

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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October 28, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

The Power of Doing Less in Schools

Schools and educators are always trying to add new things --new strategies, new programs, new initiatives. But why don't we ever think about the power of taking things away -- of streamlining these programs and initiatives so that the best ones can thrive? The author shares how the power of doing less means more time to do things better.

Justin Reich. "The Power of Doing Less in Schools." *Educational Leadership*. October 1, 2022

<https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/the-power-of-doing-less-in-schools>

Designing schools to support collegiality

School design should support collegiality among students and staffers, yet the traditional design lends itself more to hierarchy and silos, asserts the author, retired leader of New City School in St. Louis and emeritus head of school. He suggests several ways to improve school design, including making common spaces more inviting and making the principal's office friendly -- rather than intimidating.

Thomas R.Hoerr. "How School Design Can Hinder Or Help Collaboration." *ASCD*. October 20, 2022

<https://www.ascd.org/blogs/how-school-design-can-hinder-collaboration-and-creative-collisions>

Report: Change focus to improve teacher PD

The most effective professional development for teachers focuses on improving their daily practices and includes some element of accountability, according to a paper from the Research Partnership for Professional Learning.

Written by researchers from Harvard Graduate School of Education and Brown University, the report says teacher PD on instructional practices, rather than content knowledge, are more effective in boosting student outcomes.

Madeline Will. "What Works—and What Doesn't—in Teacher PD." *Education Week*. October 25, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-works-and-what-doesnt-in-teacher-pd/2022/10>

How students and teachers benefit from competency-based education

A school in Vermont has used competency-based education (CBE) to improve teaching and learning, writes an English teacher at the school. She describes how the approach has empowered students to partner with a mentor and a teacher to develop their own personalized learning plan and course of study based on their interests. She notes that one great benefit of CBE is the clarity of purposes it provides for teachers. CBE makes it so much easier to talk to students and their parents about their learning. Students can be assessed according to their level of achievement on a specific skill or understanding of certain information.

Joanna Fowler. "Competency-based education's clarity inspires engagement, self-directed learning." *Smart Brief/Education*. October 26, 2022
[HTTPS://CORP.SMARTBRIEF.COM/ORIGINAL/2022/10/COMPETENCY-BASED-EDUCATION?UTM_TERM=F7417E30-242E-42B5-82E3-B21891A3C154&UTM_CAMPAIGN=AC59823B-4C3C-4F57-8D2A-7EDD2B31AA42&UTM_CONTENT=94CFEFC5-272A-4685-AEAI-BOF36CAFE277&UTM_SOURCE=brief](https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/10/competency-based-education?utm_term=F7417E30-242E-42B5-82E3-B21891A3C154&utm_campaign=AC59823B-4C3C-4F57-8D2A-7EDD2B31AA42&utm_content=94CFEFC5-272A-4685-AEAI-BOF36CAFE277&utm_source=brief)

How classroom décor can affect learning

Classroom decor can support -- or hinder -- student learning, asserts an education professor at Brigham Young University-Idaho. He shares research that suggests teachers start by decluttering, so multiple visuals are not competing for students' attention, and to be cautious when choosing colors.

Curtis Chandler. "What Research Tells Us about Classroom Décor." *Middle Web*. October 25, 2022

<https://www.middleweb.com/47987/what-research-tells-us-about-classroom-decor/>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

School resource officers return due to violence concerns

Some school districts that removed school resource officers from campuses are shifting gears as concerns grow about violence, according to recent data. Critics of the practice see no evidence of policing making schools safer.

Neal Morton. "Student protests prompted schools to remove police. Now some districts are bringing them back." *Hechinger Report*. October 19, 2022

<https://hechingerreport.org/student-protests-prompted-schools-to-remove-police-now-some-districts-are-bringing-them-back/>

Crises reverse health gains worldwide Progress toward improving the overall health and well-being of women and children around the world has been undone by the effects of the ongoing pandemic, climate change and

violent conflicts, a UN [report](#) indicated. The overlapping crises have brought more mental health issues, hunger and domestic violence since 2020.

Mary Kekatos. "UN report finds declines in women's and children's health." *ABC News*. October 18, 2022
<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/report-finds-declines-womens-childrens-health/story?id=91620943>

School tech leaders share cybersecurity best practices

To strengthen school cybersecurity, nonprofit K12 Security Information Exchange and tech leaders from Virginia's Augusta County Public Schools recommend including instructional and district officials in security conversations and creating a security team. Other best practices include a tiered approach to multifactor authentication buy-in, which starts with executive staff and getting the tech team to check devices that handle student data.

