

# NEWSLETTER

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## Letter from the Director



Dear colleagues,

As the days get longer and warmer and the school year comes to an end, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and the impact you make on the lives of your students. I hope you're able to take some time for yourselves for rest and rejuvenation as we prepare for the academic year ahead.

In this issue of the REL Central newsletter, you will find a wealth of resources designed to support and enhance your professional practice—and to take care of yourselves. This issue includes a summary of the recent Governing Board meeting, which took place on May 12 and will continue to shape our work in the coming months. You'll also learn more about the work being done in Denver Public Schools to support successful transitions into grade 9 math classes and the work of the Colorado Teacher Diversity partnership. Finally, we're sharing some additional information and resources that we hope will be of interest as we move forward with our work together, including a blog from our colleagues at REL Mid-Atlantic that focuses on the need for principals to engage in self-care.

Once again, thank you for the work we've done together this school year, and we look forward to seeing many of you this summer.

**Phillip Herman**  
Director, REL Central

## New REL Central Blog! Strengthening Student Pathways to Success in 9th Grade Math in Denver Public Schools



In Denver Public Schools (DPS), the transition from middle school to high school poses a significant challenge for students, particularly in grade 9 math. Many students struggle to adapt to the new environment and face difficulties in recovering from early setbacks because of the sequential nature of math curricula. Additionally, on-track math achievement in grade 9 has been linked to high school success, including graduation and postsecondary enrollment. To improve math achievement and narrow opportunity gaps, DPS has partnered with REL Central to support the district's goal of increasing the number of students who succeed in grade 9 math and transition from middle to high school. Read our [new blog post](#) to learn more!

## Archived REL Central Webinar: Experiences from the Field: Perspectives of Teachers of Color

This [archived REL Central webinar](#) focuses on the work of our Colorado Teacher Diversity Partnership, bringing together multiple perspectives highlighting research, policy, and practice efforts related to diversifying the teaching workforce. Learn about research on factors that influence teachers to stay, move, or leave a position or the profession, with a focus on teachers of color, and hear from a teacher panel about their perspectives on what has influenced their decisions to stay in a school, move to a different school, or leave the profession.

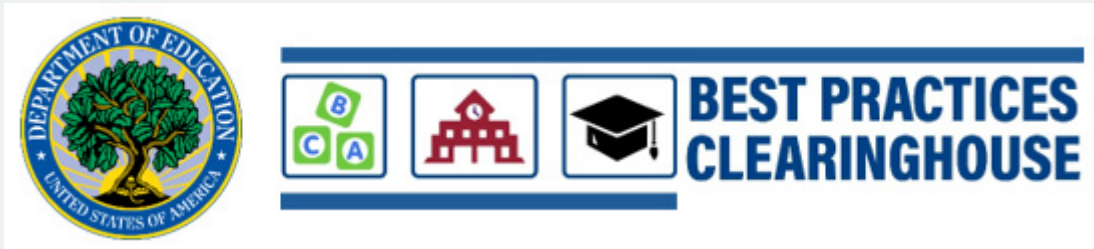


## REL Mid-Atlantic Blog: Navigating New Waters: Focusing on Principals' Health and Well-Being



Student and teacher well-being have received significant attention during the pandemic, yet principals also need support. By prioritizing the health and well-being of principals, school communities can maintain their focus on student success and create supportive environments where students and staff are all able to thrive. Check out this [recent blog post from REL Mid-Atlantic](#) to learn more about strategies for principal self-care!

# Webinar Miniseries on Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Academic Well-Being and Success



This miniseries, part of the U.S. Department of Education's [Lessons from the Field Webinar Series](#), is designed to enhance state and local implementation of the *Guiding Principles for Creating Safe, Inclusive, Supportive, and Fair School Climates* to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn in environments that are safe, inclusive, supportive, and fair. It will include five events aligned with the Guiding Principles and [recently released fact sheets](#):



- Guiding Principles for Creating Safe, Inclusive, Supportive, and Fair School Climates: August 9, 2023
- Strategies for School and District Leaders: August 23, 2023
- Strategies for Schools to Enhance Relationships with Families: September 20, 2023
- Strategies for Educators and School-Based Staff: October 4, 2023
- Strategies for Student and Teacher Support Teams: October 18, 2023

## Spring Governing Board Recap



On May 12, REL Central Governing Board members, REL staff, and invited guests met virtually to collaborate on REL Central's work across the region. In a wide-ranging meeting led by Governing Board members, participants engaged in three major discussions about REL partnership work in each state/Tribal region, ways that all states in REL Central are addressing teacher workforce challenges, and potential opportunities to inform work that may be on the horizon, including meeting the needs of diverse students such as refugee students, ways to improve the status of teaching as a profession, and effective mental health supports for students, families, and teachers.

## Connect with Us



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