

August 2020 REL Corner: Professional Learning During a Pandemic

[Learn about the REL Appalachia and its work](#), and dive into these resources from across the REL program which focus on the transition of professional learning to virtual environments.

- [Adapting Educator Professional Learning to a Virtual Environment](#). This webinar recording from REL Pacific shares tips and strategies that can assist administrators, staff development coordinators, and others with adapting teacher professional learning to a virtual environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [What are the characteristics of effective online professional development courses, particularly for ELA and social studies teachers?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight practices for online professional development for teachers, including ELA and social studies teachers.
- [Can Online Learning Communities Achieve the Goals of Traditional Professional Learning Communities? What the Literature Says](#). This REL Mid-Atlantic report provides an overview of research on the effectiveness of online Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with discussions on how to move traditional PLCs online. Although the research is limited, studies suggest that online communities of educators can expand opportunities for teachers to reflect and collaborate without the usual limitations of time, space, and pace.
- [What does the research say about the most effective practices for designing and implementing online asynchronous learning models to increase teachers' content knowledge?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Appalachia shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight online learning models for teachers' professional development, including math content knowledge.
- [Wisconsin Virtual School teachers receive professional development covering a variety of topics, but face challenges with student engagement](#). This infographic from REL Midwest shares information about Wisconsin Virtual School teachers' professional

development, challenges with online teaching related to student engagement and perseverance, and preferred modalities for additional training.

- [Going the Distance: Online Strategies for Helping Students with Disabilities](#). This blog from REL Mid-Atlantic features four cornerstones of effective online teaching for students with disabilities and offers research-based suggestions for education leaders to consider when working with those students.
- [“Heartbeat of the Community: Preparing, Recruiting, and Retaining Teachers Remotely” Documentary Screening](#). This virtual screening of REL Midwest’s documentary, *Heartbeat of the Community*, introduces actionable strategies to support teacher preparation and recruitment, particularly in rural communities and contexts affected by COVID-19.
- [Research-Based Resources, Considerations, and Strategies for Remote Learning](#). This REL Midwest webinar recording and materials share research-based resources and strategies for educators teaching in a remote setting. The webinar covers research-based resources related to social and emotional learning, adult learning, and online learning platforms.
- [Quick Chat: Shifting Classroom Practices to a Virtual Environment](#). This REL Midwest “quick chat” webinar highlights strategies for effectively teaching K–12 students in a virtual setting. The webinar includes research-based strategies to consider while transitioning classroom practices to an e-learning environment, including approaches to connecting with students, building lesson plans, and managing student work.
- [What does the research say about professional development for teachers who use virtual/online programs with students in special education settings?](#) This Ask A REL response from REL Midwest shares research reports and descriptive articles that highlight strategies and considerations for creating online learning opportunities for students with disabilities.
- [How can educators provide high-quality instruction to English learners \(ELs\) in an online environment?](#) This FAQ memo from REL Northeast & Islands shares considerations related to equity and compiles existing resources for designing learning opportunities for English learners in an online environment.