



REL

MID-ATLANTIC

Regional Educational Laboratory
at Mathematica Policy Research



NEWSLETTER

Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • New Jersey • Pennsylvania

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Latest News from the Director

September 2017



Dear Colleagues,

Mathematica and our partners are excited to lead the Mid-Atlantic Regional Educational Laboratory through 2021. As the new director, but also as someone who has worked in education policy in the region and across the country for almost 20 years, I'm looking forward to working with stakeholders in Delaware, the District of Columbia,

Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania on the major education challenges in the region.

After launching the REL Mid-Atlantic a few months ago, our first priority was to learn about the needs of our stakeholders in the region. We have been gathering input from a range of key leaders in state education agencies; in rural, suburban, and urban school districts; in schools; and in regional education nonprofits. These conversations have informed the development of a group of collaborative research alliances (described below) that are organized around critical education challenges in the region, and that support the applied research, technical assistance, and dissemination activities we will be undertaking alongside our stakeholders.

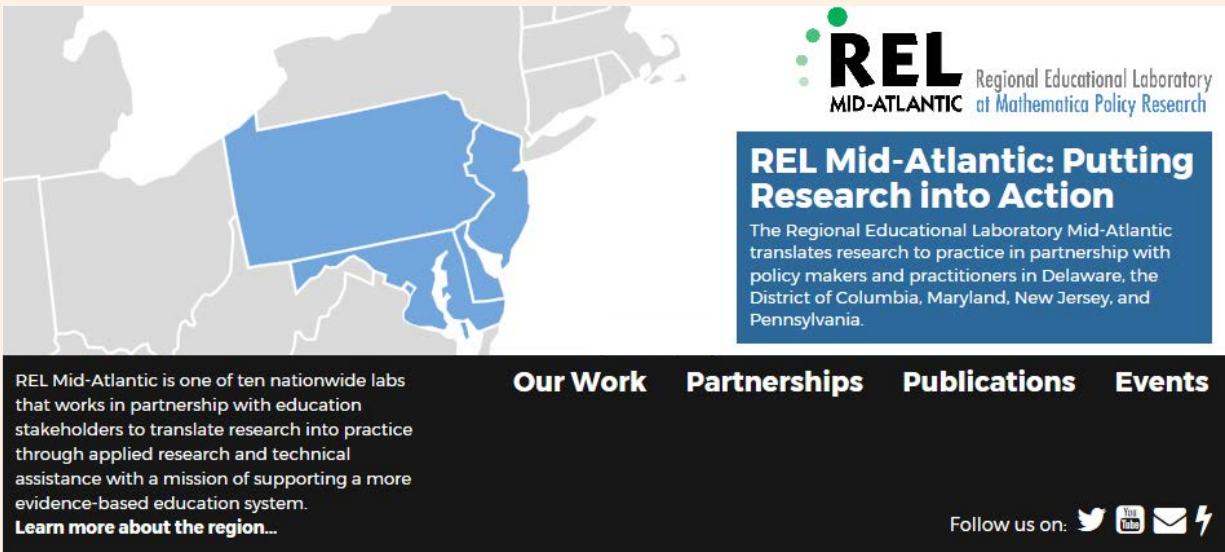
We will continue to monitor needs and gather input from many sources in the region, to ensure that all of our work is useful and addressing stakeholders' most pressing priorities. We look forward to hearing from you about your own pressing priorities and the ways the REL might be able to help.

Brian Gill, Ph.D.

Director, REL Mid-Atlantic

Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research





Check out the New Website



The banner features a map of the Mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) highlighted in blue. To the right is the REL logo with the text 'REL Regional Educational Laboratory MID-ATLANTIC at Mathematica Policy Research'. Below the logo is a blue box with the title 'REL Mid-Atlantic: Putting Research into Action' and a short description. At the bottom, there are navigation links: 'Our Work', 'Partnerships', 'Publications', and 'Events'. A social media section says 'Follow us on:' with icons for Twitter, YouTube, Email, and Facebook. A text box on the left describes the lab's mission and includes a link to learn more.

