

# EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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## January 6, 2022 Education News Update

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### Snapshot of teaching profession

Regular, full-time public-school teachers on average are contractually obligated to work 38 hours a week, but work an average of 52 hours, according to the 2020-21 National Teacher and Principal Survey by the National Center for Education Statistics. The survey also revealed that public-school teachers earn about 30% more than their peers in private schools: an average salary of \$61,600 per year, compared with \$46,400.

Naaz Modan. "NCES: Teachers overworked during the pandemic as schools struggled to fill vacancies." *K-12 Dive*. December 13, 2022  
[NCES: Teachers overworked during the pandemic as schools struggled to fill vacancies | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/nces-teachers-overworked-during-the-pandemic-as-schools-struggled-to-fill-vacancies/)

#### Study to investigate history instruction

The American Historical Association is researching how schools choose history education materials and establish priorities for learning. The study will examine laws that regulate history instruction and will include interviews with district leaders to determine how school-level decisions are made.

Sarah Schwartz. "What's Really Going on in History Classrooms? A New Project Aims to Find Out." *Education Week*. December 15, 2022  
[What's Really Going on in History Classrooms? A New Project Aims to Find Out \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/technology/news/2022/12/15/whats-really-going-on-in-history-classrooms-a-new-project-aims-to-find-out/)

#### How leaders can help reduce segregation in schools

Understanding how and why rising racial and economic segregation impacts achievement gaps is critical. Segregation and educational inequality are the cause, not effect, of failing schools, and education leaders "must step in to remedy that disparity." Researchers write that leaders can address attendance boundaries, ensure disadvantaged students are at the top of school choice lists, and work with housing officials to change residential segregation.

sean f. reardon, Erin Fahle, Heewon Jang, & Ericka Weathers. "Why School Desegregation Still Matters (a Lot)." *Educational Leadership*. December 1, 2022  
[Why School Desegregation Still Matters \(a Lot\) \(ascd.org\)](https://www.ascd.org/et/articles/why-school-desegregation-still-matters-a-lot/)

#### Study: How schools could partner with families living in poverty

School-family relationships are mostly still driven by outdated views of how family-school interactions "should" work ... approaches that aren't helpful to forming relationships with families who are experiencing poverty. The education field needs a radical paradigm shift. This article presents five mindset shifts school leaders should make and best habits for leaders striving to create true partnerships of equals.

Sharon Radd, et alia. "What If Schools Truly Partnered with Families Living in Poverty?" *ASCD*. December 1, 2022  
<https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/what-if-schools-truly-partnered>

#### Keeping students engaged in computer science

HS students are encouraged to stick with computer science by starting exposure in ES and being consistent, according to a panel of college and HS students in Philadelphia. The students, who are studying computer science, suggest using social media and clubs to generate interest in the subject beyond the classroom.

Sarah Huffman. "How do you convince high schoolers computer science is cool?" *Technically*. December 12, 2022  
[How do you convince high schoolers computer science is cool? - Technically.ly](https://www.technically.com.au/how-do-you-convince-high-schoolers-computer-science-is-cool/)

#### Study: Arts education will not hurt test scores

The addition of arts education in elementary and middle schools in Texas did not affect student achievement in math, reading and science, according to a study of selected schools in the state. However, researchers found that the addition of arts education did improve student behavior and students' social and emotional skills.

Jill Barshay. "The lesson the arts teach." *Hechinger Report*. January 2, 2023  
[PROOF POINTS: The lesson the arts teach \(hechingerreport.org\)](https://www.hechingerreport.org/the-lesson-the-arts-teach/)

#### Study backs "portfolio model" for school districts

A decade of cooperation among charter and traditional schools in Denver significantly boosted the district's achievement and graduation rates, but pandemic disruptions raise questions about its sustainability. The "portfolio model" of schooling has gained traction, and a new study by the Center for Education Policy Analysis at the University of Colorado Denver finds the approach, in which schools have more flexibility, has raised achievement. The study found that Denver, which operates under the portfolio model and where the average student is from a low-

income household and a student of color, had higher achievement than large districts where the average student is white and not from a low-income family.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Denver's 'Portfolio Model' Was a Success. But It Might Not Be Sustained." *Education Week*. December 29, 2022  
[Denver's 'Portfolio Model' Was a Success. But It Might Not Be Sustained \(edweek.org\)](#)

## **2023 Edtech predictions by educators**

Educators and experts share their predictions for education technology trends in 2023. Karima Wesselhoft, supervisor of advanced academics and specialty programs for one Virginia district, predicts schools will offer more flexible options to support career and technical education and college readiness. Patty Hagan, a teaching and learning coach for a Colorado district, says technology will be used to support teachers' professional learning.

