

October 2020 REL Corner: Creating a Supportive Online Culture for Students and Educators

[Learn about REL Appalachia and its work](#), and dive into these resources from across the REL program for tips and strategies for creating an online culture that supports the well-being and success of students and educators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [When Students and Teachers are Separated: Strategies from Research on Social Presence for Teaching at a Distance](#). This interactive infographic from REL Southeast provides an overview of the five elements in the “social presence” framework, applicable to both in-person instruction and online learning. Each element of the model aligns to key strategies K–12 educators can implement to build student engagement and connection in virtual learning contexts.
- [Ways to Create Welcoming, Bully-Free Online Learning Environments](#). This blog post from REL Northwest shares strategies educators and families can implement in partnership to prevent and address cyberbullying, such as establishing clear expectations, coaching students in social and emotional learning skills, and investigating and saving evidence of bullying incidents.
- [Including Voice in Education: Addressing Equity Through Student and Family Voice in Classroom Learning](#). This infographic from REL Pacific dives deeply into a culturally responsive approach to amplifying student and family voice. This resource provides concrete strategies educators can use to address equity by using voice to empower and engage students and families in both virtual and in-person learning contexts.
- [Supporting Postsecondary Transitions During COVID-19: Practical Resources and Considerations](#). This blog post from REL Appalachia describes strategies for educators to promote a culture of college readiness despite interruptions due to COVID-19. The blog post includes a table of online resources to provide counselors, teachers, prospective college students, and families with targeted logistical and social-emotional supports for college planning and postsecondary transitions.

- [Supporting Students Experiencing Trauma During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This blog post from REL Appalachia shares everyday strategies educators can use in virtual settings to create and promote safe and predictable environments, relationship-building, and self-regulation for students experiencing trauma.
- [Maintaining School Culture to Support Students' Social-Emotional Learning](#). This blog post from REL Central highlights initiatives that Hawkins Independent School District in Texas is implementing to promote school culture and keep students and community members engaged and positive during periods of remote learning.
- [Strategies for Districts to Support Self-Care for Educators During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This webinar recording from REL West provides research-based strategies and practical information to support staff coping with COVID-19-related stressors. Recommended strategies include finding connectedness and a sense of belonging, choosing positive mindsets, and establishing healthy boundaries and interactions.