

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

Compiled by Judy Wadsworth, Alpha Alpha, for the Monroe County School Boards Association and shared by permission. Send comments to judithw@frontiernet.net

October 14, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Researchers: Pandemic changed personalities

Researchers have found that as the pandemic continues, individuals' ability to work through social interactions has declined, they are less creative, aren't as responsible and don't trust others as readily. Experts aren't sure whether the changes are temporary or permanent, but found that the changes were more prominent in young adults.

Maggie Mertens. "Personalities don't usually change quickly but they may have." *National Public Radio*. October 5, 2022
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/10/05/1126825073/pandemic-stress-impact-personalities>

How district leaders can support mental health of school nurses

Nearly half of school nurses report that they have been bullied, harassed, or threatened since the onset of the pandemic and 45% say they have experienced at least one symptom of an adverse mental health condition, a CDC survey finds. Advocates say school leaders can support nurses by educating their communities on how nurses are key to students' success and communicating what falls outside nurses' responsibilities, particularly regarding COVID-19 mitigation and vaccination policies.

Arianna Prothero. "School Nurses' Mental Health Is Suffering. Here's How District Leaders Can Help." *Education Week*. October 4, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-nurses-mental-health-is-suffering-heres-how-district-leaders-can-help/2022/10>

Curriculum for dyslexic readers debated

New research evidence is at odds with views of many dyslexia advocates and state policies. A review of 24 [studies on the Orton-Gillingham method](#) found no statistically significant benefit for children with dyslexia. Instead, a [review of 53 reading studies](#) found that much cheaper reading interventions for children with a variety of reading difficulties were also quite effective for children with dyslexia. Individual parents may have had good experiences with an Orton-Gillingham tutor, but there is not strong research evidence that its methods generally improve the reading ability of children with dyslexia. Dyslexia covers a wide range of reading difficulties. Some dyslexia experts believe that there are various types of dyslexia and each may need different interventions. More research is needed.

Intensive tutoring or small group instruction is needed for children who have word level reading difficulties.

Jill Barshay. "Leading dyslexia treatment isn't a magic bullet, studies find, while other options show promise." *Hechinger Report*. October 10, 2022
https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-leading-dyslexia-treatment-isnt-a-magic-bullet-studies-show-while-other-options-show-promise/?utm_source=The+Hechinger+Report&utm_campaign=5148b09b0f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_07_02_54&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3ee4c3c04-5148b09b0f-322606321

Better serving the growing numbers of Latino students

Nearly 30% of the school population is expected to be made up of Latino students by 2030, according to U.S.E.D. data. The growing number of Latino students means their success is crucial to that of the nation. Yet schools with large Latino student enrollment have a long way to go to accommodate the needs of those students. Stakeholder groups say these students need lessons and school environments that consider their diverse ethnic backgrounds, more access to information translated into Spanish, a greater number of Latino educators, and better support as they pursue higher education. Latino student achievement experts have said states and schools need to understand and adapt to the varying cultures within the Latino community (Mexican 60% followed by people of Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, Colombian and Honduran origins).

Kayla Jimenez. "Latinos will make up nearly a third of US students in 2030. Will schools help them succeed?" *USA Today*. October 12, 2022
<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2022/10/11/latino-student-population-us-schools/10426950002/>

How the role of school librarians has changed

The role of a school library is changing to include a greater focus on IT and media literacy. School librarians, for example, "became almost IT specialists for the school districts" during the coronavirus pandemic.

Ted Goldberg. "Librarians expand their skill set to meet growing demands." *New Jersey Spotlight News*. October 7, 2022
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/librarians-expand-their-skill-set-to-meet-growing-demands/>

Commentary: Teach facts about U.S. history, the story of 'us'

Students need to learn the facts about history, rather than a version that edits out information that makes some people uncomfortable, writes the superintendent of the Jefferson School District in Oregon. Capener writes that instruction in U.S. history should be "the full story of us, not the story of some of us" so we can acknowledge the darkness of our past and learn to adjust because of it.

Brad Capener. "OPINION: Children must learn the truth about racism and help our country move forward." *Hechinger Report*. October 11, 2022

Online learning helps some students shine

Online learning may not be for everyone, but some students thrive in the virtual learning environment, particularly those who need additional one-on-one or small-group interaction. A school district in Minnesota piloted a fully online school that is now open to students throughout the state.

Catherine Richert. "For some, online learning is just the right fit." *Minnesota Public Radio*. October 12, 2022
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/10/12/for-some-online-learning-is-just-the-right-fit>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Study: \$325B to \$930B needed to recover learning loss

The \$190 billion in federal relief funds to help recover pandemic-related student learning loss is insufficient, according to a study published by the American Educational Research Association that finds the US needs to invest between \$325 billion and \$930 billion. The study also finds that federal funds should be flexible and there should be more accountability for spending.

Anna Merod. "Study: \$190B in ESSER funds 'insufficient' to curb learning loss." *K-12 Dive*. October 11, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/study-190b-in-esser-funds-insufficient-to-curb-learning-loss/633817/>

Most agree that HSs should teach 'controversial' issues, but....

