

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

November 11, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

New reading programs in Colorado

Many Colorado school districts are in the process of transitioning to a new science-based approach to reading that uses evidence-based practices centered on how students learn to read. Some of the reading programs being adopted, including in Denver, will include units on science and social studies.

Ann Schimke. "A look inside Colorado's yearslong push to change how schools teach reading." *Chalkbeat/Colorado*. November 2, 2022
<https://co.chalkbeat.org/2022/11/2/23435686/colorado-science-of-reading-curriculum-changes-literacy-denver-adams12-eagle>

Tweaks to help English-language learners succeed

Bilingualism is an asset in the business world, yet English-language learners tend to get shunted into lower-level classes in school, writes the author who advises allowing for diverse voices in planning meetings for English learners and using technology that gives the students a leg up.

Lynmara Colon is director of student opportunity and multilingual services at Prince William County Public Schools in Virginia

Lynmara Colon. "Are you giving your English learners the right resources?" *Smart Brief/Education*. November 3, 2022

[HTTPS://CORP.SMARTBRIEF.COM/ORIGINAL/2022/11/ENGLISH-LEARNERS-THE-RIGHT-RESOURCES?UTM_TERM=F7417E30-242E-42B5-82E3-B21891A3C154&UTM_CONTENT=6246B3A5-BD7C-44A0-AE01-9F7B269E97E0&UTM_SOURCE=BRIF](https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/11/english-learners-the-right-resources?utm_term=F7417E30-242E-42B5-82E3-B21891A3C154&utm_content=6246B3A5-BD7C-44A0-AE01-9F7B269E97E0&utm_source=brief)

How to Respond to Parents' CRT Complaints

Dozens of districts across the country have had to face backlash from parents about their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Four experts share advice for crafting messages on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Eesha Pendharkar. "How to Respond to Parents' CRT Complaints." *Education Week*. November 04, 2022

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/how-to-respond-to-parents-crt-complaints/2022/11/2?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=eu&M=5471927&UID=dcf979af08110fa81852cd66f88bfca&T=7207552

Tips for schools to sustain expanded ed tech use

The pandemic accelerated the process for purchasing new education technology tools to support remote learning for students and teachers, thanks in part to the billions of dollars in federal relief money. School districts should begin planning now to sustain use of those new education-technology tools. The author offers several tips, including considering the maintenance and related resources needed to use the edtech tools.

Lautaine Langreo. "How Districts Can Stay Ahead of Their Aging Ed-Tech: 3 Expert Tips." *Education Week*. November 4, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/technology/how-districts-can-stay-ahead-of-their-aging-ed-tech-3-expert-tips/2022/11>

Internationalization progress affected by pandemic

Colleges and universities have seen a steep drop in global engagement due to the pandemic, with a 46% decline in new international students and a 15% drop in international enrollment for 2020-21, a report from the American Council on Education finds. Although the numbers show a significant decrease, higher education institutions were found to be largely committed to international engagement for the next five years.

Liam Knox. "Gauging COVID's Impact on Internationalization." *Inside Higher Ed*. November 3, 2022

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/11/03/report-pandemic-stymied-higher-ed-internationalization>

College strategies changing to recruit HS students

College administrators are grappling with a campus-changing trend, a decline in the number of HS students who are college bound. New strategies are needed, educators say, to provide support services to keep students on track, foster a sense of belonging and show students ways they can apply their education in real-world settings.

Matt Zalaznick. "Student demographics: Big changes are forcing reinvention on campus." *University Business*. November 7, 2022

<https://universitybusiness.com/student-demographics-changes-force-reinvention-campus/>

After-school tutoring continues to rise

Tutoring has seen an uptick because of pandemic disruptions and about 3 of 5 sessions are for math and almost 1 in 5 are for English. The most in-demand time is 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, and more students are signing up for live support rather than drop-off assignments where the tutor gets back to them.

Kara Arundel. "By The Numbers: The post-COVID growth of tutoring." *K-12 Dive*. November 8, 2022

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/tutoring-k-12-schools-numbers/636014/>

English teacher provides resume writing for students

The author, a HS English teacher, describes working with seniors on writing their resumes. To demonstrate how quickly a resume is scanned by an employer, she has students sort a stack of resumes in 90 seconds from best-looking to worst. She also arranges one-on-one feedback sessions with area professionals to get students familiar with interviewing.

Kimberly Hager. "Preparing High School Seniors for Job Hunting." *Edutopia*. November 8, 2022
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/preparing-high-school-seniors-for-job-hunting>

How states are recruiting & training new teachers

States are investing federal funds in strategies such as grow-your-own programs, education residencies and fellowships to address ongoing teacher shortages, particularly in areas such as special education, STEM, math and world languages. Stipends, student loan forgiveness, social support and tailored professional development also are being used to recruit candidates from underrepresented groups and retain them in education positions.

