

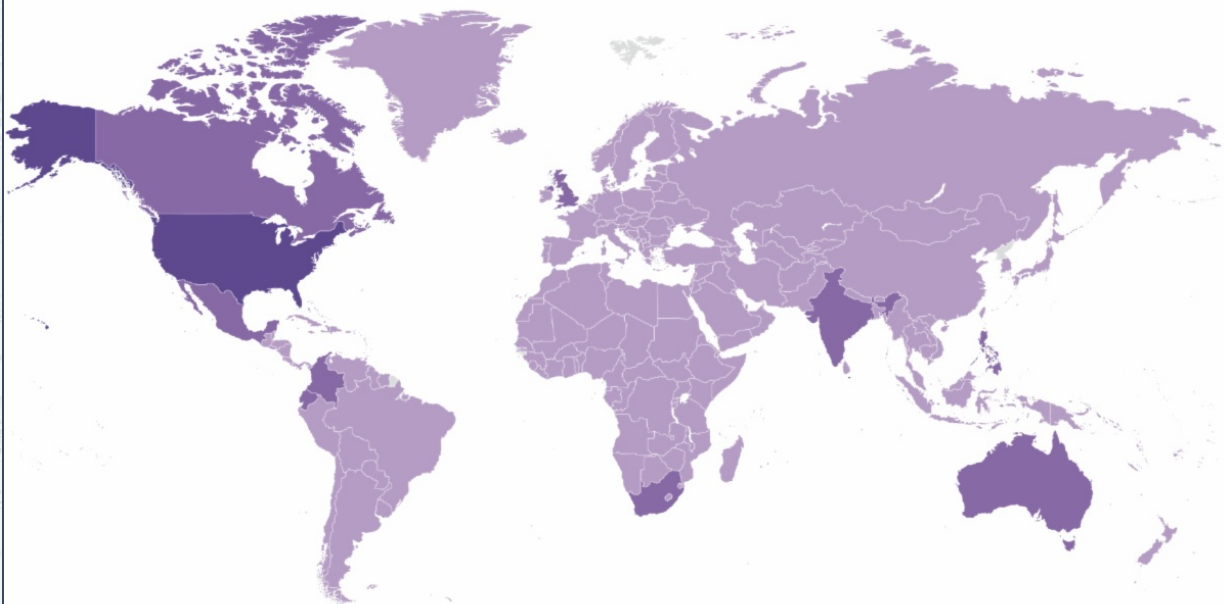


IRISCENTER™



The IRIS Standard Spring 2021

Welcome to this Spring edition of the IRIS Standard. As the light returns to our days, we take this moment to shine a light of our own on the latest IRIS resources, COVID-19 tools, the work of our partner centers, and even a glimpse back at the year that was 2020. As always, you're invited to join us.



Above: IRIS was worldwide in 2020. Can you find the countries/territories that didn't use IRIS last year? (Hint: They're not purple.)

IRIS in 2020: By the Numbers

There's no other way to say it: 2020 was unusual in too many ways to enumerate. Unusual for schools, educators, and students. Unusual for families and communities. Unusual for the IRIS Center, too, and our service to our own family and community. We've put together a [data summary](#) of some of our most interesting data from the year that was. Here are just a few of the highlights.

- Number of visits to the IRIS Website: **4,003,466**
- Countries and territories worldwide using our resources: **222**
- Average cost per visit: **29 cents**
- Free PD Certificates for Educators accessed: **181,957**
- Amount of free PD provided: **\$9,097,850**

Want to learn more about IRIS's work in 2020? Our most popular resources? Results of our evaluation projects? All this and more can be found in our [IRIS 2020 Data Summary](#).



Storytime, IRIS-Style

As we've seen, IRIS resources are used throughout the United States and around the world. Our IRIS Story collection documents the experiences of our users in their own words. Whether told by college and university faculty, state or district personnel, school principals, or classroom teachers, every IRIS Story teaches us something new.

Freshly updated, our most recent IRIS Stories cover:

- [IRIS in Kentucky: Hybrid Trainings on High-Quality IEPs](#)
- [IRIS in Oklahoma: Boot Camps To Address Teacher Shortages](#)
- [Using IRIS To Mentor First-Year Teachers](#)

So why not drop by and check them out for yourself? You might be inspired to use IRIS resources in a whole new way. Oh, and if you have an IRIS Story of your very own--one you'd like to share with our

community--[drop us a line and let us know.](#)



Above: In this IRIS Story video, Jill Hilst explains how IRIS resources play a key role in tackling the critical shortage of special education teachers in her state through the Oklahoma Boot Camps.



In Case You Missed It: Recent IRIS Resources

Even winter's chill couldn't slow us down. As always, IRIS has been hard at work creating, updating, and disseminating our free online resources.



[Assistive Technology: An Overview](#)

Now significantly updated, this module offers an overview of assistive technology (AT) with a focus on students with high-incidence disabilities such as learning disabilities and ADHD. It explores the consideration process, implementation, and evaluation of AT for these students.

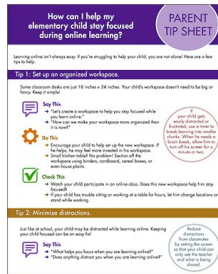
Parent Tip Sheets

Short, user-friendly, and practical, IRIS Parent Tip Sheets offer helpful step-by-step suggestions that parents can put to use right away.

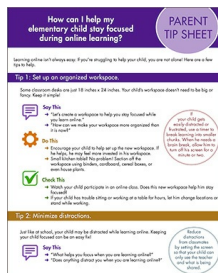
[My child says she doesn't like online learning. How can I help?](#) This handy tip sheet offers practical ideas and strategies for helping your child adapt to some of the challenges and frustrations of learning in a virtual



environment. [This tip sheet is also available in Spanish.](#)



[How can I help my elementary child stay focused during online learning?](#) Distractions. Frustrations. Technology. Learning at home via a virtual environment can make it difficult for younger kids to maintain their focus and attend to the lesson at hand. This tip sheet can help. [Also available in Spanish.](#)



[How can I support my teen while he learns online?](#) Whether your teen has been learning online for a while or has adjusted to a hybrid schedule, he may be struggling with current or changing expectations. This user-friendly resource provides a few tips to help support your teen. [Also available in Spanish.](#)

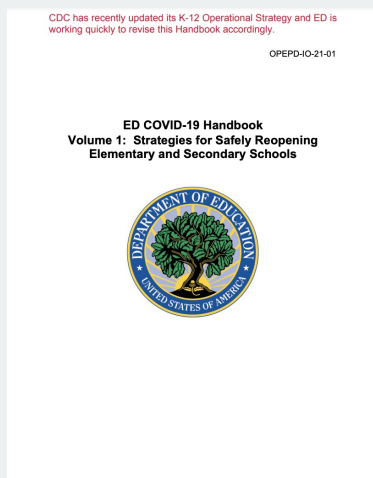


Maybe your local schools have been holding in-person classes for a while. Maybe they're just starting to bring students back into buildings. Whatever the case, there are plenty of helpful supports and resources out there to help guide schools through whatever stage of the process they're in.

[Department of Education National Safe School Reopening Summit, March 24, 2021.](#) Featuring welcome remarks from First Lady Dr. Jill Biden as well as remarks from Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Rochelle Walensky, this gathering will consist of three panels that will include health experts, educators and education leaders, and students.

- **Lessons from the Field: Implementing CDC's K-12 Operational Strategy to Keep Students, Educators, and Staff Safe.** Leaders and other representatives of school districts will highlight effective school reopening approaches that have a focus on collaboration and equity.
- **Technical Assistance from CDC and ED: Implementing CDC's Guidance to Keep Students, Educators, and Staff Safe.** Technical experts from CDC and ED will discuss CDC's K-12 Operational Strategy, ED's COVID-19 Implementation Handbook, and other resources; answer common questions; and clarify misconceptions.
- **Supporting All Students: Addressing the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Students with a Focus on Equity.** Leaders and other representatives of school districts will share promising strategies to support the social, emotional, and academic development needs of students, with a particular focus on students who have been historically underserved and who have experienced the greatest disruption from the pandemic.

[Click the link to learn more and to plan your attendance.](#)



[ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 1: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools.](#) Published in February 2021, this document supplements the [CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation](#). The resource includes information on masking and safe distancing practices, transportation considerations, and guidance for families, among much else. And be on the lookout for Volume 2, due out April 2021.



[The U.S. Department of Education's Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse](#) highlights lessons and best practices from the field in support of students, teachers, faculty, and staff, as schools and campuses reopen following closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Send them your suggestions at Bestpracticesclearinghouse@ed.gov



IRIS Partner Spotlight

OSEP-supported centers across the country are busy creating resources and tools to help schools, students, and families get back to in-person learning. Here are just a few.

CENTER ON PBIS

Since 1998, the Center on PBIS has provided technical assistance to encourage large-scale implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

Visit the center's [online home](#) to check out their COVID-related resources, including:

[Returning to School During and After Crisis: A Guide to Supporting States, Districts, Schools, Educators, and Students through a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Framework](#)

[Supporting Schools During and After Crisis](#)

This document contains key recommendations for coordinating between state and districts, schools and classrooms, and family and students, including:

- Guides and briefs
- Webinars and videos
- Action plan templates
- Examples and additional resources



The [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations](#) focuses on promoting the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of young children birth to five.

Many programs that serve young children, like childcare centers, remained open throughout the pandemic and NCPMI has developed resources to support families and educators in these situations. The [Emergencies and National Disasters: Helping Children and Families Cope](#) section of the site has resources divided into six helpful areas:

- COVID-19 and pandemic resources
 - Having to stay at home
 - Children: Stress and challenging behavior
 - Adults: Self-care and managing stress
 - For early childhood professionals
 - Reopening early childhood programs
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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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