



REL Midwest partners with educators and policymakers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin to improve learner outcomes.

A message from our director

Welcome to the 2022–26 Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest, which is operated by the American Institutes for Research! We're excited to work with partners across our seven-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

In January 2022, we launched a new, 5-year scope of work that includes partnerships with Midwest districts to design and test solutions to high-leverage, statewide problems of practice. Our partnerships seek to increase equity by targeting solutions for student populations that are farthest from opportunity and by embedding training and coaching to foster shifts in adult mindsets and the use of culturally responsive practices. Our new partnership focus areas include studying and improving early literacy instruction, middle-grade mathematics instruction, and the retention of teachers of color, as well as using equity audits to develop more equitable school policies and increasing data-informed leadership practices. To carry out this work, we and our partners will use research-based technical assistance to design and test interventions and conduct rigorous studies to optimize the interventions' effectiveness.

We're enthusiastic about starting this work. At the same time, we recognize the many challenges our partner districts have been facing as we all move from one pandemic surge to another. Existing teacher shortages have been exacerbated, with bus driver shortages now added to the list of front-line challenges. Nonetheless, many educators working in classrooms, school buildings, district offices, and state agencies have remained focused on and passionate about meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students. The dedication of educators is amazing!

Over the next few months, we will be meeting with our partner organizations, developing proposals for our work, and plotting timelines and task lists. All the while, we will navigate the context of the pandemic and the pressures it adds to our partners' daily work. Improving the lives of students in the Midwest will remain a shared goal for all of us in this important work.

We invite you to [browse our website](#) to learn more about our current and past work and to explore our resources and research. You can also follow us on Twitter at [@RELMidwest](#) for up-to-date news and information about our work and upcoming events.

Stay safe and healthy!

Best,

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Contact Us

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

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