



## Our 2019 accomplishments: The year in review

Happy New Year from REL Midwest! As we embark on a new year, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate all we accomplished in 2019. Check out our Year in Review and companion infographic.

[Read more](#) →

## Back by popular demand! Our top blog posts of 2019

Our most popular blog posts of 2019 highlight some of the topics that resonated most with educators in our region:

- [Integrating a focus on equity into social and emotional learning](#)
- [New report examines technology use in instruction in rural schools](#)
- [Empowering districts to use evidence: Building a state clearinghouse of evidence-based interventions](#)
- [The power of centering equity in social and emotional learning](#)

## Supporting postsecondary success for students with special needs

REL Midwest and the Minnesota Department of Education cohosted an event on effective strategies to help students with disabilities prepare for college and a career. Read the highlights, view the archived resources, and then watch our new video to learn about the featured strategies.

[Read more](#) → [View the video](#) →

## New REL Midwest documentaries probe pressing education issues in our region

- [Healthy Students = Strong Learners](#) Produced in collaboration with Nationwide Children's Hospital, WVIZ/PBS ideastream, and the Ohio Department of Education, this documentary highlights research on school-based health care plus Ohio's efforts to improve the health and academic outcomes of public school students by expanding access to health care.
- [Heartbeat of the Community: Recruiting and Retaining Teachers in Rural Schools](#) Produced in collaboration with Detroit Public Television and the Midwest Alliance to Improve Teacher Preparation, this documentary examines research on teacher recruitment and retention and how Michigan education leaders are working to recruit and retain teachers in rural schools.

## Wrapping up the Iowa Learning and Technology Networked Improvement Community: Achievements and resources

REL Midwest is wrapping up our work with rural Iowa high schools on integrating technology into instruction. Learn about the partnership's accomplishments and explore the resources developed as part of a continuous improvement cycle.

[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 research is available on [incorporating equity into school accountability](#)?
- What research is available on [principal evaluation systems](#)?
- What research is available on [state funding models for e-schools](#)?
- What does research say about [school performance rating systems](#)?

## Upcoming events

- **February 7: Healthy Students = Strong Learners**, *Columbus, Ohio* (10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ET). Join us for a free documentary screening and panel discussion on school-based health care in Ohio and the related evidence base. The event is open to the public. [Register](#)
- **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 of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, this session examines how school climate and social and emotional learning skills are associated with English learner students' academic performance and English language proficiency.
  - **March 14: How Three Collaborations Between Research and Practice Support Evidence-Informed Policy** (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.
  - **March 14: RPPs at Scale? Lessons Learned From Ten 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.

## Missed one of our webinars?

View the archived recordings and materials on our website. The following archives are now available:

- [A Closer Look: Teacher Perceptions and Use of Technology in Teaching](#)
- [Strategies for Success: Supporting English Learner Student Achievement](#)

### 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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