REL Mid-Atlantic is one of ten nationwide labs that works in partnership with education stakeholders to translate research into practice through applied research and technical assistance with a mission of supporting a more evidence-based education system. [Learn more about the region...](#)

Our Work Partnerships Publications Events

Follow us on:    

In midsummer we launched a new website to provide information on the region and the work of the REL. Visit the site to access:

- **Ask A REL**—Use our Q&A forum to get evidence-based answers on pressing education improvement topics.
- **Publications & News**—Access publications about the evidence-based research conducted—not only in the Mid-Atlantic region, but across the country—and insights gained from research results.
- **Analytics and Data**—View key data from the region, including information about its schools and students served.
- **Events** —Check dates, times, and locations of upcoming workshops, webinars, conferences, and other events and register to attend. Get on-demand access to archived recordings providing training, coaching, and technical support.
- **Mid-Atlantic REL Contacts**—Get to know the REL leadership, including the Governing Board, which includes key stakeholders from all five states.

Updates from the Alliances



Family engagement



Personalized learning



Readiness for career entry and success



School support and improvement



Strengthening the early education continuum



Training and supporting excellent educators



Accountability

Regional needs drive the focus of our work. Stakeholders across the region helped us to identify seven priority areas for our research alliances. Each alliance is working with interested stakeholders to address problems of practice in the areas above.

Meet the Governing Board

The Governing Board helps set priorities for the work of REL Mid-Atlantic. The board also helps strengthen our research alliances and deepen outreach and dissemination. Dara Zeehandelaar Shaw of the Maryland Department of Education (pictured here with Sharif El-Mekki (left) of Philadelphia's Mastery Charter School and Colin Taylor (center) of the District of Columbia Public Schools) was elected chair of the Governing Board at its inaugural meeting in July. Tonya Wolford of the School District of Philadelphia is the vice chair. The board includes the state education chiefs (or their designated representatives) from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as well as representatives from other stakeholder groups.



What's New? What's Next?

Connect with Us on Social Media

For all the latest news, we encourage you to follow us on Twitter and retweet and share with your networks. Our username is @RELMidAtlantic. We'll launch a REL Mid-Atlantic blog in early 2018 and look forward to hearing your ideas for topics or guest bloggers.

Regional Labs Spotlited by Education Week

Education Week's Inside School Research blog reports that the Every Student Succeeds Act's focus on using research in education has "breathed new life" into the federal regional education laboratory network, with the new contracts awarded for 2017. Read about the variety of technical assistance and research partnerships provided by the labs.

We Are Out and About

REL Mid-Atlantic and our partners aim to connect with you at events across the region to bridge research, policy, and practice. We hope to meet you and share ideas at the following upcoming events:

National Black Male Educators Conference

REL staff and a stakeholder member of our research alliance on educator training and support will discuss the REL's ongoing work to help the School District of Philadelphia better understand the pipeline and career trajectories of its teachers.

Oct 13-15, 2017
Sheraton Hotel
201 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19103

Resource Corner

Ask a REL Mid-Atlantic: Here's How to Tap Our Free Research Support

Ask a REL is a free service that can help you find high quality research to answer your questions about education policies, programs, and practices. Think of it as your own reference desk service that will provide you with a list of relevant peer-reviewed research, which may include policy reports, literature reviews, journal articles, and other publications. We may also refer you to other federally funded organizations that may be able to assist you. To get started, simply complete this form, and our team will respond.



Interested in **joining us** or **learning more**? **Contact us.**

Please reach out anytime at RELMidatlantic@mathematica-mpr.com to share your ideas about important issues the REL Mid-Atlantic could address, request free technical assistance, or ask questions about how we can help you in your work.



Follow us on Twitter for the latest updates.