



NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Director | REL Central Recap | REL Central Governing Board | REL Mid-Atlantic Blog Post

REL Midwest Video | Connect with Us

Letter from the Director



Dear colleagues,

This past year has been a year of growth for REL Central and our work together, with new partnerships established and existing ones strengthened. Based on your needs and goals, our priorities have focused on supporting, growing, and retaining the educator workforce, accelerating math achievement, facilitating postsecondary and workforce readiness and transitions, and supporting culturally responsive instruction. Insights on these priority areas and partnership work can be found in the 2023 REL Central products highlighted below.

This issue of the REL Central newsletter also offers a summary of our recent Governing Board meeting, which was held in person on November 8 in Denver,

Colorado. And we're sharing two resources from our fellow RELs that might be of interest, including a blog post on increasing teacher diversity from REL Mid-Atlantic, and a video on implementing culturally and linguistically responsive practices in literacy instruction from REL Midwest.

I hope you find inspiration from the resources shared in this newsletter, and thank you for your continued support and partnership. From all of us at REL Central, may you have a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, or requests for assistance at RELCentral@mathematica-mpr.com.

Best regards, Phillip Herman Director, REL Central

REL Central Recap: Our 2023 Products

Infographics and Fact Sheets

- · How Individual Plans of Study Can Support Students' College and Career Readiness and Success
- Supporting Use of Electronic Portfolios and Education and Career Goal-Setting Within the Context of Individual Plans of Study
- Meeting Students Where They Are: Introducing the Partnership for Accelerating Math Achievement in North Dakota
- Supporting Professional Learning to Advance Culture-Based Math Instruction in Standing Rock
- Supporting Focused Partnerships to Improve Education Outcomes

Webinars

- Supporting a More Diverse Teacher Workforce: Research and Promising Approaches: Efforts in Colorado
- Experiences from the Field: Perspectives of Teachers of Color

Blog Posts



- Alleviating Teacher Shortages through the Wyoming Teacher Apprenticeship Initiative
- REL Central Supports New Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway Pilot in South Dakota
- Strengthening Student Pathways to Success in 9th Grade Math in Denver Public Schools
- How REL Central Is Supporting Math Achievement in the Central Region

REL Central Governing Board Meets in Denver to Discuss Achievements and Priorities

On November 8, the REL Central Governing Board and REL staff met in Denver, Colorado to strengthen connections and collaborate to improve educator and student outcomes in meaningful ways. Board members learned more about recent work and offered strategic guidance on how we can best support our partners in reaching their goals. We identified and discussed the highest priority education needs across the Central region including teacher and other staff shortages, student well-being, accelerating learning, rural school



Leigh Anne Taylor Knight

leadership, ensuring schools do more to connect with workforce needs, and family engagement in schools. A panel of Board members from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming engaged in a discussion about the design, implementation, and funding of teacher apprenticeship programs moderated by the REL Central Board Chair, Dr. Curtis Garcia. Panelists described lessons learned, challenges, and provided advice to others who are considering developing teacher apprenticeship programs. The Board also provided guidance on needed applied research studies and dissemination of evidence, including how to work more strategically to ensure that practitioners and other audiences are able to access and use REL Central resources.

REL Mid-Atlantic Blog Post: Why Increasing Teacher Diversity Matters in New Jersey



Education outcomes may improve for students of color when they're taught by a teacher of the same race or ethnicity. Read this new blog post to learn about New Jersey's goal to increase teacher diversity and how REL Mid-Atlantic is helping partners build the capacity of school districts to use data and implement stronger hiring and retention practices in pursuit of this goal.

REL Midwest Video: Blending Evidence-Based Literacy Practices with Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Practices

Leveraging multilingual students' home languages and/ or dialects can support their literacy learning. Watch this video to learn how educators can implement culturally and linguistically responsive practices in their literacy instruction and engage students' oral language strengths.



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