



## Looking back with the Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance: Partnering with district and state leaders to improve educational outcomes among Black students

In this post, REL Midwest reflects on 5 years of partnership work that brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates with the goal of improving academic opportunities and success for Black students in Wisconsin and the Midwest region.

[Read more](#) →

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## Illinois district uses a systems change approach to implement and evaluate a new curriculum

When making major changes to complex education systems, states and districts can draw on the science of continuous improvement to support long-term success. Over the past year, REL Midwest assisted an Illinois district in building staff capacity for using continuous improvement methods to implement a major curriculum change—the replacement of an academic tracking program—and provide rigorous learning opportunities to all students.

[Read more](#) →

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## New documentary: Culture in our classrooms

Our latest documentary, produced in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television, highlights efforts in Minnesota to integrate culturally responsive practices into middle school settings. Researchers and practitioners discuss how schools and districts can implement practices that incorporate students' backgrounds and cultural references to support instruction and relationship building. The program grounds the research evidence with real-life experiences of students and their educators, families, and communities in Minnesota.

[Read more](#) →

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## Phonological awareness and phonics instructional rubric

School leaders can use this rubric, which was developed in partnership with Springfield Public Schools in Illinois, to provide feedback to teachers about the implementation of recommended instructional practices in phonological awareness and phonics. The rubric is designed to scaffold collaboration between school leaders and teachers and is not intended for use in formal teacher performance evaluations or as an accountability metric.

[Read more](#) →

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## Ask A REL

See the response to a recent question submitted to our Ask A REL reference desk:

- What recent research or resources are available on [practices to increase enrollment in Advanced Placement \(AP\) science, technology, engineering and mathematics \(STEM\) courses](#), in particular computer science?

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## Upcoming events

- **November 10: Leveraging Networked Improvement Communities to Improve Student Outcomes.** *Webinar* (4:00–5:30 p.m. ET/3:00–4:30 p.m. CT). In this webinar, participants will learn how to apply the networked improvement community model to address a common problem of practice in their local context, particularly as they work to address student learning needs this fall. [Register](#)

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### 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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