

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 16, 2018 News Round-up

The next news update will come on Friday, November 30. Happy Thanksgiving!

TEACHING & LEARNING

Downside to personalized learning

When technology is used to implement personalized learning in schools, students interact more with their tablets than with one another.

Rob Waters. "The Backlash Against Screen Time at School." *The Atlantic*. November 9, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/11/screen-time-backlash/567934/>

Data show that teacher impact on students is more important than impact on test scores

The author uses data to demonstrate that teachers have a big impact on student behavior that is far more important than their impact on test scores. VAM rewarded the teachers who raised scores, not those who changed students' lives.

C. Kirabo Jackson is an economist at Northwestern University

C. Kirabo Jackson. "The Full Measure of a Teacher." *Education Next*. Winter 2019

<https://www.educationnext.org/full-measure-of-a-teacher-using-value-added-assess-effects-student-behavior/>

Connections among poverty, race, and college preparatory courses

This summary demonstrates the connections among poverty, race, and college preparatory courses. It shows the proportion of students from different racial and ethnic groups enrolled in high-poverty and low-poverty schools, and how the poverty of the students is related to college-prep course offerings. HSs with concentrated poverty are less likely than low-poverty schools to offer coursework that students need to get into four-year colleges and succeed.

"The Connection Between Poverty, Race and College Preparation in Five Charts." *National Education Policy Center* (U. of Colorado).

November 8, 2018

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/newsletter-poverty-110818>

3 tips to help students gain interpersonal skills

Students who are more talkative may be better prepared for work, according to a World Economic Forum study. The author, a language arts teacher, shares three classroom-management strategies to help students develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

Carma Hobgood. "TEACHER VOICE: Why that chatty student driving you nuts could become president of the United States." *Hechinger Report*. November 12, 2018

<https://hechingerreport.org/teacher-voice-why-that-chatty-student-driving-you-nuts-could-become-president-of-the-united-states/>

Kindergarten homework??

Listen to parents and educators, and you'll hear some strong-and mixed-opinions on how or even whether kindergartners should be swept into the homework swirl.

Marva Hinton. "Kindergarten homework: Too much too early?" *Education Week*. November 12, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/12/kindergarten-homework-too-much-too-early.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news-2-rm&M=58668187&U=252955&UID=def379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc>

SAT & ACT less important to college admissions

A recent survey of college admissions officials shows a significant decrease in the use of SAT/ACT test scores in admissions decisions.

Catherine Gewertz. "Importance of SAT, ACT scores dwindling in college admissions." *Education Week*. November 12, 2018

https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/2018_soca/soca18.pdf

Cited report: "2018 STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION." National Association for College Admission Counseling, accessible at

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/high_school_and_beyond/2018/11/importance_of_SAT_ACT_Scores_Dwindling_College_Admissions.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news-3&M=58668187&U=252955&UID=def379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc

Mobile preschools bring learning to students

In a Denver suburb, an education company is testing a mobile preschool program to help expand access to early-childhood education for area families. It spent more than \$200,000 to turn a bus into a learning space and visit an area where preschool demand outstrips supply.

Ann Schimke. "They started as an experiment in rural areas. Now, mobile preschools are rolling into metro Denver." *Chalkbeat/Colorado*. November 12, 2018

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/co/2018/11/12/they-started-as-an-experiment-in-rural-areas-now-mobile-preschools-are-rolling-into-metro-denver/>

Tips to help schools succeed with SEL programs

Social and emotional learning programs can help improve students' grades and behavior. The authors, both educators, offer strategies to help schools start and benefit from SEL programs.

Tom Hierck & Kent Peterson. "3 ways to jump start SEL." *Smartbrief/Education*. November 13, 2018

https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2018/11/3-ways-jump-start-sel?utm_source=brief

Small changes to parent outreach can yield excellent results in student learning

School and district leaders may be overlooking small tweaks in their outreach that can yield huge increases in parent engagement and student achievement.

Sarah D.Sparks. "Make one change to parent outreach, and study finds fewer students fail classes." *Education Week*. November 12, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/11/nudging_parents_into_engagement.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2&M=58670510&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Editorial: Why so many young people voted

The unusually high turnout for a midterm election may be driven by better civic education, especially the hands-on kind that instills lifelong activism instead of cynicism and indifference.

Editorial Board. "Why did so many young people vote?" *Christian Science Monitor*. November 9, 2018

https://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2018/11/09/Why-did-so-many-young-people-vote?i=110861&smc_sub=13815550&l=1222_HTML&u=3786897&mid=10979696&jb=12&cmpid=ema:Commentary:20181115&src=newsletter

Teacher evaluations have altered the job description for principals

More-rigorous evaluations have made principals better instructional leaders, new research shows, but they've created major time-management challenges.

Denisa R. Superville. "Teacher evaluations have dramatically changes the principal's job." *Education Week*. November 13, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/14/teacher-evaluations-have-dramatically-changed-the-principals.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58671706&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

Program to forgive student loans stalls

The government's efforts to help those who were defrauded by their schools have all but ground to a halt under the current U.S.E.D. leadership. Instead, it is fighting claims in court.