Laura Ascione. "37 predictions about edtech's impact in 2023." *eSchool News*. January 2, 2023  
<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2023/01/02/33-predictions-about-edtechs-impact-in-2023/>

## **How teachers can cope with student use of AI in writing**

Students will inevitably use ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence-powered tool, to cheat, according to a HS English teacher. She suggests teachers slow down the writing process, taking time for drafting and revising, and perhaps assigning handwritten work or exercises in which students revise AI-generated writing.

Jeffrey R. Young. "What Will ChatGPT Mean for Teaching?" *Ed Surge*. January 3, 2023  
[What Will ChatGPT Mean for Teaching? | EdSurge News](#)

## **Finland still offers fresh ideas for US education**

Putnam County School District Superintendent Rick Surrency toured schools in Finland recently. He notes that Finland has a radically different, respect-filled approach to teachers and no standardized tests.

Micah Ward. "What Florida's 2023 Superintendent of the Year will offer at FETC." *District Administration*. January 2, 2023  
[What Florida's 2023 superintendent of the year will share at FETC \(districtadministration.com\)](#)

# **FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL**

## **FCC asked to step up K-12 cybersecurity**

US Rep. Doris Matsui of California has asked the FCC to take action to improve K-12 cybersecurity in a letter that advocates for a more coordinated approach between the FCC and other federal agencies to prevent cyberattacks.

Anna Merod. "Will the FCC reevaluate E-rate's role in school cybersecurity protections?" *K-12 Dive*. December 13, 2022  
[Will the FCC reevaluate E-rate's role in school cybersecurity protections? | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

## **What to ask to update school safety protocols**

There are five questions school leaders should consider as they review safeguards and protocols for the safety of their schools, according to the CEO of Navigate360. He suggests asking how to address concerning student behaviors and whether the school has a real-time plan to communicate with first responders.

JP Guilbault. "5 questions that lead to safe schools." *Smart Brief/Education*. December 19, 2022  
[5 questions that lead to safe schools - SmartBrief](#)

## **More attacks on public education expected**

There was no sweep into power this past general election for partisans of culture war issues but more attacks on teachers, students, and school boards are expected in the next election, based on hyped-up falsehoods about race and gender. Partisans will keep alive the battles and the fake organizations leading them.

Juan Rerez, Jr. "The coming education wars." *Politico*. December 16, 2022  
[The coming education wars - POLITICO](#)

## **U.S.E.D. receives record number of discrimination complaints**

The U.S.E.D.'s Office for Civil Rights received nearly 19,000 discrimination complaints between Oct. 1, 2021, and Sept. 30, 2022, more than double the previous year. Officials say the complaints — most alleging discrimination based on disability, race or sex — reflect grievances that amassed during the worst public health crisis in a century and the most divisive civil rights climate in decades. The complaints were logged as schools struggled to recover from pandemic-related closures. The majority of complaints in the past year, as in previous years, allege discrimination against students with disabilities, a population whose plight became more visible during the pandemic. One complaint from the NAACP detailed how one district for years had ignored the harassment of students based on race, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Erica L. Green. "Strife in the Schools: Education Dept. Logs Record Number of Discrimination Complaints." *NY Times*. January 1, 2023  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/01/us/politics/education-discrimination.html?campaign\\_id=2&emc=edit\\_th\\_20221231&instance\\_id=81598&n=todayheadlines&regi\\_id=18877907&segment\\_id=121315&user\\_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc66688bfc](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/01/us/politics/education-discrimination.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20221231&instance_id=81598&n=todayheadlines&regi_id=18877907&segment_id=121315&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc66688bfc)

## States seek to offer universal school meals

The percentage of free lunches served dropped from 99.8 percent in May 2022 to 67.5 percent in September, according to data from USDA. Some states are taking steps to offer free school meals to all students following the expiration of federal school nutrition waivers that enabled universal meals. Jessica Gould, chair of the School Nutrition Association's public policy and legislation committee, said states are stepping in because, at the federal level, "we're not able to find consensus and pass legislation to make this happen."

