



Training session 3

How to assess student needs and identify areas of growth

About the video

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) hosted this 19-minute webinar in partnership with Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southeast. The webinar provides district and school leaders with strategies to understand students' experiences and needs, particularly considering the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Expert Jameela Conway-Turner (PhD) presents Copilot-Elevate, a data-driven tool that can be used to examine and measure students' experiences in the classroom. The free resource can be used by teachers, schools, and districts to obtain rapid feedback from students about key classroom learning conditions. Based on these measures, Copilot-Elevate provides practical recommendations to improve learning conditions and promote higher and more equitable academic achievement. This resource can be used as part of a Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle to identify areas of growth, implement evidence-based practices, monitor progress, and modify or implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes. Finally, Dr. Conway-Turner compares School Climate Star Rating and Copilot-Elevate, and she emphasizes the importance of using both measures to provide relevant information about school and classroom climate.

Intended audience

REL Southeast and GaDOE created this video to support staff at the district and school levels to identify strategies and resources to assess student needs and identify areas of growth. The tools presented are appropriate for district and school leaders to support a holistic approach to assess student needs and implement evidence-based strategies. Use the following questions to launch discussions on learning about student experiences and identifying their needs.

Discussion questions

- What concepts or themes from the video resonate with you?
- What student needs have you identified since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What tools does your school or district use to get feedback from students and families about the way they experience key classroom learning conditions?
- How does your school or district review feedback and integrate it into their work and processes to improve experiences for students?
- What strategies are used by your school or district to implement best practices that respond to student experiences and needs?
- What tools are used by your school or district to monitor progress against student needs?
- How do you identify different needs by student groups and support areas?
- What learning experiences does your school or district provide to support academic and social-emotional learning?
- How can you support teachers at the school and district levels so they can address student needs and school climate more effectively?

About REL Southeast

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.

- [Copilot-Elevate resource information](#), where you can learn more about the tool created by the Project for Education Research That Scales (PERTS). This free, data-driven professional learning program elevates student voice to help schools create engaging and equitable experiences that respond to student needs and improve academic and social-emotional learning outcomes.
- [A research synthesis](#) intended to enhance the success of GaDOE, Strategic Waiver School Systems (SWSS), and Charter Systems. 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.