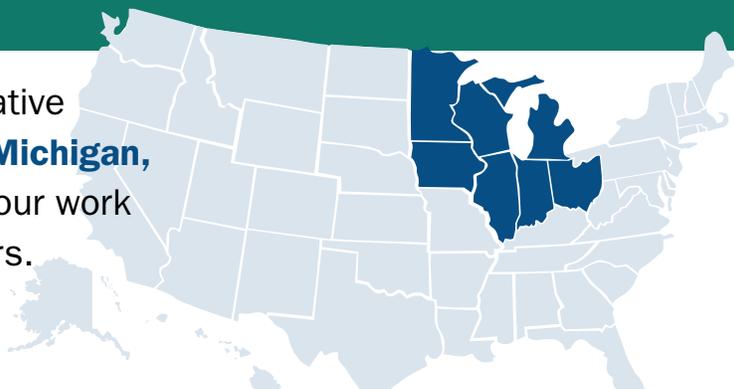


Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest is part of a network of 10 RELs funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. Each REL serves a designated region of the country and helps states and districts use data and research to address policy and practice issues to improve outcomes for both students and teachers.

REL Midwest conducts its work through collaborative research partnerships in **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin** to ensure that our work is relevant and useful to our region's stakeholders.



Regional priorities

[Achievement Gaps](#) • [Early Childhood Education](#) • [Teacher Preparation](#) • [Career Readiness](#) • [Knowledge Utilization](#)

This year, REL Midwest built the capacity of stakeholders to access, conduct, interpret, and make sense of research on five regional priorities by completing the following activities:

1



19



43



49



8



Partnership project spotlights

Developing and Coaching a Networked Improvement Community to Improve Credit Recovery and High School Graduation Rates in Minnesota

Partnership

During the 2019/20 school year, REL Midwest helped the Minnesota Department of Education develop a **networked improvement community (NIC) of Alternative Learning Centers** in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area. REL Midwest coached NIC participants on how to use iterative cycles to test and refine evidence-based strategies for improving credit recovery and high school graduation rates.

After the fourth and fifth coaching sessions, 92% of the feedback survey respondents reported an **increased understanding of how to enact a change idea and monitor data**.

▶ **Watch** [Using data to enact change: How a NIC of teachers worked to improve graduation rates](#) to learn more about the project.

Strengthening Equity-Focused Policies and Practices for Black Students in Wisconsin

Partnership

Staff from the School District of Janesville developed a new teacher orientation that **reflected what school board members learned from a REL Midwest [training on how to increase educational equity](#)** in their districts.

REL Midwest published a [study](#) on a **professional development program on culturally responsive practices** in Wisconsin. The study's implications will be used to guide future program planning and research. A [related infographic](#) highlights an approach to measure the use of culturally responsive practices.



REL Midwest **collaborated with stakeholders** in our region to respond to and address immediate data and research needs.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



Hosted a webinar series to assist educators with transitioning to a remote learning environment. More than 1,400 individuals participated in this webinar series. The archived materials from the first webinar and follow-up webinar are available for download on our website.



Produced blog posts highlighting strategies for using educational technology; measuring student progress; and teaching young children, English learner students, and students with disabilities in a remote environment. Together, these posts had 11,779 page views.



Started working with state and district officials in Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio to estimate the effects of extended school closures on student learning. District administrators will be able to use this information to target resources to students most affected by school closures.

REL Midwest **engaged with stakeholders** across our region and beyond by producing:



36 Blog posts



4 Infographics



9 Videos and public television documentaries

Partnership engagement spotlight

Increasing Stakeholders' Capacity to Make Sense of Early Childhood Education Research

In 2020, MECERA created three videos related to early childhood literacy—two videos on how to integrate play into literacy instruction



(_____ , _____) and a documentary on _____

_____ REL Midwest staff shared the play-based learning videos during a training session on literacy instruction with early childhood educators from Springfield Public Schools, a partner district in Illinois. The teachers used the information in the videos to purposefully incorporate play into their curriculum planning.

Keep up with REL Midwest

In 2020, REL Midwest engagement efforts resulted in:

70,911
website views

8,569
YouTube views

3,430
social media
engagements

1,285
report downloads

Join our growing community today!

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