

Fostering students' sense of belonging



**It takes time and trust: An expert discussion on sense of belonging in middle school**

Through the **Data-Informed Leadership for Equity** partnership, we are working with school districts in Iowa to reduce disparities in sense of belonging, disciplinary actions, and absenteeism among middle school students. In this Q&A, experts on social and emotional learning discuss what sense of belonging means, why it's important, and how it can be measured. A [related infographic](#) is also available.

[Read More](#)



**Cultivating sense of belonging in high school doesn't just happen: It takes a lot of work**

Through the **Making Equitable Schools Audit** partnership, we are working with Akron Public Schools in Ohio to improve sense of belonging and equitable disciplinary practices for all high school students. Orrin Murray, who oversees REL Midwest's research partnerships, discusses the connection between student sense of belonging and school discipline.

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Strengthening students' literacy skills



**Using data and small groups to differentiate reading instruction in the early grades**

Drawing on recommendations from the What Works Clearinghouse, this blog post outlines how to use assessment data to identify young readers' instructional needs, organize small groups to meet those needs, and deliver effective instruction. The method is part of an approach our **Strategies to Improve Reading** partnership is piloting in Michigan.

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**Supporting students in literacy: Evidence-based recommendations and resources**

REL Southeast and the **What Works Clearinghouse** have released a recorded webinar for educators on evidence-based recommendations to help students improve their literacy skills. The webinar draws from six What Works Clearinghouse practice guides. A [handout](#) provides related resources.

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Building and sustaining a diverse educator workforce



**How one Minnesota school is building an inclusive culture to support teachers of color**

Learn how our **Supporting Inclusive and Diverse Educator Environments** partnership is helping Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School cultivate and sustain a school culture that supports teachers of color and Indigenous teachers.

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**Online learning series: Diversity in the educator workforce**

A new online learning series from the **Equity Assistance Centers** supports K-12 education systems in building and sustaining a diverse workforce. The free, self-paced modules include guidance and resources to help schools, districts, and state departments improve recruitment and retention practices.

- [The History and Importance of a Diverse Educator Workforce](#)
- [Teacher Diversity – Recruitment](#)
- [Hiring a Culturally Responsive and Diverse Workforce](#)



**Strategies for recruiting and retaining a diverse teacher workforce**

This set of briefs from the **Region 9 Comprehensive Center** highlights strategies for addressing common challenges that districts face in attracting and retaining a diverse, qualified workforce, with a focus on underrepresented groups and specific certifications.

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**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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