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Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

Working primarily through established research alliances, we collaborate with educators, policymakers, and others to conduct research and support the use of evidence and data to address high-priority education needs.

In the coming months, we look forward to sharing with you the results of more than **15 research studies**, culminating from our work over the past five years. As always, we appreciate your interest and support as we strive to improve education outcomes for all children.

Michael Vaden-Kiernan, Ph.D., REL Southwest Director



SHARE

Our Work

New Study! Opportunities for Teacher Professional Development in Oklahoma Rural and Nonrural Schools

Professional development offers schools a way to attract new teachers, boost teacher retention, and improve teacher quality—ultimately helping to improve student learning. Our new report examines professional development opportunities and practices in Oklahoma public schools, with a focus on rural settings. [See more](#)

REL Southwest Showcases EL and PreK Work at National Principals Conference

REL Southwest hosted two sessions at the **National Principals Conference** in Philadelphia on July 9–10 to showcase our work on early warning systems for English learner students and prekindergarten evaluation tools. [See more](#)

Webinar Recap and Archive: Studies on the Academic Progress of English Learners

Did you miss our webinar highlighting research studies on English learner students' time to reclassification and advanced course enrollment and performance? Read the recap of the event and view the recorded webinar. [See more](#)

Spotlight on Services: REL Reference Desk

Learn about our free reference desk service and how to submit your research questions about education policies, programs, and practices. [See more](#)

Our Research Alliances at a Glance: New Infographic and Flyers

Check out our new research alliance infographic and flyers for a quick overview of the work we've been doing. And please feel free to share them to help us spread the word! To view the infographic, [click here](#), and to view the flyers, click the research alliance links below.



Our Research Alliances

- Arkansas Prekindergarten
- Educator Effectiveness
- English Learners
- Louisiana Charter Schools
- New Mexico Achievement Gap
- New Mexico Prekindergarten
- Oklahoma Rural Schools
- Texas Hispanic STEM

Upcoming Events



- **Oct. 4:** REL Midwest Webinar: Exploring Educator Movement Between Districts (free) **Register**
- **Oct. 4–7:** National Indian Education Association Convention and Trade Show, Orlando, FL (**Oct 5:** REL Southwest session on graduation exam performance and course-taking of Native American high school students in New Mexico) **Register**
- **Oct. 12–13:** National Forum to Advance Rural Education, Columbus, OH (three REL Southwest sessions on improving teacher quality in Oklahoma rural schools) **Register**

[View all REL Southwest events](#)

Featured Resources

- **Research Report:** Opportunities for Teacher Professional Development in Oklahoma Rural and Nonrural Schools
- **Infographic Series:** Louisiana Student Privacy Policy
- **New Ask REL Southwest responses:**
 - Counselors' Responsibilities in Rural, Urban, and Suburban Schools
 - Hispanic and Native American Students' Transition to High School
 - Impact of Increased School Autonomy in Portfolio Districts
 - Impact of Reorganizing Central Office Staff Structures in Portfolio Districts
 - School-Level Dropout Factors for Grade 9 Students



[View all resources](#)



If you live in **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, or Texas**, we're here to answer your research-based questions about education policies, programs, and practices.

[ASK US!](#)

About REL Southwest

REL Southwest is one of 10 **Regional Educational Laboratories** funded by the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education. These labs provide applied research and evaluation, analytic technical support, and services and products to address pressing regional education needs, inform policy and practice, and improve student outcomes.

Our Partners

- Decision Information Resources Inc.
- Empirical Education Inc.
- Gibson Consulting Group
- Mike Puma Associates
- RAND Education

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