

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 21, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Studies consider impact of school start times

Starting the school day earlier had a "near-zero" effect on elementary-school students' learning, according to new studies by the American Educational Research Association. This is a contrast to research that shows benefits of later school start times for middle- and high-school students.

Caitlynn Peetz. "Earlier School Times Don't Hurt Elementary Students' Learning, Research Shows." *Education Week*. October 13, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/earlier-school-times-dont-hurt-elementary-students-learning-research-shows/2022/10>

Pre-schoolers needing special ed not identified during pandemic

Forty percent fewer preschoolers received special education services during the pandemic. Now districts need to help students with special needs catch up.

Sarah D Sparks. "Young Children Were Massively Overlooked for Special Education. How Will Schools Respond?" *Education Week*. October 17, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/young-children-were-massively-overlooked-for-special-education-how-will-schools-respond/2022/10?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=5313666&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca&T=7193176

Survey: Teachers fear retribution for teaching about current issues

Nearly a third of teachers who have chosen not to address controversial topics in the classroom worry about professional or legal consequences for talking about race, gender, and sexuality, a new *Education Week* survey shows. That response comes while issues like critical race theory, educational equity, LGBTQ rights, and bans on learning materials take center stage in some [political campaigns](#) and community debates.

Libby Sanford. "Educators Are Deeply Conflicted on Teaching Heated Cultural Issues, Survey Finds." *Education Week*. October 19, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/educators-are-deeply-conflicted-on-teaching-heated-cultural-issues-survey-finds/2022/10?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=5341842&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca&T=7229757

"Model minority" stereotype influences some teachers

Teachers have a more positive view of attentiveness and performance among Asian American students, compared with white students, according to a study by a sociology Ph.D. candidate at Yale University. The study found, based on survey data from the National Center for Education Statistics, that teachers also have higher expectations of Asian American students.

Ileana Najarro. "Teachers Expect More of Asian American Students. Is Bias the Reason?" *Education Week*. October 18, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/teachers-expect-more-of-asian-american-students-is-bias-the-reason/2022/10>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Federal student loan forgiveness app is LIVE

The U.S.E.D. is beta testing a form that it intends to use to eliminate millions of federal student loans.

Go to <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>

Survey: Teacher morale administrators' top concern

Teacher morale is school administrators' top concern, according to results of Project Tomorrow's SpeakUp Survey shared during a recent Congressional briefing. The survey also found that more teachers are expressing support for giving students more autonomy for their learning than prior to the pandemic.

David Nagal. "Research: Administrators Grapple with Morale; Teachers More Open to Student Autonomy." *T.H.E. Journal*. October 13, 2022
<https://thejournal.com/articles/2022/10/13/project-tomorrow.aspx>

Schools get \$50M in federal foodservice equipment grants

The Biden administration said it is giving schools \$50 million in grants to purchase new foodservice equipment, building on nutrition-related funding announced at last month's White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. "Ensuring access to nutritious school meals is one of the best investments we can make in our fight to end child hunger and improve health," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Mike Buzalka. "White House announces \$50 million in foodservice equipment grants for schools." *Food Management*. October 11, 2022
<https://www.food-management.com/k-12-schools/white-house-announces-50-million-foodservice-equipment-grants-schools>

Lacking teachers, some southern states ease job requirements

As schools across the South grapple with teacher shortages, many are turning to candidates without teaching certificates or formal training. Alabama administrators increasingly have hired educators with emergency certifications, often in low-income and majority-Black neighborhoods. Texas, meanwhile, allowed about 20% of new teachers to sidestep certification last school year. In Oklahoma, an “adjunct” program allows schools to hire applicants without teacher training if they meet a local board’s qualifications. And in Florida, military veterans without a bachelor’s degree can teach for up to five years using temporary certificates. Decisions to put a teacher without traditional training in charge of a classroom involve weighing tradeoffs: Is it better to hire [uncertified candidates](#), even if they aren’t fully prepared, or instruct children in classes that are crowded or led by substitutes? Talia Richman & Trisha Powell. “With teachers in short supply, states ease job requirements.” *Associated Press*. October 13, 2022

https://apnews.com/article/science-texas-alabama-neo-and-ethnicity-04833fc256ec2ef370d4524f418a5?wcer_email_bhb2388d65817a08b1076f6bfcac1126dd3d9d7c21ab53ce8eb844c1743788&utm_source=SaltHru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Oct15_Weekend_Reads&utm_term=Monin%20Wire%20Subscribers

