REL MIDWEST
Regional Educational Laboratory
at American Institutes for Research

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Midwest

The purpose of this survey is to understand the needs of [teachers/principals] in the Midwest region. The survey is being conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago on behalf of REL Midwest, which is part of a network of ten **R**egional **E**ducational **L**aboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Each REL serves a designated region of the country and focuses on the national priority of helping states and districts use data and analysis to address relevant and timely education policy and practice issues with the goal of improving student outcomes.

REL Midwest serves the educational needs of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. You are one of a sample of [teachers/principals] that was selected to represent not only you, but others in your role throughout the Midwest region; thus, it is essential we hear back from you. Your feedback is important because it will help REL Midwest refine its understanding of regional needs and inform its future research, technical assistance, and dissemination work.

PLEASE NOTE: Your participation is voluntary, and you may skip any question or stop at any time. Per the policies and procedures required by the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Title I, Part E, Section 183, responses to this data collection will be used only for statistical purposes. The reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific district or individual. We will not provide information that identifies you or your district to anyone outside the study team, except as required by law. Any willful disclosure of such information for nonstatistical purposes, without the informed consent of the respondent, is a class E felony. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties. By clicking on the survey link below you are indicating that you consent to participate in this study. **If you have questions about your rights as a study participant, you may call the NORC IRB Administrator, toll free, at 866-309-0542.**

THANK YOU!

GO TO SURVEY

REL Midwest would like to know which issues are of greatest concern to educators in the region. The first series of questions is designed to identify the educational issues that are of highest priority in your school.

Q1. Following is a list of issues that have been suggested as potential priorities for some school districts in the Midwest region. Please review this list and indicate which (if any) are high priorities for your school. *(Please check all that apply)*

	This is a high priority for my school
Q1a. Recruiting more effective leaders in schools and districts	☐
Q1b. Improving the retention of effective leaders in schools and districts	☐
Q1c. Providing additional school and district leadership development opportunities	☐
Q1d. Raising the quality of school and district leadership development opportunities	☐
Q1e. Recruiting more effective teachers	☐
Q1f. Improving the retention of effective teachers	☐
Q1g. Providing additional professional development opportunities for teachers	☐
Q1h. Raising the quality of professional development opportunities for teachers	☐
Q1i. Raising the quality of professional learning communities	☐
Q1j. Rewarding educators for reaching performance targets	☐
Q1k. Increasing access to data on educator effectiveness	☐
Q1l. Developing skills to use data on educator effectiveness	☐
Q1m. Enhancing capacity to track individual students' progress	☐

Q1n. Improving instructional programs for students at risk of dropout ☐

Q1o. Improving instructional programs for English language learners ☐

Q1p. Improving instructional programs for students with disabilities ☐

Q1q. Raising the quality of school safety programs ☐

Q1r. Increasing community and/or family involvement in school ☐

Q1s. Providing more choice with respect to the schools students may attend ☐

Q1t. Improving access to out-of-school programs for students at risk ☐

Q1u. Increasing access to out-of-school programs for college-and-career readiness ☐

Q1v. Establishing additional college- and career-ready standards ☐

Q1w. Providing more opportunities to take advanced placement or college courses ☐

Q1x. Increasing high school graduation rates ☐

Q1y. Creating alternative pathways to high school completion ☐

Q1z. Providing more college and career counseling ☐

Q1aa. Raising the quality of college and career counseling ☐

Q1bb. Improving access to high quality preschool programs ☐

Q1cc. Coordinating better with early learning programs to improve school readiness ☐

Q1dd. Appropriate and effective use of assessments in early learning ☐

Q1ee. Developing or aligning early learning standards to K-12 ☐

standards

Q1ff. Raising professional requirements for early childhood educators ☐

Q1gg. Evaluating the quality of preschool programs ☐

Q1hh. Linking pre-K data systems with K-12 data systems ☐

Q2. Are there any other high priority issues for your school?

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Conditional branch (THIS ITEM WILL BE ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS, BUT will only list items designated as "high" priorities for the respondent's school in Q1)

Q3. You indicated that the following issues are high priorities for your school. Please select up to THREE issues that are the HIGHEST priorities for your school.

	These are the 3 highest priorities for: *my SCHOOL*
Item 1	☐
Item 2	☐
Item 3	☐
Item 4	☐
Item 5	☐
. . .	
Item N	☐

Conditional branch (THE NEXT 3 ITEMS WILL BE ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS, BUT will only list the items designated as the "highest" priorities for the respondent's school in Q3)

REL Midwest helps districts and schools systematically use their data systems; conducts and supports high-quality research and evaluations; and assists educational practitioners and policymakers with making empirically based decisions. Publications, technical assistance, and events are all part of REL Midwest's service menu.

REL Midwest is interested in learning about the usefulness of its services and products to address your high-priority issues. The next series of questions asks you to rate the usefulness of some of the products and services that REL Midwest could provide.

Q4. You indicated that [Item 1] **is one of the highest priorities for your school. Thinking about your school, how useful would it be for REL Midwest to do the following?** *(Please rate each item separately on a scale of 1=Not at all Useful to 5=Very Useful)*

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q4a. Supply information on the issue, such as summaries of existing research	o 1	o 2	o 3	o 4	o 5
Q4b. Provide support for using district data to address the issue	o 1	o 2	o 3	o 4	o 5
Q4c. Conduct new research on the issue	o 1	o 2	o 3	o 4	o 5

Q4d. What other kinds of assistance would be useful to your school to address this high priority issue?