Mackenzie Wilkes. "Lawmakers and state officials around the country are considering universal free school meals in upcoming legislative sessions." *Politico*. December 31, 2022

[States put free school meals on the menu - POLITICO](#)

## Federal support for K-12 education to increase in fiscal 2023

President Biden has signed legislation into law that provides \$79.6 billion for the U.S.E.D. in fiscal year 2023, including a 5.6% increase over last year's spending on preK-12 education. The budget includes increased funding for Title I schools and provisions that support recruiting and retaining more school principals and other leaders.

Kara Arundel. "K-12 federal funding sees 5.6% increase for FY 2023." *K-12 Dive*. January 4, 2023

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/Congress-approves-FY23-budget-TitleI/639590/>

## NEW YORK STATE

### RCSD teaching fellowship program provides more hands-on classroom time

Some local teachers in training are spending more of their time in actual Rochester classrooms and getting paid, part of a new residency program to develop teachers for needed specialty areas in urban districts. They work full-time alongside a master teacher and then do more typical coursework nights and weekends. Such programs exist across the country, including in Buffalo and Syracuse. The ROC Urban Teaching Fellowship Program is a collaboration among the RCSD, Nazareth College, and the U of R's Warner School of Education. Participating students, 6 this year and hopefully 20 next year, are chosen for an expressed interest in urban education as well as a needed specialty, such as special education, bilingual education, math or science. RCSD will pay up to \$200,000 for the program, using its federal American Recovery Plan money.

Justin Murphy. "Training for future teachers reimaged." *Democrat and Chronicle*. December 19, 2022

<https://lbus7do-cdn.newsmemory.com?selDate=20221219&goTo=A01&artid=0>

### NYS legislation expected on 'mental health days'

State legislation is expected that would allow school districts to offer "mental health days" for students. The issue has been controversial, but a dozen states already have passed laws. School districts offering "mental health days" to schoolchildren has been a controversial issue nationwide, but legislation is expected to go before NYS lawmakers in January. A dozen states already have passed laws allowing mental health days in schools, several since 2020, when the pandemic forced districts across the country to move to remote learning. Supporters say "mental health days" would allow students to hit pause and recalibrate when they feel overwhelmed. Those who oppose them say students have enough days off during the school year, and that such days could just be a pass to play hooky.

Craig Schneider. "Mental health days for schoolkids to go before State Legislature." *Newsday*. January 2, 2023

[Mental health days for schoolkids to go before State Legislature - Newsday](#)

### Predicted education issues during 2023 legislative session

Inflation has driven up the cost of finishing the long-awaited process of fully funding NYS's Foundation Aid. Advocates also say they will push to solve issues that became more pressing during the pandemic, including hiring and student mental health, while others will continue a push to raise the cap on charter schools. Governor Hochul, who agreed to fulfill the education foundation formula last year as part of a legal settlement, has declined to say whether she will include this final, larger payment in next year's budget. NYS policymakers are also asking for \$1 million to hire researchers to review and create models to update the 15-year-old Foundation Aid formula the formula has outdated measures, such as for calculating student poverty, which is currently based in part on 2000 Census data. Some advocates are hoping for solutions to the hiring challenges that many schools are facing. One possibility is a tax incentive for school employees to attract people to school districts. School leaders also want more targeted funding to address student mental health concerns.

Reema Amin. "Education issues to watch in Albany: School funding, mental health, future of mayoral control." *Chalkbeat/New York*.

January 3, 2023

[Education issues to watch in Albany: School funding, mental health, mayoral control - Chalkbeat New York](#)

### NY Regent Ruth Turner to rejoin RCSD

NYS Regent Ruth Turner will resign that post and rejoin the Rochester City School District as a deputy superintendent on February 6. Turner graduated from East HS and worked in RCSD for 13 years, beginning as a social worker and eventually becoming chief of student support services and social-emotional learning. She served in the cabinet alongside Peluso. She was a key leader in the district's revamped code of conduct and its embrace of

restorative practices. In March 2021 Turner was chosen as a state regent, replacing T. Andrew Brown. Turner said, "It was a difficult choice, but my heart has always been here. With the right team and the right focus, we can turn the tide and bring our district back to the time it was really thriving." The NYS Legislature in the coming months will choose another Rochester-area representative on the Board of Regents. Turner will focus on ensuring there is enough support in buildings for mental health and restorative practices, among other things, she said. Justin Murphy. "'My heart has always been here.' NY Regent Ruth Turner to rejoin RCSD." *Democrat & Chronicle*. January 4, 2023 [NY Regent Ruth Turner to rejoin Rochester City School District \(democratandchronicle.com\)](https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/education/2023/01/04/ny-regent-ruth-turner-to-rejoin-rochester-city-school-district/6968217002/)