Study: Schools use relief funds to grow workforce

School systems are using funds from the American Rescue Plan to help expand their workforce via traditional approaches as well as creative strategies to recruit and retain teachers, according to a report from FutureEd. In a separate report, The Education Trust finds that states are using the relief funds to diversify the education profession. Kara Arundel. “COVID-19 relief spending is influencing traditional K-12 workforce practices.” *K-12 Dive*. October 13, 2022

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/report-covid-19-relief-spending-influencing-traditional-teaching-workforce/634042/>

More than 50% of NYS ES students ineligible for latest COVID vaccine

More than half of New York elementary school students are ineligible for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, which is designed to target both the original coronavirus strains and newer omicron variants. The U.S. Federal Drug Administration approved Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent shots for children ages 5-11 and Moderna version for ages 6 and up last week, but eligibility requirements exclude anyone who has not completed the initial vaccine series at least two months ago (42.5% of NYS children ages 5-11 have had the earlier vaccines, according to CDC figures.

Rachel Silberstein. “Most N.Y. elementary schoolchildren can’t access bivalent booster despite FDA approval.” *Albany Times Union*. October 17, 2022.

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/COVID-19-hospitalizations-rising-in-N-Y-but-17514465.php?PID=Times-Union-HP-CP-spotlight&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=altu%20%7C%20capitol%20confidential&sid=5931844424c17e09a3f115af

Survey: Information directors prioritize cybersecurity investment

Two-thirds of chief information officers responding to a Gartner survey plan to ramp up cybersecurity investment next year. The result suggests cybersecurity is a higher priority than business intelligence and analytics, which are poised for increased investment from 55% of respondents.

Steven Rosenbush. “Cybersecurity Tops the CIO Agenda as Threats Continue to Escalate.” *Wall Street Journal*. October 17, 2022

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/cybersecurity-tops-the-cio-agenda-as-threats-continue-to-escalate-11666034102>

Federal grants will support student mental health

Research finds growing mental health needs among young people since the outset of the coronavirus pandemic. The U.S.E.D. is set to launch two grant programs -- totaling \$280 million -- for schools aimed at expanding students’ access to mental health support.

Nadia Tamez-Robledo. “Kids’ Mental Health is in Crisis. Schools Can Get Them Help Through a \$1 Billion Fund.” *Ed Surge*. October 19, 2022

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-10-19-kids-mental-health-is-in-crisis-schools-can-get-them-help-through-a-1-billion-fund>

NEW YORK STATE

Report on suspensions in local school districts

Local schools suspend students at high and unequal rates, according to a report by The Children’s Agenda. Four local districts suspended more than 10% of their students at least once in 2021-22, as did Buffalo and Syracuse. Hundreds of the suspended students were 3-8 years old. Four other local districts suspended Black students about five times as often as they did white students, and students with disabilities much more as well. A poll of local parents showed overwhelming support for a near-total ban on suspensions for young children as well as a move away from excluding students from school. The report pointed to research showing that suspensions harm students’ academic outcomes and increase their chances of being arrested, even students who did not misbehave. The report recommends that schools adopt codes of conduct that include restorative practices and fund their implementation; severely restrict the use of suspension for young children, including in child care; shorten the maximum length of suspension from 180 days to 20; prohibit suspensions for minor infractions; ensure that suspended students receive required instruction; and verify that charter schools follow student discipline laws.

Justin Murphy. “Schools’ discipline practices explored in report.” *Democrat and Chronicle*. October 15, 2022

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/new s/education/2022/10/14/report-over-reliance-on-suspensions-disparities-in-school-discipline/69560207007/>