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Newsletter



Lenay Dunn, Deputy Director, and John Rice, Director, REL West

Greetings!

The REL West team recently spent some time thinking about issues of equity, and specifically, how equity is elevated throughout our nine partnerships. As part of our partnership work and development of logic models to support our work, we intentionally discuss how this work will create more equitable opportunities for students. This is a fundamental consideration for everything we do at REL West.

As one of the ten Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs), REL West is administered through the Institute of Education Sciences. REL West helps bridge education research and practice by partnering with state and local education leaders to build their capacity to make evidence-informed changes that improve outcomes for all students. We currently work on projects that are sharing evidence-based practices from Pre-K through postsecondary education and are addressing issues such as chronic absence, discipline disparities, serving multilingual learners, and improving outcomes for foster students.

We have recently completed work on an infographic that shares an evidence-based intervention called Empathic Instruction. This intervention can be used to address race-based disparities in disciplinary actions in schools. The infographic provides a high-level overview of the impact of race-based disparities—specifically for Black students—as well as illustrates how this intervention can be implemented. Please click on the link to learn more about this intervention. [Empathic Instruction: A Powerful Tool for Addressing Inequitable Disciplinary Actions in Schools](#).

Another intervention that can help educators address negative stereotypes in the classroom, leading to more equitable opportunities for students, is called Self-Affirmation. This tool discusses “stereotype threat” and illustrates how self-affirmation can mitigate its effects on academic outcomes. Click here to learn more about Self-Affirmation through this [infographic](#).

We invite you to continue to explore ways to address issues of equity through other resources on the REL West [website](#). Thank you for your continued support of REL West and to serving students in our region. Please share any feedback with us at relwest@wested.org and be sure to follow us on X for the latest news and information about our work.

Sincerely,

Partnership Spotlight: Improving Math Outcomes for Middle School Multilingual Learners in Santa Clara County

We are pleased to introduce our newest partnership. Improving Math Outcomes for Middle School Multilingual Learners in Santa Clara County recently launched and is focused on improving math achievement among multilingual learners in middle school. Through coaching and an applied research project, REL West and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) are supporting districts to strengthen local professional learning for middle school math teachers of multilingual learners and, in turn, expand the local implementation of evidence-based instructional practices that will improve multilingual learners' language proficiency and math content understanding.

Teacher shortages have garnered a lot of recent media attention. Most states are experiencing some degree of teacher shortages since the COVID-19 pandemic, and teacher turnover has surged in recent years, with more teachers leaving the profession than ever before. REL West, in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education, is working on understanding these issues in Utah and addressing the root causes of early career teacher attrition. [Click here](#) to learn more about this partnership.

Information from the [Institute of Education Sciences](#)

- The most recent results from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) were released last December. This international study compares 15-year-old students' performance in reading, mathematics, and science. This most recent report provides a global view of U.S. students' performance compared to their peers in the 80 other participating education systems. [Click here](#) to explore the report.
- Matthew Soldner, the Commissioner of NCEE (National Center for Education Evaluation) and Interim Director of IES, recently spoke to education leaders on how IES initiatives support the use of evidence-based practices in states and districts. [Click here](#) to read his remarks.
- NCEE recently completed its first school year of data collection on the Kindergarten Class of 2023–24 for the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study. [Click here](#) to learn more about the study and the valuable information it will provide for early childhood educators.

Contact Us

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our work. [Follow us on X](#), formerly known as Twitter, for daily updates on REL West projects and resources. Please share your feedback and ideas at relwest@wested.org.

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and School Safety at WestEd. San Francisco, CA: WestEd.

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Our mailing address is:

REL West at WestEd
730 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

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