



### Gear up for the new school year

We curated resources from across the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Program to help districts and schools support new teachers and leaders, ensure smooth transitions for young learners, and create welcoming school environments as a new academic year begins.

## REL resource roundup: Back to school



### Supporting new teachers and leaders

A 30-minute REL Midwest documentary on [best practices for supporting new educators](#) features three novice teachers in Metro Detroit whose experiences highlight the importance of quality preparation, clinical experience, and ongoing mentorship. A REL Northeast and Islands video describes how Boston Public Schools is [mentoring beginning teachers through data coaching](#), and a REL Mid-Atlantic fact sheet provides information on [teacher residency programs in the United States](#), including features of high-performing programs.



### Ensuring smooth transitions for young learners

A REL Midwest video, [Kindergarten Entry Assessments: What You Need to Know](#), describes the benefits of identifying students' strengths and needs at the start of kindergarten, and a webinar, [Equipping Parents to Support Kindergarten Readiness](#), explores how child care providers can help parents prepare children for the nonacademic components of kindergarten. In addition, a new What Works Clearinghouse practice guide provides [evidence-based recommendations to help prepare young children for school](#), and a REL Mid-Atlantic fact sheet highlights promising practices for [supporting school transitions](#).



### Creating a welcoming school environment

A REL Midwest infographic highlights resources for creating a [supportive learning environment that values equity](#) and two videos describe evidence-based practices for creating [culturally affirming classrooms](#) and [positive high school climates](#). In addition, two REL Northwest blog posts feature [ways to create welcoming, bully-free online learning environments](#) and [six strategies for effective school-based family engagement events](#).

## Blog series: Spotlight on our new research partnerships



### Developing a toolkit to support Illinois grade 6 educators in teaching fractions

A strong understanding of fractions lays the groundwork for later success in mathematics, but this key building block is a challenge for many students and teachers. In Illinois, REL Midwest has teamed up with the state board of education and school districts to develop and test a Teaching Fractions Toolkit that will draw on research to strengthen fractions instruction.

[Read More](#)

## Upcoming events

### What Works Clearinghouse webinar series: Preparing young children for school

Register for this webinar series to explore recommendations from the newly released What Works Clearinghouse practice guide, [Preparing Young Children for School](#). This guide lays out practical guidance to strengthen young children's skills in literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional domains.

- **September 27:** [Social-Emotional Learning and Executive Function](#) (3 p.m. ET).
- **September 28:** [Mathematical Ideas and Language](#) (3 p.m. ET).
- **September 29:** [Vocabulary, Letters, and Shared Book Reading](#) (3 p.m. ET).

### Contact us

Please contact us for more information about the content in this newsletter or to speak to a member of our staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

### REL Midwest

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