



Your Quarterly News & Updates

The start of the school year is an opportunity to establish practices that build a positive culture, prepare students for the future, and ensure educators and students have the tools and support they need for success. As you prepare for the 2019 school year, explore some of REL AP's latest activities and resources on college knowledge, school culture, 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

Building College Knowledge

Preparing students for the college application and transition process is a priority from the first day of high school to graduation. Building “college knowledge” or the skills and know-how to engage with and navigate the application and transition process is one strategy for keeping students on track from high school to postsecondary success. Read this REL AP [blog post](#) to learn more about how you can help students build college knowledge.



Supporting a Positive School Culture in CTE



Career and technical education (CTE) programs support high school completion and postsecondary readiness by equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed for success in the 21st century workforce. Creating valuable workforce learning experiences may require a challenging shift in school culture from the traditional instructor-driven classroom to a new authentic, student-led approach that mirrors real-life work environments. With the West Virginia Department of Education, REL AP developed a school culture implementation guide that highlights evidence-based practices and research that can strengthen school culture. Find the [educator guide](#) and more information to help you set a positive school culture on the [REL AP blog](#).

Traditional Textbooks or Open Educational Resources?

Looking for an alternative to traditional textbooks this school

year? Open educational resources (OER) are curriculum materials available for free access, use, adaptation, and redistribution. OER encompass a range of curriculum materials, such as videos, lesson plans, textbooks, and full or partial courses. Learn more about OER and what the research says about them in REL AP's [blog post](#).



REL Research-based Back to School Resources

With back-to-school preparations shifting into high gear, these resources can help educators use research to improve and strengthen their instruction, schools, and policies.

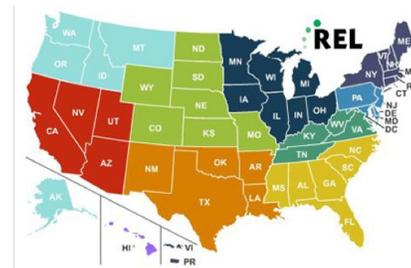
Featured Ask A REL Responses

[What are strategies for successfully engaging families in postsecondary planning and transitions?](#) This Ask A REL response cites research reports and descriptive study articles addressing strategies for effectively engaging families in postsecondary planning and transitions.

[What are some promising practices to address racially motivated hate crimes and promote a positive school climate in middle and high schools?](#) This Ask A REL response cites research reports and descriptive study articles addressing racially motivated hate crimes and positive school climate in middle and high schools.

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 additional back to school resources [here](#).



REL Appalachia

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