

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 26, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study: Teacher evaluation should factor in student behavior

Teachers' impact on non-cognitive, or social-emotional, skills is more predictive of students' long-term success than their impact on test scores, the study found.

Madeline Will. "Should Student Behavior Be Factored Into Teacher Evaluations? Study Says Yes." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2018/10/teachers_improve_student_behavior_test_scores.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58648313&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Today's teacher workforce

A new analysis finds that 44% of new teachers quit within five years.

Madeline Will. "5 Things to Know About Today's Teaching Force." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2018/10/today_teaching_force_richard_ingersoll.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58648313&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Issues created by differing content in history courses

What if the inability of Americans to agree on our shared history-and on the right way to teach it-is a cause of our current polarization and political dysfunction, rather than a symptom?

Stephen Sawchuk. "How history class divides us." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/projects/how-history-class-divides-us.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&M=58649777&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Related links: • [Data: Most States Require History, Not Civics](#); • [Citizen Activists Take on History Textbooks](#)

Teachers want more tech use, but gaps remain

While 64% of teachers say schools should emphasize teaching technology, only 32% say students are actively using technology to create things or perform data analysis, according to a recent survey. Student access to technology is one key bottleneck, and about half of teachers note that their students lack either a device or internet access at home.

Laura Ascione. "Are we truly helping our students build workforce-ready skills?" *eSchool News*. October 24, 2018

<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2018/10/24/are-we-truly-helping-our-students-build-workforce-ready-skills/>

Commentary: Is school choice killing "civic participation"?

Public schools have united communities, contributed to their welfare, and helped them build a sense of "shared civic participation." The author argues that the school choice trend is siphoning off some students, leaving both communities and public schools to flounder.

Amy Lueck is an assistant professor at Santa Clara University

Amy Lueck. "How High Schools Shaped American Cities." *The Atlantic*. October 23, 2018

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/10/how-high-schools-shaped-american-cities/573616/>

PreK curriculum debate: Academics or whole-child

There's ongoing debate about what kind of instructional approach is best for young children, with whole-child and literacy/math-based curricula both in play.

Christina A. Samuels. "Academic Focus or Whole-Child Approach? Inside the Pre-K Curriculum Debate." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/24/research-feeds-quest-for-balance-in-crafting.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58650949&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

Commentary: America's schools for the most part better than ever

The author notes that most US schools are doing well: the issue is which children are being served. "America's schools don't merely reflect our nation's material prosperity. They also reflect our moral poverty... Our schools haven't failed. Most are as good as the schools anyplace else in the world. And in schools where that isn't the case, the problem isn't unions or bureaucracies or an absence of choice" but the failure of society to serve all children.

Jack Schneider is a historian and assistant professor of education at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, co-host of the podcast series called "Have You Heard?," and the author of "Beyond Test Scores: A Better Way to Measure School Quality,"

Jack Schneider. "How are America's public schools really doing?" *Washington Post*. Valerie Strauss' Answer Sheet blog. October 15, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/10/15/how-are-americas-public-schools-really-doing/?utm_term=.446f73c13f7e

What's wrong with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program?

More than 150 members of Congress have sent a letter urging the U.S.E.D. to investigate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF). The program was meant to relieve teachers, emergency workers and other public servants of their student loans after 10 years of service and 120 qualifying payments. But according to U.S.E.D. data, 99 % of applications for loan forgiveness have been denied. Today, the U.S.E.D. is acting as a trillion-dollar bank, serving more than 40 million student borrowers. While the government writes these student loans, it pays nine companies to handle customer service. And these servicers with help from the U.S.E.D., are wreaking havoc with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Cory Turner. "Why Public Service Loan Forgiveness Is So Unforgiving." *National Public Radio*. October 17, 2018

https://www.npr.org/2018/10/17/653853227/the-student-loan-whistleblower?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20181021&utm_campaign=ed&utm_term=nprnews

Conservative group works to encourage teachers to leave unions

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is partnering with think tanks and advocacy groups across the country in a campaign encouraging public employees to consider dropping their union memberships.

Sarah Schwartz. "Conservative Group Expands Push to Get Teachers to Leave Their Unions." *Education Week*. October 18, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2018/10/mackinac_center_union_membership.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58647220&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Trump administration moves to define 'transgender' out of existence

The Trump administration is considering a move that would narrowly define gender according to sex assigned at birth, affecting transgender students in the nation's schools, the most drastic move yet against transgender people.

Evie Blad. "Report: Trump Admin. Move to Define Gender Under Title IX Could Affect Transgender Students." *Education Week*. October 21, 2018

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2018/10/transgender-students-title-ix-gender-trump.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58647220&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Erica Green, Katie Benner, & Robert Pear. "'Transgender' Could Be Defined Out of Existence Under Trump Administration." *NY Times*. October 21, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/21/us/politics/transgender-trump-administration-sex-definition.html?emc=edit_th_181022&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=188779071022

Effects of proposed gender ruling on Title IX

Policies for K-12 schools and colleges may be affected by an administration proposal to redefine gender under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in schools. Under the proposed rules, students who identify as transgender may not be able to file federal civil rights claims of discrimination.

Scott Jaschik. "Trump May Eliminate Trans Rights." *Inside Higher Education*. October 22, 2018

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/10/22/trump-administration-considers-plan-end-legal-status-transgender-students>

Emma Pettit. "Federal Proposal to Redefine Gender Throws College Policies Into Uncertainty." *Chronicle of Higher Education*. October 22, 2018

https://www.chronicle.com/article/Federal-Proposal-to-Redefine/244878?cid=wcontentlist_hp_latest

DeVos says schools teach students to be socialists

During an interview with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, education secretary Betsy DeVos stated that she believes many young people support socialism because they don't get sufficient government and civics education and are not permitted to "discuss and debate those ideas freely" on college campuses.

Valerie Strauss. "Betsy DeVos was asked whether U.S. schools are teaching kids to be socialists. Her answer was rich." *Washington Post/Answer Sheet* blog. October 17, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/10/17/betsy-devos-was-asked-whether-us-schools-are-teaching-kids-be-socialists-her-answer-was-rich/?utm_term=.e156ca3aad2f&wpisrc=nl_answer&wpm=1

OECD: Economics still determines educational paths

While overall educational attainment is rising globally, students' educational success is still largely a function of their economic status growing up, according to a report released today.

Sasha Jones. "OECD: How Economics Still Shapes Students' Educational Paths." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018.

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/10/oecd_report_covers_inequity_an.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58648313&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

New federal opioid law could help schools

Congress recently passed a law that will help schools and communities cope with some of the challenges of educating children from families grappling with opioid addiction.

Alyso Klein. "What's In the New Federal Opioid Legislation to Help Schools." *Education Week*. October 23, 2018

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/10/opioid-schools-congress-mental-health-education.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58649777&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

NEW YORK STATE

Issues with implementing new NYS mental health literacy legislation

Lack of exercise, addiction to cellphones, and depression are barriers for the state implementing its new mental health literacy component into the public school curriculum as mandated by law two years ago.

Rick Karlin. "In N.Y. implementing mental health education is uphill struggle, observers say." *Albany Times Union*. October 23, 2018

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Implementing-mental-health-education-is-uphill-13330656.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon