

# Ask a REL



Free Reference Desk  
Responses to Your  
Education Questions!



## What is Ask a REL?

An online reference desk to inform education decision-making.



## Who is it for?

Parents, practitioners, district-level leaders, state agency staff, policymakers, anyone seeking a research-based, quick-turnaround response on an education topic.



## What kinds of questions are asked?

- ➔ **From a principal:** What does research say about the effectiveness of different phonics programs in the early grades?
- ➔ **From a nonprofit network director:** How do high school counselors impact students' college preparation?
- ➔ **From an early childhood education program administrator:** Is there neuroscience literature on using singing and chanting to promote vocabulary in young dual language learners?
- ➔ **From a parent and PTA president:** What research has been done on the relationship between classroom temperature and learning, and is there an optimal school temperature?

For an archive of responses:

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/west/Ask>

## About REL West

As part of the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program network, REL West responds to educational needs in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah by providing access to high-quality, evidence-based education research; conducting applied research studies; interpreting and applying research evidence; and coaching on data analytics. REL West has longstanding working relationships with state and local educators throughout the region.



## Where do the answers come from?

Each of the 10 RELs provides the service in its region. To respond, REL staff:



Access databases for relevant published research,



Refer the requester to another organization for more tailored expertise, if appropriate.



## What do responses look like?

Ask-a-REL responses include providing references, referrals, and information on education research, briefs, articles, and organizations.

Responses may include:

- ➔ Citations and abstracts of rigorously conducted educational research
- ➔ Citations and summaries of related information on the topic
- ➔ Information on the databases and search terms used to identify the included references

### Ask-a-REL MEMO

A diagram of an 'Ask-a-REL MEMO' form. It features a question mark icon in a circle at the top left, followed by a horizontal line for the question. Below this is another horizontal line for the answer, preceded by 'A:'. There are two more horizontal lines for additional information, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow.



Submit your question at [relwest@WestEd.org](mailto:relwest@WestEd.org)