



The end of the year is often a time for reflection and celebration. Together, REL Appalachia and our partners have much to reflect on and celebrate as 2023 comes to a close. Partnerships are the foundation of REL work, and we are truly grateful for your collaboration and commitment to improving learning for all students in the region.

A recent [blog post by the REL Program branch chief](#) illustrates how the RELs partner with folks like you to advance student outcomes. The blog highlights REL Appalachia's popular [Community Math Nights materials and resources](#); in this newsletter we reflect on some of our other, more recent collaborations and resources that are improving outcomes for all learners, from prekindergarten to grade 12 and beyond.

We also wish you all happy holidays and a restful winter break, with plenty of time for your own reflections and celebrations.

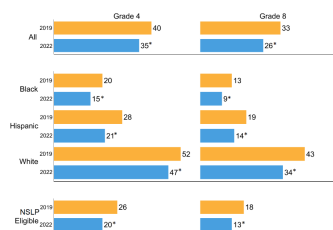


Featured Resources



It's critical for kids to develop a strong foundation in math at a young age; to make that happen, teachers need to feel prepared and confident. In this new [blog post](#) discover how REL Appalachia is partnering with experts and educators in Virginia to **develop professional learning modules to help early childhood educators teach math**. The blog post includes a sneak peek at what we're creating as well!

Figure 1. Percentages of Public School Students Nationwide At or Above Proficiency in Math, by Grade



Improving math and literacy learning is of national concern following the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2022 results for grades 4 and 8 students. REL Appalachia developed the [NAEP fact sheet](#) to help partners understand the national and regional picture and connect to resources to support learners across the region.



Many districts are using **instructional coaching as a lever to improve K–12 math achievement**. REL Appalachia staff and partners from Kentucky delivered a [presentation](#) on **assessing the quality of math coaching conversations** at the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) conference in October. The session included an introduction to the Coaching Conversation Observation Rubric that the Kentucky Department of Education and REL Appalachia co-developed.



A key factor in improving academic outcomes for all students is engaging families in their learning, including families with non-parent primary caregivers. Access [materials from a recent REL Appalachia community of practice meeting](#) to learn about the importance of **including grandfamilies and kinship caregivers** and strategies for engaging them in the school community. Stay tuned for a forthcoming infographic with tips for using inclusive language for grandfamilies and kinship caregivers.



Partners across the region are looking for evidence-based strategies to **support students' preparation for college and careers**. REL Appalachia responded with a [REL Corner](#) linking to resources on college and career readiness from across the REL Program.



The Tennessee members of the [Strengthening Students' Preparation for College and Careers partnership](#) are particularly interested in the **college and career readiness of rural students**. Delve into a “balanced approach” to supporting rural students in a [presentation](#) that REL Appalachia staff delivered with a Tennessee district leader in November at the National Forum to Advance Rural Education.

In Case You Missed It

Check out our [September 2023 newsletter](#), and please [subscribe](#) if you're not already on our distribution list.



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Promote ...

How can we retain and grow excellent educators? One idea: promote [#TeacherWellbeing](#) with healthy and [#SupportiveEnvironments](#)! This REL Appalachia blog features long-term strategies, [#toolkits](#), and guides to get you started! ies.ed.gov/ncee/rel/Produ...



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REL Appalachia is deeply committed to supporting educators in our region. For the latest news and updates and resources, [follow us on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and tag us [@REL_Appalachia](#), and [visit our website](#).

If you have stories, successes, challenges, or other feedback you'd like to share, [please reach out to us via email!](#) We'd love to hear from you!



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