Anna Merod. "4 steps districts can take to shore up cybersecurity." *K-12 Dive*. October 14, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/4-steps-districts-can-take-to-shore-up-cybersecurity/634131/>

GOP eyes takeover of school boards

School board contests present an opportunity, Republican leaders say, to oversee what children are taught and advance a broader conservative agenda. Frustration with pandemic restrictions, teaching about civil rights, and allowing accommodations for transgender students are among the animating issues for GOP-backed candidates. Some of these candidates have taken over school boards in majority-white pockets of the country, buoyed by national money and big-name endorsements. School boards oversee more than 50 million students across the U.S. Their main task is to choose a superintendent and approve or vote down actions brought to them, including many that affect students only indirectly. There are more than 10,000 school boards across the nation, and thousands of elections happen each year. Many board members run unopposed, with candidates scarce for jobs that typically pay little or nothing. The low turnout and voter interest in school board elections are part of what motivated the head of the Project 1776 PAC, to get involved in the races.

Chris Quintana, et alia. "GOP eyes takeover of school boards." *USA TODAY*. October 24, 2022
<https://rochesterdemocrat-nv.newsmemory.com?selDate=20221024&goTo=A01&artid=2>

NAEP: Pandemic led to setbacks for most students

U.S. students in most states and across almost all demographic groups have experienced setbacks in both math and reading, according to the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test results, offering the most definitive picture yet of the pandemic's impact on millions of schoolchildren. Reading scores dropped slightly and math scores saw large declines. This was the first time full results have been released since 2019, and Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said the scores were "appalling and unacceptable."

Sarah Mervosh & Ashley Wu, "Math Scores Fell in Nearly Every State, and Reading Dipped on National Exam." *NY Times*. October 24, 2022
[National Public Radio. October 24, 2022">https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/24/us/math-reading-scores-pandemic.html#:~:text=In%20the%20test's%20first%20results,with%20declines%20in%2041%20states,Sequoia Carrillo. "Student math scores are down from pre-COVID levels, the National Report Card finds." *National Public Radio*. October 24, 2022](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/24/us/math-reading-scores-pandemic.html#:~:text=In%20the%20test's%20first%20results,with%20declines%20in%2041%20states,Sequoia Carrillo.)
<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/24/1130629135/naep-test-covidcc>

Collin Binkley. "Test scores show historic COVID setbacks for kids across US." *Associated Press*. October 24, 2022
<https://apnews.com/article/science-health-government-and-politics-covid-education-39e01a570b560c685b5340078c8dcdee>

How L.A. schools outperformed NAEP trends

The Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's 2nd largest, was an outlier in the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores -- which showed declines in reading and math achievement. LA showed gains for the district in three out of four categories. Superintendent Alberto Carvalho credits multiple factors for the district's academic gains, including teacher training, high attendance for online courses and makeup classes.

Ben Chapman. "How Los Angeles Avoided National Academic Plunge During Pandemic." *Wall Street Journal*. October 25, 2022
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-los-angeles-avoided-national-academic-plunge-during-pandemic-11666711392?mod=djemwhatsnews>

Study: lack of sleep leads to kids' unhealthy snacking

Children who do not get the recommended amount of sleep tend to eat more calories overall and fewer from healthful foods the following day, according to research presented at the International Congress on Obesity. Researchers noted that study participants who were active generally ate more healthy fare while those who were sedentary tended to eat more during the evening.

Cara Munez. "Sleep-Deprived Kids Will Snack More: Study." *HealthDay News*. October 24, 2022
<https://consumer.healthday.com/healthy-sleep-habits-happy-child-2658472802.html>

Federal administration seeks ways to provide more free school meals

With a pandemic-era program expired and no help from Congress on the horizon, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says his department is considering options for improving nutrition for K-12 students, including providing grants to help schools make healthy meals "from scratch." A USDA waiver created by the Trump administration in 2020 and extended by Biden had allowed all schools to get federal reimbursements to offer free meals to all students, and not just those in poverty. The waiver expired in June, requiring schools to show that at least 40% of their students are on federal poverty programs in order to qualify for the reimbursements. With Republican lawmakers reportedly opposed to bringing back the waiver, Vilsack said that his department will be looking for alternatives that don't require congressional approval to help more schools qualify for federal reimbursements.

