical assistance. See some of the work that C.J. leads in our upcoming webinar [Paving the Pathway to College and Careers: Laying the Foundation for Postsecondary Success](#).

REL Research-based College and Career Readiness and Postsecondary Transition Resources

Laying the foundation for students to successfully transition to college and career opportunities after high school includes an array of strategies from engaging families to assessing readiness. These resources can help educators use evidence to strengthen students' postsecondary transitions.

Featured Ask A REL Responses

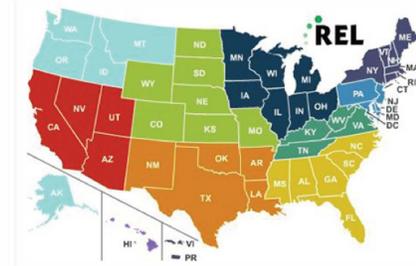
[How is self-directed learning defined and operationalized in the context of career readiness and workforce development?](#) This Ask A REL response cites research reports and descriptive studies about self-directed or self-paced learning in the context of career readiness and workforce development.

[Are high school attendance rates associated with college enrollment, persistence, and completion?](#) This Ask A REL response cites research reports and descriptive studies addressing the association between high school attendance and college enrollment, persistence, and completion.

[What strategies do schools use to promote soft skills and how do those skills relate to later employment and success?](#) This Ask A REL response cites research reports and descriptive studies addressing strategies for promoting soft skills that may have a positive influence on employment outcomes.

REL Program Resources

The 10 Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) conduct applied research and trainings with a mission of supporting a more evidence-based education system. Find resources on college and career readiness and postsecondary transitions from all 10 RELs [here](#).



REL Appalachia

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Independent, unbiased research support for your state's education priorities

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