Training session 1
Tools you can use to address student learning needs

▶ About the video

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) hosted this 27-minute webinar, in partnership with Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast. The webinar provides district and school leaders with strategies and tools for how to assess student learning changes following COVID-19-related school closures. Experts Dominique Bradley (PhD) and Susan Burkhauser (PhD) present a toolkit that serves as a step-by-step guide for districts to identify where learning changes might have occurred; what information to gather about the needs and experiences of students, families, and staff; options for using that knowledge in the decision making process; and additional steps for future analysis and planning. The toolkit contains five modules that guide users through the actions needed for analysis, data collection, and planning for next steps. In addition to the toolkit, the video highlights a research synthesis and an action-planning template developed by REL Southeast. These resources can be used in conjunction with the toolkit to help assess learning needs and plan evidence-based strategies to address those needs.

👤 Intended audience

REL Southeast and GaDOE created this video to support staff at the district or school level to identify where differential learning changes have occurred. The tools presented are not appropriate for teachers' use in their classrooms as a way to assess learning loss, but rather a tool for district and school leaders to use at a system-level of data examination and expertise. Use the following questions as a starting point for discussions on measuring student learning changes.

❓ Discussion questions

▪ What concepts or themes from the video resonate with you?

▪ What have been some of the key needs that you have identified in your students, families, and teachers since the schools closed in spring 2020?

▪ What are the current practices used by your school/district to assess learning changes/summer learning loss?

▪ How do you identify differential needs by student groups and support areas? Do student learning needs differ by demographic characteristics, classrooms, or schools?

▪ What areas have you identified as the most critical to support students when schools reopen?

▪ What are some strategies that you can implement to address the needs resulting from learning changes?

▪ How can your school/district engage parents or family members as active partners in students' learning following pandemic-related school closures?

▪ How can you integrate other circumstances such as poverty, trauma, and family experiences into your analysis of learning changes?

▪ How can you support teachers at your school/district level so they can address the learning needs better?

▪ What tools are used by your school/district to monitor progress against the learning needs?

▪ What will a successful school reopening look like for you?

About REL Southeast

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast is part of a network of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. REL Southeast partners with states, school districts, and other stakeholders in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina to inform and improve education practice and policy in the region. Please visit the REL Southeast website to learn more: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southeast/aboutus.asp

Resources

These resources serve as additional support that district and school leaders may want to utilize to inform decisions based on the discussion questions. The resources are featured in the webinar.

- Toolkit for Assessing Learning Changes After Spring COVID-19 School Closures. REL Midwest created this toolkit in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education to help public school districts quantitatively and qualitatively assess how students are faring after school closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- A research synthesis intended to enhance the success of GaDOE, Strategic Waiver School Systems (SWSS), Charter Systems, and support organizations working with districts to implement waivers. The synthesis was designed to assist SWSS and Charter Systems administrators in using evidence-based school resource allocation research to plan and implement innovative strategies for their schools to use with the waiver flexibilities they receive.

- An action-planning template to help you plan and implement evidence-based strategies that respond to identified needs in your district.

- REL COVID-19 Evidence-Based Resources, a series of evidence-based resources covering various topics that provide guidance about teaching and learning in a remote environment, as well as other considerations brought by the pandemic.