GAO report: Federal government needs to do more to stop K-12 cyberattacks

Federal agencies are not providing sufficient resources to help public school districts stem ransomware threats, the US Government Accountability Office reports. Cyberattacks can disrupt as many as three weeks of learning at K-12 schools, the GAO says in citing the Education and Homeland Security departments' efforts.

Benjamin Freed. "Feds still behind on K-12 cybersecurity, audit finds." *State Scoop*. October 24, 2022
<https://statescoop.com/feds-behind-k12-cybersecurity-audit/>

Controversial practices hurt, even kill, US school children

A yearlong national investigation by Hearst Newspapers found that accountability and oversight of restraint and seclusion in schools nationwide are sorely lacking. Federal data shows restraints and seclusions happen at least 2,300 times per school day, on average. Those incidents involve upward of 102,000 students each academic year.

Emilie Munson, et alia. "Controversial and often used, these little-known practices cause harm, even death, among U.S. schoolchildren." *Albany Times Union*. October 27, 2022

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Controversial-and-often-used-these-little-known-17474949.php?PID=Times-Union-HP-CP-spotlight&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=altu%20%7C%20capitol%20confidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af

NEW YORK STATE

9,000 students graduate with NYS civic-readiness seal

More than 100 schools in NYS piloted the state's Seal of Civic Readiness curriculum in the past school year, and more than 9,000 students graduated with the distinction. Seven states have adopted the curriculum, which focuses on civic knowledge, mindsets and experiences, skills and actions.

Pheben Kassahun. "New NYS curriculum pushing students to make a difference in their community." *WKBW* (Buffalo). October 19, 2022
<https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/new-nys-curriculum-pushing-students-to-make-a-difference-in-their-community>

NYSED releases g.3-8 math, language arts assessment results

Slightly less than 40% of tested NYS students passed 2022 state math assessments in grades 3-8, according to results released by the NYSED. Testing in English showed somewhat better outcomes, with just under 50% of those tested passing. The latest round of assessments marked the first time that students in K-12 statewide have been fully tested since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. To help local public schools cope with the pandemic's impact, Washington has provided billions of dollars in relief nationwide to help pay for quick remedies, such as intensive tutoring and after-school instruction.

John Hildebrand & Michael R. Ebert. "Math, English assessment results for grades 3-8 released by state." *Newsday*. October 24, 2022
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/math-english-assessment-results-new-york-vimwipnfm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=non-subs-afternoon-update&lc=7180d4ca0f117e08169c7036e559bb44b9e7b92a72e79680b9188cc631596bd4&utm_term=nm

HS students learn AP African American studies

Sixty US schools are piloting a new Advanced Placement course from the College Board on African American studies. NYC's Brooklyn Preparatory HS is one of those schools.

Janelle Griffith. "A Brooklyn school's students fought to add AP African American Studies to their curriculum." *NBC News*. October 23, 2022
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/brooklyn-schools-students-fought-add-ap-african-american-studies-curri-rcna52297>

Hochel states approval for lifting the cap on charter schools

For apparently the first time since becoming governor, Governor Hochul publicly said she was in favor of lifting the limit currently restricting the number of charter schools allowed in New York City during the gubernatorial debate on October 25. The moment came and went quickly during a packed gubernatorial debate, but it was definitely a 'yes.' Several lawmakers and teachers' unions have expressed disapproval of the governor's apparent position.

Shantel Destra & Sahalie Donaldson. "Wait – did Hochul just say she wants to lift the NYC charter school cap?" *City & State/NY*. October 26, 2022
<https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2022/10/wait-did-hochul-just-say-she-wants-lift-nyc-charter-school-cap/378967/>

Teachers, police retrain thousands of NYS students

Across NYS, thousands of students, most often children with disabilities, have been physically restrained by staff in K-12 schools in recent years. Records show that dangerous restraints can last more than an hour. The practices can cause trauma, injuries and, in rare cases, death. Children with disabilities are frequently confined alone in closet-like "time out rooms," sometimes multiple times a day or for hours at a time. The practice is permitted by state regulation but controversial, and is subject to very little outside oversight, the *TU* found. The rooms are sometimes abused by educators who improperly seclude children inside and prevent them from leaving. The *TU* investigation found that in some NYS school districts, students were physically restrained hundreds of times per year. (TU)

Emilie Munson & Ying Zhao. "Teachers and police restrained thousands of students in 22 New York districts." *Albany Times Union*. October 27, 2022
https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/new-york-student-restraint-seclusion-17474997.php?PID=Times-Union-HP-state-psckase&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=altu%20%7C%20capitol%20confidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af