Marianna McDermott. "Breaking Down the Walls to Teaching: Alternative Pipelines Boom." *The 74*. November 9, 2022
<https://www.the74million.org/article/breaking-down-the-walls-to-teaching-alternative-pipelines-boom/>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Preferential treatment or affirmative action: Which is the bigger college admissions issue?

The U.S. Supreme Court is pondering the fate of affirmative action to increase the representation of African American and Hispanic students in college. Critics claim that affirmative action discriminates against white and Asian-American students. The author contends that the real issue in college admissions is the large number of places set aside for affluent white students. *This preferential treatment constitutes a major obstacle for everyone else, including white students who are not in privileged categories. Harvard admissions data show that for Harvard's class of 2023, more than 43% of admitted white students were in one of four categories that received preferential treatment: legacies, recruited athletes, applicants on the dean's interest list, and children of faculty and staff... and 75% of these students would not have been admitted if their applications had not received preferential treatment. THAT preferential treatment leaves far fewer slots for other applicants. Black and Hispanic students remain under-represented, not because they are not qualified but because of application barriers such as costs, insufficient counseling, and college recruitment policies.*

Iris Rotberg is professor of education policy at the graduate school of education and human development at George Washington University.

Iris C. Rotberg. "OPINION: Why the upcoming affirmative action cases ignore the real issue in college admissions." *Hechinger Report*. October 31, 2022
<https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-why-the-upcoming-affirmative-action-cases-ignore-the-real-issue-in-college-admissions/>

Consultant: How prevention can create safe schools

Educators can help prevent bullying and violence in schools by showing students how to cope with challenges and ensuring a safe space for hard conversations, says Rob Buelow of an educational training company. Prevention, he says, "is such a better investment than how we resolve a crisis moment and react to tragedy after it's occurred."

Diane Benson Harrington. "Does a safe community start in the classroom?" *Smart Brief/Education*. November 7, 2022

https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/11/school-start-safe-community?utm_term=F7417E30-242E-42B5-82E3-B21891A3C154&utm_content=F90A527B-BF14-4581-8AFB-797B88B08CF3&utm_source=brief

Student cellphone use at school is focus of debate

Schools across the country are considering ways that students should use their phones while in school, and some are receiving pushback from families concerning restrictions. Efforts by schools to limit cellphone use are aimed at reducing classroom distractions and improving student behavior and mental health, but the limits have drawn criticism from some parents who say the phones are an important tool for communication, safety and accountability.

Brooke Schultz. "Schools clash with parents over bans on student cellphones." *Associated Press*. November 4, 2022

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-health-business-education-e45811998c1b1e4046ade2dbba46fd1e>

Charter schools undermine good education policymaking

Charter schools, publicly funded schools of choice operated by private entities, have expanded rapidly since the 1990s and are enabled by state law in 45 states, despite questions about their effectiveness. The National Education Policy Center has released *How Charter Schools Undermine Good Education Policymaking*, by Helen F. Ladd of Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. The policy memo analyzes key policy issues raised by charter schools, with suggestions about how to address those challenges. She argues that charter schools disrupt four core goals of education policy in the U.S.: 1) establishing coherent systems of schools, 2) attending to child poverty and disadvantage, 3) limiting racial segregation and isolation, and 4) ensuring that public funds are spent wisely. She recommends that policies be designed to limit the expansion of charter schools and to reduce the extent to which they disrupt good education policymaking.

Find *How Charter Schools Undermine Good Education Policymaking*, by Helen F. Ladd, at: <https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-policy>.

"How Charter Schools Undermine Sound Education Policymaking." *National Education Policy Center*. U.Colorado/Boulder, November 10, 2022
<http://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=267769&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5>

Colorado vote might lead to more universal meal programs

With Colorado soon to join Maine and California in enacting statewide universal school meal programs, other states could consider similar legislation to maintain the free meals that were allowed under now-expired federal waivers.

Diane Pratt-Heavner, the School Nutrition Association's director of media relations, says, "With inflation and prices rising at the grocery store and at the gas pump, families have really come to depend on that benefit."

Arianna Prothero. "Colorado Voters Say Yes to Universal Free School Meals. Will Other States Follow?" *Education Week*. November 9, 2022 <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/colorado-voters-say-yes-to-universal-school-meals-will-other-states-follow/2022/11>

Study: School masking reduced COVID cases

Researchers looked at 70 Boston-area school districts that lifted mask mandates in February and compared them with two districts that kept masks for an extra 15 weeks and found there were an additional 44.9 COVID-19 cases per 1,000 students and staffers in districts without masks, demonstrating effectiveness of masking. The study found the added COVID-19 cases led to at least 17,500 missed school days for students and 6,500 missed days for staffers.

Tori L. Cowger, Ph.D., M.P.H., et alia. "Lifting Universal Masking in Schools — Covid-19 Incidence among Students and Staff." *New England Journal of Medicine*. November 9, 2022