

# EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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## June 9, 2023 Education News Update

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### How school libraries are adjusting to support students

Schools are upgrading their libraries to media centers with new technologies and collaborative, flexible designs. They are being transformed into creative gathering places where librarians can help prepare students for a connected, digital world. Upgrades include added technology, flexible design and adaptive library furniture. Suchi Rudra. "What Does the Modern Library Look Like for K-12 Students?" *Ed Tech*. June 1, 2023  
[What Does the Modern Library Look Like in K-12 Schools? | EdTech Magazine](#)

#### "Dracula"-themed escape room supports PBL

Project-based learning can engage students in deeper learning, write two teachers at Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School in NYC. They describe a student-led escape room project based on Bram Stoker's "Dracula," and explain how it helped students acquire academic content, hard skills like carpentry and coding, as well as non-academic competencies like collaboration and leadership. Philip Baker & Danielle Ragavanis. "How a "Dracula"-themed escape room helped drive deeper learning with project-based learning." *Smart Brief/Education*. June 7, 2023  
[How a "Dracula"-themed escape room helped drive deeper learning with project-based learning - SmartBrief](#)

### FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

#### Educators lead charge for safe social media use

Due to concern about social media's impact on teen mental health, educators are teaching students how to use these platforms responsibly. Schools are helping students identify and confront online dangers like harassment, abuse and excessive social media use, and some schools encourage students to limit their smartphone use during the day. Samantha Murphy Kelly. "Teachers are on the front lines of a battle to change how teens use social media." *CNN*. June 3, 2023  
[Teachers are on the front lines of a battle to change how teens use social media | CNN Business](#)

#### School districts consolidate social media lawsuits

School districts nationwide are suing social media companies (Meta, Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube), claiming that their apps are addictive, harmful to students' mental health, and negatively impacting schools and government resources. The claims were consolidated into one multidistrict litigation claim filed in March, with more than 230 plaintiffs, including school districts, individuals and local and state governments. Some doubt the firms can be blamed for teen mental health struggles. Kara Arundel. "'Wave' of litigation expected as schools fight social media companies." *K-12 Dive*. June 1, 2023  
['Wave' of litigation expected as schools fight social media companies | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

#### States offer options in competency-based education

With Wyoming's adoption of a pilot program for competency-based learning in April, all 50 US states now offer a model that in some form evaluates students based on achievement in subjects rather than seat time. The Aurora Institute, a think tank dedicated to studying competency-based learning, categorizes 17 states as "advanced," with comprehensive policies in which states take an active role in defining competency-based education, 16 states as "developing," with policies defined at the district level, and 17 states as "emerging," with limited flexibility. Libby Sanford. "Every State Now Lets Schools Measure Students' Success Based on Mastery, Not Seat Time." *Education Week*. May 31, 2023  
[Every State Now Lets Schools Measure Students' Success Based on Mastery, Not Seat Time \(edweek.org\)](#)

#### US Education Department delays final Title IX rules

The U.S.E.D. has announced that it will delay until October its release of the Title IX rule for athletics and the broader rule which would newly protect LGBTQ students. Both proposals received a high volume of public comments, and once finalized, the policies are expected to be challenged in court. Naaz Modan. "Final Title IX rules delayed to October 2023." *K-12 Dive*. May 30, 2023  
[Final Title IX rules delayed to October 2023 | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

## **Book bans seen as civil rights violations**

The U.S.E.D. has given districts another factor to consider as they weigh new restrictions on library materials. The debates typically involve books portraying LGBTQ+ relationships and discussions of race. The Department's office for civil rights has suggested that the book policies in one Georgia district may have violated students' rights by creating a "hostile environment."

Eesha Pendharkar. "A School District's Book Removals May Have Violated Students' Civil Rights." *Education Week*. May 26, 2023  
[A School District's Book Removals May Have Violated Students' Civil Rights \(edweek.org\)](#)

## **Addressing antisemitism**

School and district leaders can play a key role in countering antisemitism, the Biden administration said when it released a plan to address hate incidents against Jewish people. The White House is calling on districts to help address discrimination against Jewish students.

Evie Blad. "Schools Are Part of the Biden Administration's Plan for Combating Antisemitism." *Education Week*. May 25, 2023  
[Schools Are Part of the Biden Administration's Plan for Combating Antisemitism \(edweek.org\)](#)

## **School bus violations**

Drivers illegally pass school buses that are stopped to pick up or drop off students more than 42,000,000 times each year, which puts children at risk of serious injury and death. About eight students per year are killed boarding or getting off of school buses.

Caitlynn Peetz. "Drivers Illegally Pass Buses 42 Million Times a Year. What Schools Can Do." *Education Week*. May 24, 2023  
[Drivers Illegally Pass Buses 42 Million Times a Year. What Schools Can Do \(edweek.org\)](#)

## **US Education Department offers perspectives on AI**

Early ideas for responsible school use of artificial intelligence and \$140 million toward national AI-focused academies are two of the things coming out of a report based on a U.S.E.D. collaboration with Digital Promise and listening sessions with 700 education stakeholders. As the government works toward AI regulation, the report notes a consensus on ensuring AI-related edtech matches a "shared vision of education" and that students' needs, educational outcomes and standards based on best evidence take precedence over the excitement around AI.

Daniel Mollenkamp. "The Education Department Outlines What It Wants From AI." *Ed Surge*. June 2, 2023  
[The Education Department Outlines What It Wants From AI | EdSurge News](#)

## **Report examines role of AI in teaching, learning**

The Office of Educational Technology at the U.S.E.D. released a report on the role of artificial intelligence in education. The report recommends designing adaptivity that enhances student competencies, including social and other learning aspects, and promoting self-motivation and the ability to seek help when needed.

Kare Lucariello. "Key Concepts in Designing AI-Based Learning Strategies." *T.H.E. Journal*. June 6, 2023  
[Key Concepts in Designing AI-Based Learning Strategies -- THE Journal](#)

## **EPA program offering \$400M for low-emission school buses**

The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program is offering \$400 million in grants for the purchase of low-emission school buses. Electric, natural gas and propane buses are covered by the program, which has a "particular focus on reducing air pollution in disadvantaged communities overburdened by dirty air." The grants are in addition to nearly \$1B in rebates for low-emission school buses the infrastructure law funded last year.

Stephen Singer. "\$400M for low-emission school buses available from EPA grant program." *Smart Cities Dive*. May 31, 2023  
[\\$400M for low-emission school buses available from EPA grant program | Smart Cities Dive](#)

## **NEW YORK STATE**

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