Q5. You indicated that [Item 2] **is one of the highest priorities for your school. Thinking about your school, how useful would it be for REL Midwest to do the following?**

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q5a. Supply information on the issue, such as summaries of existing research	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q5b. Provide support for using district data to address the issue	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q5c. Conduct new research on the issue	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q5d. What other kinds of assistance would be useful to your school to address this high priority issue?

Q6. You indicated that [Item 3] **is one of the highest priorities for your school. Thinking about your school, how useful would it be for REL Midwest to do the following?**

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q6a. Supply information on the issue, such as summaries of existing research	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q6b. Provide support for using district data to address the issue	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q6c. Conduct new research on the issue	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q6d. What other kinds of assistance would be useful to your school to address this high priority issue?

REL Midwest is always planning for ways it can be of help to schools and districts, practitioners, parents and policymakers. The next series of questions asks you how REL Midwest might be of assistance to your school in the future in the four priority areas of: (1) educator effectiveness, (2) school improvement, (3) college and career readiness, and (4) early childhood education.

Q7. Many educators have indicated that *educator effectiveness* is an important issue to schools and districts in the Midwest. Thinking ahead about future assistance REL Midwest could provide, how useful would the following products be to your school with regard to the specific issue of educator effectiveness?

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q7a. An analytic method for – or electronic tool that automates – the measurement (or assessment) of teacher and principal supply and demand.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7b. An analysis of teacher and principal compensation systems.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7c. An analysis of methods for evaluating teacher and principal effectiveness.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7d. An analysis that identifies the characteristics of effective teaching.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7e. An analysis of the effectiveness of professional development programs.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7f. An analysis of the effectiveness of different teacher or leader certification pathways.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7g. An electronic tool that automates the review and interpretation of student test scores or other indicators of student learning	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q7h. An analysis of how technology can be effectively integrated into instruction.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q7i. Are there any other automated tools, analytical methods, analyses, or assistance related to the above or other educator effectiveness issues that would be particularly useful to your school?

Q8. Many educators have also indicated that *improvement of low-performing schools* is an important issue in the Midwest. Thinking ahead about future assistance REL Midwest could provide, how useful would the following products be to your school with regard to the specific issue of low-performing schools?

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q8a. An analytic method for – or electronic tool that automates – the identification of low-performing schools that are improving, have "turned around," or have not yet demonstrated substantial improvement	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q8b. An analysis of the characteristics and practices of low-performing schools that are improving, have "turned around," or have not yet demonstrated substantial improvement.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q8c. An analysis of how low-performing schools are *implementing* practices that contribute to or fail to promote improvement or "turn around."	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q8d. A workshop or training on specific interventions that have been shown to improve low-performing schools.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q8e. Are there any other automated tools, analytical methods, analyses, or assistance related to the above or other school improvement issues that would be particularly useful to your school?

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Q9. Many educators have also indicated that *college and career readiness* is an important issue for schools and districts in the Midwest. Thinking ahead about future assistance REL Midwest could provide, how useful would the following products be to your school with regard to the specific issue of college and career readiness?

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q9a. An analysis that examines the impact of specific K-12 programs or practices on college and career readiness.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9b. An analysis that identifies the high school performance and individual and high school characteristics of students who persist in college.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9c. A workshop that provides training on approaches and tools for measuring career readiness.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9d. An electronic tool that tracks students' progress through elementary and high school.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9e. An electronic tool that tracks student progress through postsecondary education.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9f. An electronic tool that links graduate data to employment data for students in career and technical education.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9g. An electronic tool that alerts educators when K-12 students are experiencing difficulties keeping on track to becoming college and career ready.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q9h. Tools that compare schools in terms of the readiness of their students for college and careers.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q9i. Are there any other automated tools, analytical methods, analyses, or assistance related to the above or other college and career readiness issues that would be particularly useful to your school?

Q10. Many educators have also indicated that *early learning*, specifically the transition from pre-kindergarten programs to kindergarten, is an important issue for schools and districts in the Midwest. Thinking ahead about future assistance REL Midwest could provide, how useful would the following products be to your school with regard to the specific issue of early childhood education?

	Not at all Useful				Very Useful
Q10a. An inventory of early learning programs documenting their characteristics or the populations they serve.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q10b. An analysis of the impact of particular early learning programs and program characteristics.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q10c. An analysis of the early learning workforce.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q10d. An analysis of how schools use kindergarten or pre-kindergarten assessments to inform instruction.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q10e. An analysis of the validity of quality ratings for pre-kindergarten programs.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5
Q10f. An analysis of districts' capacity for integrating pre-kindergarten data with K-12 data.	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4	○ 5

Q10g. Are there any other automated tools, analytical methods, analyses, or assistance related to the above or other early learning issues that would be particularly useful to your school?

Q11. Several of the above items relate to accessing and using research evidence and data. Where would you normally turn for such data, analytic, or informational supports? *(Please check all that apply)*

☐ Colleagues

☐ School resources

☐ Professional association(s)

☐ Journal(s)

☐ Education-focused websites or blogs

☐ General Internet searches

☐ Professional development program(s)

☐ College/university (local or online)

☐ State Department of Education resources

☐ Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) database

☐ What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)/Doing What Works

☐ REL Midwest

☐ Other: _____

SUBMIT

THANK YOU!

Additional information about REL Midwest and the work it does is available at http://www.relmidwest.org/. You can request assistance by using the *Ask a REL* service at http://www.relmidwest.org/AskRel.php. REL staff may also be contacted through their toll-free hotline at 866-730-6735 and by email at RELMidwest@air.org.