

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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January 17, 2020 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Research: Pollution and heat impair learning

Researchers are scrutinizing the physical environment that surrounds students, especially the air quality and temperature in classrooms, making a persuasive case that both air pollution and heat harm student achievement. We've known for quite some time that pollution is bad for your health but researchers are documenting how it affects our brains. Similarly, there's new scientific evidence that it's hard to think clearly in the heat.

Jill Barshay. "The learning effect of air quality in classrooms." *Hechinger Report*. January 20, 2020

<https://hechingerreport.org/the-learning-effect-of-air-quality-in-classrooms/>

MS & HS students: Social media tearing us apart

The digital world isn't just exhausting for adults. More than 50% of the middle and high school students who participated in a recent survey say they sometimes turn off their phones just to get some relief from all the activity.

Alyson Klein. "Social Media is 'Tearing Us Apart', Middle and High School Students Say." *Education Week*. January 23, 2020

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2020/01/social-media-device-students-common-sense.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59027047&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Some students say they have less mental health support

Black and Latino students, as well as rural teenagers, have a harder time getting mental health services in their schools, according to a new survey from ACT. Similarly, students of color were more likely than their white peers to say they have a teacher they can reach out to for support.

Arianna Prothero. "Mental Health in Schools: Black and Hispanic Students Say They Have Less Support." *Education Week*. January 23, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2020/01/black_latino_students_mental_health_schools.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59027047&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Teacher poll results

Educators for Excellence polled teachers across the nation on issues such as pay, preparation, school choice, union membership, and strikes.

Madeline Will. "Here's What Teachers Think About Training, Pay, Strikes, and Choice." *Education Week*. January 22, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/teaching_now/2020/01/educators_for_excellence_teacher_survey.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59027047&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

FEDERAL/NATIONAL

USDA moves to loosen school lunch rules

The USDA has proposed relaxing school lunch rules to give schools more flexibility under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, permitting schools to reduce fruit servings in breakfasts, offer burgers or pizzas as a la carte food items and provide potatoes as a daily vegetable. But nutrition groups said the proposed rules would create a "junk food" loophole and weaken the fight against childhood obesity.

Evie Blad. "Trump Team Plans to Relax School Lunch Rules. Opponents Warn of 'Junk Food Loophole'." *Education Week*. January 17, 2020

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/01/trump-school-lunch-junk-food-loophole.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnw>

Danielle Haynes. "Trump administration proposes further rollbacks of school lunch standards." *United Press International*. January 17, 2020

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2020/01/17/Trump-administration-proposes-further-rollbacks-of-school-lunch-standards/4031579292700/?sl=5

History of fight over funding religious schools in US

The case being heard by the Supreme Court this week deals with a debate that has raged since the 19th century about federal education funding for private religious schools.

Mark Walsh. "Long History Underlies Fight Over Religious-School Funding." *Education Week*. January 14, 2020

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/01/15/long-history-underlies-fight-over-religious-school-funding.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59024406&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Reviews of the newly published *Slaying Goliath* by Diane Ravitch

Slaying Goliath reports on education in the U.S.: historic inequality worsened by decades of effort to disrupt public education; standardization by punishing students, teachers, and schools via test scores; and a shift of essential financial support from democratically governed public education to privately governed charter schools and vouchers for private schools. Ravitch blames our systemic failure to address the systemic and debilitating effects of poverty.

Until recently, Arthur Camins was Director of the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education at Stevens Institute of Technology. Valerie Strauss is an education writer for the Washington Post. Gene V. Glass and David C. Berliner are two distinguished education researchers, both of whom have held the highest positions in their profession and are universally admired.

Arthur Camins. "Read Slaying Goliath by Diane Ravitch. It is a Chronicle of the Hope We Need." *Daily Kos*. January 13, 2020 <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/1/13/1911284/-Read-Slaying-Goliath-by-Diane-Ravitch-It-is-the-Chronicle-of-Hope-We-Need>
Valerie Strauss. "Q&A: In 'Slaying Goliath,' Diane Ravitch argues public education advocates have beat back privatization efforts." *Washington Post*. January 21, 2020 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/01/21/slaying-goliath-diane-ravitch-argues-new-book-that-public-education-advocates-have-beat-back-efforts-privatize-schools/>
Gene V Glass, David C. Berliner. "Essay review of Slaying Goliath: The passionate resistance to privatization and the fight to save America's public schools." *Education Review*. January 2020 <https://edrev.asu.edu/index.php/ER/article/view/2879>

Integrating mental health into school safety

With growing funding for school safety, many schools are looking to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes mental health. This white paper explores how schools can play a role in supporting student safety and well-being, and how administrators can build the case for funding evidence-based mental health prevention and early identification. This site provides a link to the white paper.

"Integrating Mental Health Into School Safety." *ASCD*. January 2020
http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/white-papers-library/kognito-2-download.aspx?utm_source=SmartBrief&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Whitepaper&utm_content=Whitepaper-Kognito-MentalHealth

Education Week QUALITY COUNTS 2020

For the 13th year, the nation posts C-level grades when it comes to preparing residents for a lifetime of success, *Education Week's* latest analysis shows.

