



Research Update • September 2020

Back-to-school metrics: How to assess teaching and learning conditions and to measure student progress during the COVID-19 pandemic

With a new school year underway, educators can use these metrics to assess school and classroom conditions and measure student progress in remote or hybrid learning environments.

[Read more](#) →

New video highlights how a network of educators worked to improve graduation rates for high schoolers in alternative programs

Learn how REL Midwest, the Minnesota Department of Education, and alternative high school teachers and leaders partnered to support students' learning goals and improve graduation rates.

[View the video](#) →

Training and coaching resources to support evidence-based practice, the growth of educators and leaders, and student outcomes

Check out our growing collection of training and coaching resources, featuring strategies and tools that support the use of research in areas such as educator effectiveness and teacher preparation.

[Read more](#) →

Study spotlight: Determining the effect of discipline reform plans on student suspensions and expulsions in Minnesota

A new REL Midwest study is examining the results of discipline reform efforts at Minnesota districts and charter networks that had been identified as suspending and expelling Black and Native American students and students in special education at high rates. A report of the findings is slated for publication in fall 2021.

[Read more](#) →

New REL COVID-19 Resources

Check out the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program's latest evidence-based resources to support teaching and learning during the pandemic. The [REL COVID-19 page](#) is updated regularly.

- REL Mid-Atlantic blog post: [Going the Distance: Online Strategies for Helping Students with Disabilities](#)
- REL Mid-Atlantic blog post: [Three Steps for Using Culturally Responsive Practices to Support Equity During Remote Learning](#)
- REL Pacific infographic: [Best Practices for Creating Take-Home Packets to Support Distance Learning](#)
- REL Southeast webinar recording: [Supporting Children's Reading at Home: Family Resources for Kindergarten through 3rd Grade](#)

Ask A REL

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

- What research is available on [school funding efficiency and student achievement](#)?
- What research is available on the impact of [state-level school support teams on low-performing schools](#)?
- What research is available on key factors associated with the improvement of [low-performing schools after receiving state support](#)?
- What research is available on the roles, functions, and impacts of [external partners in the improvement of low-performing schools](#)?

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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