



## Going big to promote racial equity in education: Our expanding Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance

In honor of Black History Month, we're highlighting our Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance, which has gone regionwide to improve educational opportunities for Black students.

[Read more](#) ↗

## REL Midwest public TV documentary examines Black students' higher education aspirations

We brought together Wisconsin educators to screen and discuss our new public television documentary, which examines strategies to support Black students' higher education aspirations.

[Read more](#) ↗

## Celebrating Career and Technical Education Month

February is also Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. To celebrate, we rounded up resources on CTE from across the REL network.

[Read more](#) ↗

## Expanding the evidence base for career and technical education

The CTE Research Network, funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, which also funds the REL Program, is expanding the evidence base on CTE. Click below to learn more and sign up for the network's newsletter.

[Read more](#) ↗

## Study spotlight: Students who take CTE courses in Indiana and Minnesota—Who are they and what becomes of them?

CTE is one way that states are preparing students for college and the workplace. A new REL Midwest study is examining Indiana and Minnesota high school graduates' CTE course-taking as well as their college and workforce outcomes.

[Read more](#) ↗

## Ask A REL

Browse the responses to some recent questions submitted to our Ask A REL reference desk—then [submit a question](#) of your own!

- What does the research say about practices to support [students of color and low-income students with postsecondary degree and certificate completion](#)?
- What does the research say about [the relationship between instructional time and academic outcomes](#) for mathematics and literacy in grades 4–8?
- What research is available on approaches to [measuring high school graduation rates](#)?
- What research is available on [school finance policies for competency-based education](#)?

## Upcoming events

- **March 6: Using WWC Resources to Identify Interventions that Meet ESSA Tiers of Evidence, Webinar** (1:00–2:00 p.m. EST). Cohosted by REL Midwest and the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), this webinar focuses on the alignment between the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) tiers of evidence and the WWC evidence standards. [Learn more](#)
- **March 11–14: Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Spring 2020 Conference, Arlington, Virginia.** [Register](#)
  - **March 12: Promoting SEL Skills and Positive School Climate** (2:00–3:30 p.m. ET). Drawing on a REL Midwest study, this session examines how school climate and social and emotional learning skills are associated with English learner students' academic performance and English language proficiency. [Learn more](#)
  - **March 14: Towards Broadening Our Understanding of Education Research and Its Use** (9:00–10:30 a.m. ET). This panel session includes REL Midwest's study of teacher demand, supply, and shortages in Michigan public schools. [Learn more](#)
  - **March 14: RPPs at Scale? Lessons Learned From 10 Years of REL Research Partnerships** (10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ET). This panel session explores lessons learned from 10 years of REL research-practice partnerships. [Learn more](#)
- **March 20: Children's Knowledge and Skills at Kindergarten Entry in Illinois, Poster Session, Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, Fort Worth, Texas** (11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. CT). This poster session highlights key findings from REL Midwest's study of the first statewide implementation of Illinois' new kindergarten entry assessment. [Learn more](#)

### Contact Us

Please contact us for more information about any of the items in this newsletter or to speak to a member of our staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

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