While Republicans and Democrats agree that HS students should learn about controversial issues, there are sharp political divides on some topics, especially LGBTQ issues. As Republican legislators have [passed measures](#) restricting how teachers can discuss race, gender, and sexuality in the classroom, many have argued that parents don't want these topics discussed in schools.

Sarah Schwartz. "Republicans and Democrats Agree: High Schools Should Teach 'Controversial' Issues." *Education Week*. October 12, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/leadership/republicans-and-democrats-agree-high-schools-should-teach-controversial-issues/2022/10?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eu&M=5281236&UID=dcf379af08119fa84853cdc6f688bfa&T=7151875

Few eligible families receive discounted internet

Just 13 million of the 51.6 million households eligible for discounted internet offered through the federal Affordable Connectivity Program have enrolled, data shows. According to a report from the nonprofit EducationSuperHighway, the issue may be the amount of information and documentation needed to enroll in the program, operated by the FCC, which is aimed at helping to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

Linda Jacobson. "Report: Almost 40M households passing on Internet discount." *The 74*. October 12, 2022
<https://www.the74million.org/article/report-almost-40m-households-passing-on-internet-discount/>

Report: ACT scores fall to 30-year low

The average composite score on the ACT for the class of 2022 was 19.8 out of 36 -- the lowest score in 30 years -- according to an ACT report released Wednesday. Data shows 42% of test-takers failed to meet any subject benchmarks for English, math, science and reading -- up from 38% in 2021.

Cheyenne Mumphy. "ACT test scores drop to lowest in 30 years in pandemic slide." *Associated Press*. October 12, 2022
https://apnews.com/article/health-education-covid-phoenix-f1735b733e3f707d1e37f04b102e5754?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=TopNews&utm_campaign=position_09

New technology might improve school bus efficiency

Buses that get priority at stoplights can save time, boost fuel efficiency and enhance student safety, based on the results of a recent pilot program. The pilot tested connected vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technology that allowed two school buses in Georgia to request green light priority at 62 traffic signals along their routes. The number of unscheduled stops decreased by 40% and average bus speeds increased by 18%. Fewer stops enhanced student safety, the study suggested, as children are more likely to stay seated when the bus is moving. Also, there was a reduction in fuel consumption and emissions, indicating lower fuel expenditures as well as healthier air conditions.

Kaitlyn Levinson. "Connected Vehicle Tech Shows Signs of Improving School Bus Efficiency." *Route Fifty*. October 13, 2022
<https://www.route-fifty.com/tech-data/2022/10/connected-vehicle-tech-improves-school-bus-efficiency-fuel-consumption/378402/>

NEW YORK STATE

Concern by UUP over proposed SUNY budget cuts

As state officials begin discussions about State University of New York funding amid an [ongoing deficit](#), professors gathered to pledge support to the poets, artists and literature majors who might be deemed less important. Last year, university officials said they would close the budget deficit through 15% cuts in all divisions and then determine new budget lines partly by figuring out which programs provide the most value to the university and its students.

But value can be a subjective term, and professors fear the humanities are no longer recognized for their value in creating well-rounded adults. “Unless we create an environment where students can grow in wisdom ... we will have failed,” says Fred Kowal, president of the union United University Professors (UUP). Students who understand the world are needed to defend democracy, tackle climate change and bring different perspectives to society, just as much as modern civilization needs more scientists, he says.

Kathleen Moore. SUNY, UAlbany professors: The world needs poets, not just scientists.” *Albany Times Union*. October 7, 2022

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/UAlbany-professors-The-world-needs-poets-not-17494145.php?PID=Times-Union-HP-state-pack&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=altu%20%7C%20capitol%20confidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af

SED cautions schools to report corporal punishment

Weeks after the *Times Union* uncovered hundreds of corporal punishment cases per year in public and charter schools, the NYSED sent a letter to school administrators informing them the practice is illegal and must be reported to law enforcement. The memo said personnel in all school settings are prohibited by multiple laws and regulations from physically harming students, whether or not their actions are intended to punish a student. The memo also advised that any incidents of educators inflicting physical harm on a student may constitute child abuse and if an administrator determines there is a "reasonable suspicion" that the conduct occurred, it must be reported to law enforcement, and all complaints of corporal punishment in public schools must be reported to the SED.

Emilie Munson. “New York cautions schools to report corporal punishment to police.” *Albany Times Union*. October 11, 2022

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/New-York-warns-schools-corporal-punishment-17498969.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=altu%20%7C%20capitol%20confidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af

Monroe County districts can use AI to tell when cars pass stopped school buses

Monroe County has teamed up with a national bus safety company to put an end to speeding past school buses that have their stop arm out. BusPatrol, a safety technology company that uses AI to detect when cars ignore a school bus’s stop sign, records the license plate of the offending vehicle. All 23 school districts in the county will have the opportunity to equip their buses with the technology, regardless of whether the bus is owned by the district or an independent contractor. The technology, installation, and maintenance are provided entirely free of charge, through BusPatrol’s “violator-funded” program.

Hailie Higgins. “New tech in Monroe Co. catches drivers that speed past school bus stop signs.” *WROC-TV8*. October 12, 2022

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/monroe-county/monroe-co-employs-new-tech-to-catch-drivers-that-illegally-speed-past-school-buses/>