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Spring 2022



Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands **NEWS**

Serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, & the U.S. Virgin Islands

Director's Blog



What's New at REL Northeast & Islands?

Our team at REL Northeast & Islands is thrilled to announce we will continue working with states and territories across our region for another five years. In this blog we discuss helpful resources and future research projects for state partnerships in our region.

[Learn More](#)

New Resource



Evaluating Professional Learning: Workshop Materials

As an accompaniment to [*Evaluating Professional Learning: A Tool for Schools and Districts*](#), educators can use these workshop slides and facilitator agendas to guide their teams through the development of a plan to evaluate their professional learning initiative.

[Learn More](#)

Latest Report



Teacher Shortages in New York State

This study explored the pathways through which new teachers earned certificates, their certification areas, and their subsequent placement and retention in districts across the state, particularly high-need districts.

[Learn More](#)

New Infographic

Building Evidence for a State System of Support:
Using Research Methods to Inform Struggling Schools' Continuous Improvement Efforts

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has developed state systems of support for schools identified as low-performing through the state accountability system. The system includes a monitoring process that focuses on four areas: **1) Leadership, Shared Responsibility, and Professional Collaboration;** **2) Intentional Practices for Improving Instruction;** **3) Student-Specific Instruction and Supports to All Students;** and **4) School Climate and Culture.** The monitoring process provides annual formative feedback to low-performing schools and their districts, as well as information about areas of need in the state system of support.

DESE uses a mixed method evaluation approach to inform ratings on each of the [Janet Quinn, Practices and Indicators \(TPIs\)](#) rubric.

REL Northeast & Islands conducted two studies analyzing the relationship between schoolwide student outcomes and annual monitoring ratings on instruction and implementation.

The findings from the two studies analyze the relationship between monitoring data collected annually and improvements in schoolwide student outcomes. Findings suggest DESE's approach includes many ratings that have a significant positive relationship with improved outcomes.

Massachusetts State System of Support for Low-Performing Schools: Focus on Continuous Improvement

- 1) State identifies low-performing schools through accountability system.
- 2) State works with district & schools to develop improvement plans and benchmarks.
- 3) Schools with agreed plans receive school improvement funding & support.
- 4) Annual monitoring of low-performing schools provides formative feedback on school progress in key benchmark practice areas.
- 5) Schools and districts, with state support, monitor data & engage in continuous improvement.

Building Evidence for a State System of Support

This infographic shares findings from two studies that analyze the relationship between schoolwide student outcomes and annual monitoring ratings on instruction and implementation in Massachusetts.

[Learn More](#)

Blog Post



REL Resources for Educators of English Learner Students

This blog explores the work of the Cross-REL English Learner Working Group over the past eight years, which has served to advance the work of identifying and addressing the needs and priorities of EL students. The blog includes a comprehensive list of EL resources across the REL Program.

[Learn More](#)

New from the Regional Educational Laboratories



Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence-based Resources for Facilitators on Remote Learning & Social and Emotional Learning

REL Northwest has created customizable professional development modules that draw on evidence-based resources about teaching and learning in a remote environment that were produced by researchers from the 10 RELs.

[Learn More](#)

Additional REL Resources:

- REL Appalachia Tool: [Branching Out: Using Decision Trees to Inform Education Decisions](#)
 - REL Central Video Series: [Teaching Math to Young Children](#)
 - REL Northwest Report: [Examining the Implementation and Impact of Full-day Kindergarten in Oregon](#)
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New from the Institute of Education Sciences



Digest of Education Statistics, 2020

The Digest contains data on a variety of topics, including the number of schools and colleges, teachers, enrollments, and graduates, in addition to educational attainment, finances, and federal funds for education, libraries, and international comparisons.

[Learn More](#)

The REL Northeast & Islands newsletter features new resources designed to help educators and policymakers use data and research to improve student outcomes.



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