"QUALITY COUNTS 2020." *Education Week*. January 22, 2020
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/01/22/nation-shows-scant-progress-in-assuring-bright.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-rm&M=59025306&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

U.S.E.D. launches new civil rights outreach initiative

The U.S.E.D. has mostly focused on investigating complaints that schools have violated civil rights laws, but a new center will focus on "proactive compliance" by providing technical assistance to schools and guidance to the public. Eive Blad. "Education Department Launches New Civil Rights Outreach Initiative." *Education Week*. January 21, 2020

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/01/education-civil-rights-outreach-center.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=59025306&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Supreme Court hearing a case involving aid for religious schools

In a case from Montana, conservative justices suggested they were inclined to rule for parents who seek to reinstate a state tax credit funding scholarships for use at religious schools.

Stacy Teicher Khadaroo. "Can school choice exclude religious schools? High court weighs in." *Christian Science Monitor*. January 21, 2020
https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2020/0121/Can-school-choice-exclude-religious-schools-High-court-weighs-in?hpid=hp-top-news-story_257672&sfmc_sub=13815550&l=1223_HTML&u=9292468&mid=10979696&jb=2&cmpid=ema:EqualEd:20200123&src=newsletter

Mark Walsh. "In Arguments, U.S. Supreme Court Leans Toward Support for Religious School Aid." *Education Week*. January 22, 2020
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/school_law/2020/01/us_supreme_court_weighs_argume.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59026218&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

NEW YORK STATE

Difficulty in district budget planning for 2020-2021

The nearly 700 school districts of NYS will need to impose additional fiscal discipline this year. The property-tax cap for schools for the 2020-2021 fiscal year will be 1.81% which is lower than the 2% they've had over the past two years. So when schools go to voters for approval of their budgets May 19, they will either need to keep their growth in taxes to 1.81% or less. Or they can seek to override the cap override — which requires approval of 60% of voters and is difficult to achieve. Since the state is facing a \$6 billion deficit, increases in school aid may be limited. School groups have been lobbying for a \$2 billion increase in aid for the 2020-21 year. Now school officials said they will likely be limited in their increase in school aid and how much they can seek from taxpayers at the polls May 19.

Joseph Spector, Gannett New York State Team. "New York schools: Why their fiscal constraints just grew in 2020." *Democrat & Chronicle*. January 15, 2020
<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/2020/01/15/new-york-schools-why-their-fiscal-constraints-just-grew-with-tax-cap/4470340002/>

Reports on Cuomo's budget proposal

Cuomo proposes shift in school financial aid

Part of the governor's plan would overhaul the state's main formula for distributing money known as foundation aid. John Hildebrand. "Governor proposes shift in distribution of financial aid for school districts." *Newsday*. January 22, 2020

https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/education-budget-albany-cuomo-1.40874735?user=Se8795827e553156154105c0&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning-Update

Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivered his executive budget proposal on Tuesday.

This article highlights major points.

Capital Bureau. "Highlights of Cuomo's executive budget proposal." *Albany Times Union*. January 21, 2020

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Highlights-of-Cuomo-s-executive-budget-proposal-14992501.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon&stn=nl

Governor introduces \$178.6 billion spending plan

Cayla Harris. "Cuomo lays out plan to close \$6.1 billion budget gap." *Albany Times Union*. January 21, 2020

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Cuomo-lays-out-plan-to-close-6-1-billion-budget-14992293.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon&stn=nl

Gov. Cuomo's proposed budget may seem to mark a retreat on key issues like Medicaid funding, education aid and bail reform, but his maneuvering regarding the budget deficit aims to demonstrate that he is progressive.

Zach Williams. "Can Cuomo's budget co-opt his critics?" *City & State/NY*. January 21, 2020

https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/politics/news-politics/can-cuomo-s-budget-co-opt-his-critics.html?utm_source=First-Read-Newsletters&utm_campaign=0075c6ae1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_22_10_54&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c741-0075c6ae1-34743040&mc_cid=0075c6ae1&mc_cid=bc262544c

Cuomo proposed a modest 3% increase in state education spending that would steer more dollars to poorer school districts and to charter schools, which would translate into NYC getting a \$321 million bump in aid under the plan. Bernadette Hogan & Carl Campanile. “Cuomo budget would steer more money to needy schools, charters.” *NY Post*. January 21, 2020
https://nypost.com/2020/01/21/cuomo-budget-would-steer-more-money-to-needy-schools-charters/?utm_source=First-Read-Newsletters&utm_campaign=0f075c6ae1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_01_22_10_54&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c7d1-0f075c6ae1-34743040&mc_cid=0f075c6ae1&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

Governor proposes monitor for Rochester school board

Governor Cuomo’s budget proposal provides the City School District with additional money, and a monitor to help map and oversee its financial and academic improvement. The district would receive a \$12.8 million increase over what the state had projected for 2020-21, bringing the total proposed allocation to \$673.2 million. Additionally, the district would be eligible to tap into \$200 million set aside for high-need districts, state officials said. Mayor Lovely Warren saw the monitor as a “first step” in changing the governance of the financially and academically troubled school district. Warren and the state education commissioner would jointly appoint the proposed fiscal and academic monitor. The monitor would be a non-voting member of the school board who would work with other board members and the superintendent to develop five-year improvement plans. The proposal — which reflects similar actions recently taken in two Long Island districts — is for the mediator to serve through June 30, 2021.

Brian Sharp. “Warren lauds plan for RCSD monitor.” *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*. January 23, 2020
<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/01/22/monitor-money-provided-for-rcsd-under-cuomo-budget-rochester-ny-school-district/4540412002/>