



# IRISCENTER™

## The IRIS Standard

Fall 2020

Welcome to this very special edition of the **IRIS Standard**! As the shorter days of fall are upon us, it's the perfect time to shine a light on a few select resources and features we think you'll want to know about. Bundle up, pour a hot chocolate, and read on for all the latest.





## **For Parents: Supporting Learning During COVID-19**

Let's just say it: *We're kind of over this COVID thing.* We're tired, and we're guessing you're feeling the same. As we press forward into this uncertain, changeable school year, we have to lean on one another more than ever.

Here's the good news: IRIS has plenty of shoulders to lean on. Our free online module [Parents: Supporting Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) is packed with resources and information to address a number of pressing concerns. From a clarification of what is--and what *is not*--a parent's role to notes on promoting young people's social and emotional well-being to special considerations for children with disabilities, this accessible and resource-rich module has something of value for just about every parent. And, while we're here, why not download our brand new tip sheets for parents, ["My child says she doesn't like online learning. How can I help?"](#) and ["How can I help my elementary child stay focused during online learning?"](#)

In fact, why not check it *all* out and if you like what you see share it with other parents who might need a little help from their friends?

[View the Module](#)



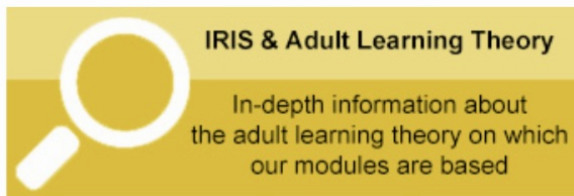
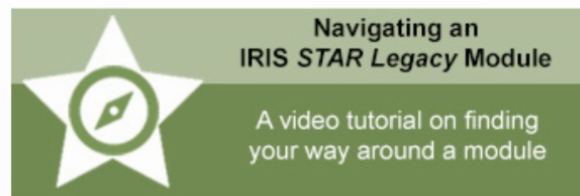
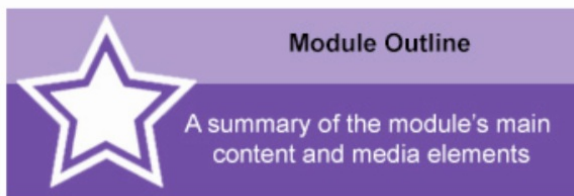


*Above: Believe us, we get it.*

## **Let's Wrap It Up: Get More Out of Your IRIS**

This semester feels hectic, doesn't it? If you're college or university faculty in need of trusted, ready-to-go resources, our wrap-around content maps might be just what the doctor ordered.

Thoughtfully developed to help you extend and deepen the information presented in IRIS Modules through support materials on our Website, these resources link directly to case study units, activities, information briefs, expert interviews, and more. A content map for every IRIS Module can be found on that resource's homepage. Just scroll down to the four colorful rectangles. Or you can find a list of every content map in the [For Faculty](#) and [For PD Providers](#) sections of the IRIS Website. It's that easy to get more out of your IRIS.



*Above: It's the blue one.*

*Below: We didn't invent outlines. We made outlines better.*

IRIS Module Outlines: Unlocked

Step 1: Locate the outline on any module homepage

Step 2: Download & save the PDF

Step 3: Type notes in the interactive fields

Step 4: There is no Step 4




## Tool Time: For Faculty / For PD Providers

Thinking ahead to your next semester? Not yet? Well, when you *are*, our resources are waiting for you.

The [For Faculty](#) and [For PD Providers](#) sections of our Website are positively overflowing with ready made resources. [Curriculum matrices](#), [sample syllabi](#) and [PD activities](#), [wrap-around content maps](#), [planning forms](#), and so much more, it's all here, it's all free, and it's all developed with the same care and quality you've come to expect from the IRIS Center. Don't wait. Click the links above to begin your exploration.





STAY UP TO DATE

## Real Talk: Is Your IRIS Ancient?

It's come to our attention that quite a few educators download and save our PDF resources to use and reuse, semester after semester, sometimes for years on end. But what you may not know is that IRIS frequently updates our collections of case study units, course/PD activities, fundamental skill sheets, and more.

So do us (and yourself) a favor: Visit the [IRIS Resource Locator \(IRL\)](#) and make absolutely sure you're using an IRIS resource with all the latest information, data, and terminology. And while you're there, you might just be surprised at how many all-new resources you've been missing out on, too. We think you'll be surprised by what you find.

**IRIS Quick Tip: Instead of downloading and saving an IRIS resource PDF, simply include the URL in your syllabus. That way, your IRIS is always up-to-date!**



## IRIS Partner Spotlight

When it comes to trustworthy online resources, the IRIS Center is far from the only game in town. Many of our partner centers also make

available terrific tools and information. Below is just a small sample.

In our last newsletter, we highlighted OSEP's IDEAS That Work Website, with a [focus on resources for continued learning during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). In this issue, we'll highlight a few additional federal and partner resources that might be of interest.



The [Regional Educational Laboratories \(REL\) Network](#) has developed some great evidence-based resources about teaching and learning during the pandemic. We know that school openings and instructional plans are often in flux, dependent on the health conditions in each community. Some of you have been back in school buildings for a while.

Others are in the process or considering moving from virtual to hybrid or in-person. For you, these two REL resources might be of particular interest:

- [Reopening Schools Safely: New Evidence on Mitigating COVID-19 Spread](#)
- [How Can Schools Reconfigure Schedules and Classrooms to Accommodate Social Distancing?](#)

The [CEEDAR Center](#) has a [Virtual Toolkit](#) for faculty to support online instruction (and yes, our IRIS Module about [Online Course Design](#) is in it!). While you're there, check out these other helpful CEEDAR briefs:



- [Addressing Shortages of Educators in an Uncertain COVID-19 Landscape: Viewing Teacher Candidates as Assets](#) (developed in collaboration with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Center on Great Teachers & Leaders)
- [Removing Barriers to Effective Distance Learning by Applying the High-Leverage Practices](#)



Last but by no means least, the [National Center on Intensive Intervention](#) has a new section on their site: [Supporting Students With Intensive Needs During COVID-19](#). Here you can find videos and

sample virtual lessons in mathematics and literacy, behavioral strategies and more. There's even an [FAQ on collecting progress monitoring data virtually](#).



# Who's Who



@ IRIS?



Welcome to yet another installment of our **Meet the IRIS Center** feature that I just made up! Who are the people behind your favorite IRIS resources? What makes them tick? This is where you'll find out.

Today, we're learning more about none other than IRIS the Flower herself!

**Name:** IRIS the Genius Talking Flower

**Position:** Living embodiment of over 19 years of accumulated IRIS data, information, and wisdom; social media intern

**Likes:** Evidence-based practices; microwave pizza rolls

**Dislikes:** Rude people; leaf blight

**Hobbies:** Plant genetics; President of the Dan Fogelberg fan club

**Trivia:** Due to a clerical error, was once named "Potato Queen of Idaho"

**Notable Quotable:** "I have come to chew bubblegum and promote the important work of the IRIS Center. And I can't chew bubblegum. I don't have a mouth. It's a problem."





Enjoy the **IRIS Standard**? Want to share it with someone you know? Use the buttons below to post this newsletter to your social media pages and encourage your friends and colleagues to sign up for our email list so they never miss another edition! Meanwhile, thanks for reading. We'll see you next time.



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Keep Up With IRIS