Stacy Cowley. "Borrowers Face Hazy Path as Program to Forgive Student Loans Stalls Under Betsy DeVos." *NY Times*. November 11, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/11/business/student-loans-betsy-devos.html?emc=edit_th_181112&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=188779071112

Money for education a dominant theme in midterms

Debates over teacher pay and more money for schools tested voters' appetite for tax hikes to raise that money. Now comes the reckoning for newly elected officials. [Read more.](#)

Daarel Burnett II. "Money the top education theme in state midterm elections." *Education Week*. November 13, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/14/money-the-top-education-theme-in-state.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58668187&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Roundup of which teachers won, lost in recent elections

Forty-two teachers were elected to state legislatures on November 6. This article reviews who won and who lost.

Madeline Will. "Teachers running for office: A roundup of who won and lost." *Education Week*. November 9, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2018/11/teachers_running_for_office_won_lost.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58668187&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Texas superintendent refutes claims of 100% college acceptance rate for charters

When something sounds too good to be true, it probably is—as is the case with charter schools who claim a 100% college acceptance rate to lure parents away from traditional public schools. The reality is that acceptance to a four-year university is actually a graduation requirement at some charter schools. Certain charters' student/family handbooks state that a student may graduate and receive a diploma ONLY if the student is accepted into a four-year university and has completed 125 hours of community service. The public has the right to know the percentage of charter students who didn't make it to their senior year...which can be 35%.

José Espinosa is the Superintendent of the Socorro Independent School District in Texas.

José Espinoza. "What public isn't told about charters' 100 percent college acceptance rates." *El Paso Times*. November 8, 2018

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/opinion/2018/11/08/truth-charters-college-acceptance-rates-jose-espinoza/1931956002/>

Teachers underpaid around the world

In the U.S., people say teachers are underpaid by an average of \$7,500 a year, according to a new global survey. [The issue is worldwide in scope.](#)

Sasha Jones. "Are teachers underpaid? Around the world, people say yes." *Education Week*. November 12, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/teaching_now/2018/11/public_views_teachers_as_underpaid_according_to_survey.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2&M=58669345&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

'Reformers' turning against standardized testing

During a conference sponsored by the Center for Reinventing Public Education, one of the leaders in promoting charters and portfolio districts, a new consensus against standardized testing was evident. Some reformers said that they prefer to put their energy into "personalized learning," which means putting kids in front of computers for hours every day. Others may be disappointed that their beloved charter schools have failed to produce the test scores

they expected, so they are looking for a different measure. The reformers seem to be in alignment with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who has turned against test scores.

Matt Barnum. "In a shift, more education reformers say they're worried about schools' focus on testing." *Chalkbeat*. November 13, 2018
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/us/2018/11/13/education-reformers-shift-their-rhetoric-turning-on-testing/>

NEW YORK STATE

Charter schools face backlash

The recent elections resulted in many charter school supporters losing their legislative seats in NYS and elsewhere.

Eliza Shapiro. "With Democratic Wins, Charter Schools Face a Backlash in N.Y. and Other States." *NY Times*. November 9, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/09/nyregion/ny-charter-schools.html?emc=edit_th_181110&n=todaysheadlines&nli=188779071110

Leaders of state's 4 largest Democratic party groups caution about ignoring upstate

The Democratic Party chairmen of four of the state's largest counties – Kings, Nassau, Suffolk and Erie – are urging the new state Senate Democratic majority not to repeat the past by ignoring the suburbs and upstate.

Kenneth Lovett. "Prominent Democratic chairmen say Senate must focus on entire state, not just NYC." *NY Daily News*. November 12, 2018

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-senate-democrats-seddio-jacobs-schaffer-zellner-20181111-story.html>

Charter schools movement loses traction in NYS

One of the losers in last week's elections was the charter school movement, which lost a big and reliable advocate when Republicans gave up control of the state Senate to the Democrats.

Michael Gormley. "With loss of GOP Senate majority, charter school movement loses clout." *Newsday*. November 12, 2018

<https://www.newsday.com/news/region-state/charter-schools-new-york-senate-1.23180510>

2 NYSUT PACs accused of violating election law

Two political action committees created by NYS United Teachers have been accused of violating election law by engaging in improper coordination with each other while helping state Senate Democrats during the 2016 election, Kenneth Lovett. "EXCLUSIVE: PACs created by state teachers union facing up to \$700,000 in fines for alleged illegal coordination." *NY Daily News*. November 13, 2018

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-nysut-pacs-illegal-coordination-sugarman-20181112-story.html>

District buys battery-powered buses

The downstate White Plains school district recently added to its fleet five battery-powered buses that produce zero emissions. The fully electric buses cost \$365,000 each -- more than three times what a diesel bus would cost -- but proponents say early adoption of the environmentally friendly buses will cause prices to go down.

Brad Plumer. "The Wheels on These Buses Go Round and Round With Zero Emissions." *NY Times*. November 12, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/12/climate/electric-school-buses.html>

All is not well in one Adirondack school district:

Audit: Hadley-Luzerne school raised taxes unnecessarily

An audit from the state Comptroller's Office has found the Hadley-Luzerne School District overstated its expenses by \$5.7 million over a three-year period. The superintendent disputes the findings.

Wendy Liberatore. "Comptroller's audit finds Hadley-Luzerne school raised taxes unnecessarily." *Albany Times Union*. November 12, 2018

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Comptroller-s-audit-finds-Hadley-Luzerne-school-13385265.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_DailyBrief

Hadley-Luzerne district promotes board president's wife

The wife of an Adirondack school board president, who is a certified teaching assistant, has been named the high schools' dean of students.

Wendy Liberatore. "Hadley-Luzerne school promotes education board president's wife." *Albany Times Union*. November 7, 2018

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Hadley-Luzerne-school-promotes-board-president-s-13370950.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_DailyBrief