



Greetings from the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest! For those new to our work or who want to learn more, we are excited to share a [video](#) and [handout](#) that showcase our mission and the high-leverage needs we are addressing with educators across the Midwest. We also continue our blog series to introduce our new research partnerships, and we round up evidence-based resources on fostering safe and supportive learning environments.

## Blog series: Spotlight on our new research partnerships



### Improving early literacy skills in Michigan through a focus on phonological awareness and phonics

To set up young readers for success in Michigan, REL Midwest will work with the Michigan Department of Education and school districts to develop and test an approach to improve literacy outcomes for students in grades K–1. The approach will focus on teaching phonological awareness and phonics.

[Read more](#)



### Partnering in Minnesota to cultivate conditions that foster a diverse educator workforce

Research shows that students of color benefit in multiple ways when they have teachers from the same racial or ethnic background. Yet many schools struggle to retain a diverse educator workforce. Learn how REL Midwest is partnering with school districts and others in Minnesota to develop and test an approach for cultivating school cultures and working conditions that help retain teachers of color and Indigenous teachers.

[Read more](#)

## Resource roundup: Safe and supportive learning environments

### Strengthening student recovery and resiliency

On May 24, Uvalde, Texas, joined a growing list of communities where gun violence in schools has led to a tragic loss of life. [A list of resources](#) curated by the [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#) guides educators in developing students' protective factors before a crisis and their recovery and resiliency after such an event.

### REL resources for supporting students experiencing trauma

A new [REL West video collection](#) describes actionable strategies for understanding youth behaviors and employing trauma-informed practices. A [REL Southwest infographic](#) highlights strategies and resources that educators can use to support students experiencing trauma. See the [REL website](#) for more resources on safe and supportive learning environments.

### Report on crime and safety in schools and on college campuses

The [Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2021](#), produced by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) at the U.S. Department of Education and the [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#) at the U.S. Department of Justice, highlights new data on victimization, bullying, school safety measures, and postsecondary campus safety and security.

## Upcoming events

### National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) 2022 STATS-DC Data Conference

August 8–12, 2022 (Virtual)

REL Midwest researchers will be presenting two virtual sessions at the 2022 NCES STATS-DC Data Conference, which focuses on approaches for collecting, reporting, and using education statistics. We hope you'll join us! [Learn more](#).

- **August 8:** [The Challenges and Opportunities of Using Diagnostic Data to Improve Equity and Access to Reading](#) (12:30–1:30 p.m. ET)
- **August 8:** [Using Michigan Data to Identify Incentives for Nonteaching Teachers to Return to the Classroom](#) (3:30–4:30 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.

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