

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 5, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

Commentary: The consequences of data-driven instruction

The blogger identifies six issues created by data-driven instruction which he defines as anti-child. One major issue is that the data is unscientific leading to subjectivity. “The idea that high stakes test scores are the best way to assess learning and that instruction should center around them is essentially a faith based initiative.”

Steven Singer. “The Six Biggest Problems with Data-Driven Instruction.” Gadfly on the Wall blog. September 25, 2018
<https://gadflyonthewallblog.com/2018/09/25/the-six-biggest-problems-with-data-driven-instruction/>

Instruction in professional writing in HS is recommended

The limited amount of academic writing that students learn in school may not be what they need for the workplace, argue some experts and employers. (Full Report: [Literacy for the Workplace](#))

Sarah D. Sparks. “Is Professional Writing the Missing Link in High School English Classes?” *Education Week*. September 25, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/09/26/is-professional-writing-the-missing-link-in.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&M=58628892&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Designing a public school

On a mission to reimagine traditional schooling, a K-8 school in San Diego puts teachers and students at the center. Nora Fleming. “Designing a Public School From Scratch.” *Edutopia*. September 19, 2018

https://www.edutopia.org/article/designing-public-school-scratch?utm_source=Edutopia+Newsletter&utm_campaign=ab459a85d5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_100318_enews_designingapublic&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f72e8cc8c4-ab459a85d5-78672623

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

America has changed its feelings about teachers

After being blamed for the problems in schools, teachers are now being held up as victims of a broken system.

Madeline Will. “From ‘Rotten Apples’ to Martyrs: America Has Changed Its Tune on Teachers.” *Education Week*. September 28, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/03/from-rotten-apples-to-martyrs-america-has.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&M=58626456&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Supreme Court education rulings

Chicago Law School Professor Justin Driver surveys the U.S. Supreme Court’s long and often contentious history on a wide range of issues affecting public education and students’ rights.

Mark Walsh. “A Scholar’s-Eye View of School Law as High Court Gears for New Term.” *Education Week*. September 25, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/09/26/a-scholars-eye-view-of-school-law-as.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58626456&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

New federal education budget signed into law

Not adjusting for inflation, the \$71.5 billion budget is the largest-ever appropriation from Congress for the U.S.E.D.

Andrew Ujifusa. “See the New Federal Education Budget Signed Into Law by Donald Trump.” *Education Week*. October 1, 2018
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/10/donald-trump-education-spending-increase-second-straight-year.html?cmp=soceml-twfdtbltz-ewnow>

The President has signed a spending bill that funds several federal agencies’ budgets for fiscal 2019, including the U.S.E.D. which will receive \$71.5 billion -- about \$581 million more than the previous fiscal year.

Sara Friedman. “Congress Averts Government Shutdown, Funds Department of Education.” *T.H.E. Journal*. September 27, 2018
<https://thejournal.com/articles/2018/09/27/congress-averts-government-shutdown-funds-department-of-education.aspx>

Public schools serving minorities under funded deliberately

“Like many reports, the latest from the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) drops a number of disturbing facts. Between 2005 and 2017, the federal government neglected to spend \$580 billion it was supposed to on students from poor families and students with disabilities. Over that same time, the personal net worth of the nation’s 400 wealthiest people grew by \$1.57 trillion...(B)lack, brown, and low-income students and their schools are owed billions of dollars. That’s because many public schools do in fact work, but only when they are fully resourced, which tends to be in white, middle class, and affluent communities.

Jeremy Mohler. “For black, brown, and low-income students, public education is underfunded on purpose.” *In the Public Interest*. September 2018
<https://medium.com/in-the-public-interest/for-black-brown-and-low-income-students-public-education-is-underfunded-on-purpose-2edbcfd9befe>

Security companies sell school ‘hardening’

Publicly, the Parkland school shooting reignited the U.S. gun-control debate. Privately, it propelled industry efforts to sell school fortification as the answer to the mass killing of American kids.

Associated Press. “Security Companies Sell School ‘Hardening’ as Mass-Shooting Solution. *Education Week*. October 2, 2018
https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/02/ap-firms-sell-school-hardening-as_ap.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58628892&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Study makes case for measuring academic growth

Schools with higher populations of students from low-income families may have lower achievement, but they also may have high rates of achievement growth, according to a study by the nonprofit NWEA. Study author Andy Hegedus, a NWEA research consulting director, says Every Student Succeeds Act assessments may be focusing too much on achievement and not enough on student growth.

Linda Jacobson. “NWEA: High-poverty schools can still have high student achievement growth.” *Education Dive*. October 2, 2018
<https://www.educationdive.com/news/nwea-high-poverty-schools-can-still-have-high-student-achievement-growth/538432/>

NEW YORK STATE

Childhood lead exposure down in much of Monroe County

Childhood lead exposure is down in Monroe County, according to the public health department, even as children in some areas, especially in Rochester, remain much more susceptible than others. This vulnerability is deemed the result of older housing stock with deteriorating interior lead paint.

Brett Dahlberg. “Lead levels down in Monroe County children.” *WXXI*. September 13, 2018
<http://www.wxxinews.org/post/lead-levels-down-monroe-county-children>

NYS Teachers remain union members in spite of Janus decision

Three months after the Supreme Court’s Janus decision, most teachers remain union members even though they are no longer required to pay dues or a fee in lieu of their dues. Employers are verifying union membership since state law makes public employers responsible for withholding dues from union members and sending that money to the union. NYSUT has instituted a new rule that provided a one-month window, in August, during which union members could leave the union and halt their dues payments, but just 200 members from a total of 450,000 statewide have left the union in recent months since the Janus ruling.

Rick Karlin. “Post-Janus ruling, teachers, public employees are sticking with unions.” *Albany Times Union*. October 2, 2018
https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Janus-decision-prompts-call-for-union-cards-13275746.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon