



### Looking ahead to a new year

With the start of 2023, we begin the second year of REL Midwest's current five-year cycle of work. During our first year, we launched six partnerships and designed the first project of what we see as a future seventh partnership. It was a busy year! REL Midwest's director, Julie Kochanek, reflects on the successes and challenges of 2022 and looks ahead to the work planned for 2023.

[Read More](#)

## Our work: Supporting young readers and career-ready high schoolers



### New documentary! Supporting Michigan learners toward excellence in reading

Gear up for National Reading Month in March with our new documentary, produced with Detroit Public Television. The program explores strategies that districts and schools can use to accelerate reading growth for young learners and features the perspectives of educators in two Michigan districts.

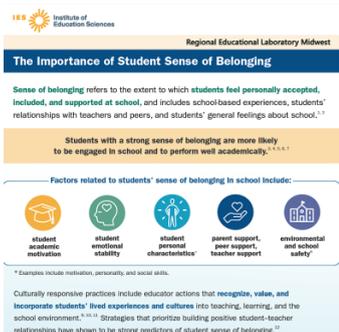
[Read More](#)



### Gaining real-world experience: Strengthening career pathways through work-based learning

February is Career and Technical Education Month! Learn how REL Midwest is partnering with Indianapolis Public Schools to increase student participation in immersive work-based learning as a way to strengthen career pathways.

[Read More](#)



### The importance of student sense of belonging

A new infographic from our **Data-Informed Leadership for Equity partnership** in Iowa highlights factors related to student sense of belonging. In addition, the infographic provides culturally responsive educator practices that may support student belonging and engagement.

[Read More](#)

## REL resource roundup: Promoting Black students' excellence



### Fostering success for Black students

We rounded up resources from across the REL program in honor of Black History Month in February.

- **REL Midwest** researchers reviewed some 4,000 research abstracts to identify [policies, practices, and programs associated with academic success for Black students](#). A companion [infographic](#) and [video](#) highlight the practices.
- The **REL Midwest** Achievement Gap Research Alliance produced a [documentary exploring promising practices to support Black students on their journey to postsecondary education](#), including the use of culturally responsive practices.
- A **REL West** infographic illustrates the [benefit of self-affirmation classroom writing activities for Black and Latinx students](#). These activities have shown promise for buffering students of color against negative stereotype threat.
- A **REL Northeast & Islands** infographic explores the importance of [educator diversity—and in particular the presence of Black teachers—in fostering success for Black students](#) and shares actions to increase teacher diversity.

## Upcoming Events

Catch our upcoming documentaries on public television.

### Supporting Michigan Learners Toward Excellence in Reading

Detroit Public Television

- Sunday, March 12, 4:30 p.m. ET

### Math Mindset: Transforming the Middle School Experience

WTTW Chicago PBS

- Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 p.m. CT (WTTWPrime)
- Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m. CT
- Sunday, March 12, 5:30 a.m. CT

## From the webinar archive

Recordings of all REL webinars are [available online](#). Check out these featured titles for February:

- [Confronting Bias and Building Trust: Strategies to Create Inclusive Environments for Black Teachers](#)
- [Increasing the Reach of Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)
- [Evidence-Based Literacy Interventions to Support Young Learners During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

### 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

10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60606

