

September 2023 Newsletter

REL Southwest partners with educators and policymakers in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas to improve learner outcomes.

At the start of a new school year, there is a flurry of excitement as we reconnect with colleagues, students, families, and communities. In this edition of our newsletter, we share updates about our partnerships focused on college and career readiness and early childhood education, as well as a video highlighting Louisiana's New Teacher Experience program and resources to prepare you for the return to school.

Advancing college and career readiness efforts in Arkansas and Texas



Supporting postsecondary readiness and success for all students in Arkansas

Our College and Career Readiness and Success partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education supports the implementation of high-quality instructional materials and multi-tiered systems of support in schools to strengthen students' postsecondary readiness and success. Read about the two state initiatives at the core of the partnership and how this work builds on our previous efforts in the state.

[Read More](#)



Q&A with the Texas Education Agency Tri-Agency Workforce Priorities partnership team

In this Q&A, the team leading our Tri-Agency Workforce Priorities partnership in Texas describes how they are using the state's Effective Advising Framework to expand access to high-quality college, career, and military advising. Learn how the partnership formed and how we plan to measure the framework's success.

[Read More](#)

Partnering with Oklahoma to promote research-based early learning practices

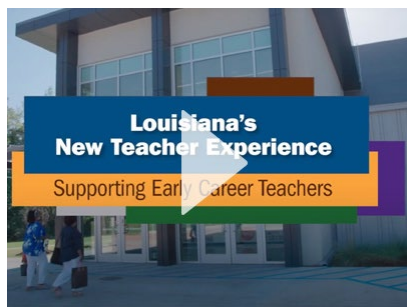


Promoting high-quality teacher–student interactions and play-based learning

Oklahoma has long been at the forefront of early childhood education. In this blog post, we introduce our new work in the state with the Leading Early Childhood and Achievement Development (LEAD) partnership. The partnership is developing, testing, and iteratively refining a professional learning intervention to promote the use of research-based early learning practices, such as play-based learning and high-quality teacher–student interactions. Our new [infographic](#) provides an overview of the LEAD intervention activities and summarizes the evidence informing research-based early learning practices.

[Read More](#)

Video on new teacher supports in Louisiana



Introducing Louisiana's New Teacher Experience program

In July, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) kicked off its New Teacher Experience program, an induction program for the state's newest teachers. With LDOE, the Supporting Early Career and Aspiring Teachers partnership developed a video that summarizes the program's components and evidence base. [Watch this video](#) to learn about the program through interviews with our partnership lead, LDOE staff, professional learning coaches, and new teachers. A new companion [infographic](#) describes the New Teacher Experience program and evidence-based strategies for retaining early career teachers.

[Watch the video](#)

Resource roundup: Back-to-school edition

To help you prepare for the new academic year, we collected resources from across the REL program that ease the transition for young learners and support new teachers and English learner students.

- A [REL Northwest blog post](#) outlines five steps educators, parents, and guardians can use with young children during shared book-reading time, based on the What Works Clearinghouse practice guide [Preparing Young Children for School](#).
- A [REL Mid-Atlantic fact sheet](#) highlights promising practices for districts and schools to successfully transition young learners to the next school year.
- A [REL Southwest blog post](#) shares a collection of REL resources, research, and strategies to help strengthen teacher preparation and support new teachers.
- A [REL Pacific fact sheet](#) presents evidence-based resources about teacher mentoring programs.
- A [REL West webinar](#) discusses how to support English learner instruction at the elementary and middle school levels by using the English Learner Professional Learning Guide.
- A [REL Southwest user guide](#) helps New Mexico educators, site administrators, and district administrators implement research-based practices that support English learner students. See also the companion video, [Partnering to Support English Learner Students in New Mexico: A Continuous Improvement Approach](#).

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.