

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 18, 2022 Education News Update

The education news update will not be published next week due to the holiday recess and will return on December 2. Happy Thanksgiving!!

TEACHING & LEARNING

Research: Start STEM instruction early

Starting STEM education in kindergarten might give students a better chance of choosing careers in these fields, as a recent study shows a racial gap in advanced math of at least 9 percentage points that widens by fifth grade, with a similar gap in science, writes the author, who worked on the study. He notes that by middle school, many students view STEM subjects through a racial lens and assume such careers are only for white or Asian people.

Paul L. Morgan is Harry and Marion Eberly Fellow, Professor of Education and Demography, Department of Education Policy Studies, Penn State.

Paul L. Morgan. "Disparities in advanced math and science skills begin by kindergarten." *The Conversation*. November 10, 2022

<https://theconversation.com/disparities-in-advanced-math-and-science-skills-begin-by-kindergarten-191990>

Strategies that support DEI

Increase diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace by becoming an ally, which means educating yourself about the experiences of others, acknowledging your own biases, and being willing to be vulnerable and authentic in conversations, says the author. "Be observant of who tends to get opportunities to be seen and heard -- then take steps to include and amplify those who don't," she writes.

Poornima Luthra is an associate professor at the Copenhagen Business School.

Poornima Luthra. "7 Ways to Practice Active Allyship." *Harvard Business Review*. November 8, 2022

<https://hbr.org/2022/11/7-ways-to-practice-active-allyship>

Some faculty ditching old syllabi for digital versions

Some professors are trying to connect with students using liquid syllabi, websites that explain the information in a traditional syllabus in a more engaging way. These faculty members provide students with barrier-free access to course information and materials, even when it requires extra work for them and leaves them feeling vulnerable. Not all colleges recognize the new format and some faculty members have had to use their own funds to set one up.

Susan D'Agostino. "For Frictionless Syllabus Access, Some Professors Bypass the College." *Inside Higher Ed*. November 11, 2022

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/11/11/frictionless-syllabus-access-some-bypass-college>

How Trauma-Informed Education Needs to Change

Today's youth suffer through challenges on multiple fronts, far beyond the pandemic and its related social and educational fallout. Children experience trauma because of social conditions such as poverty, homelessness, family separation related to immigration, and increasingly frequent school shootings and community violence. Schools have been asked to heal these wounds. But the author argues that approaches currently used may be missing key elements. Educators' training never prepares them to understand or engage with the causes of the trauma. Therefore, educators implement responses that never acknowledging the role of schools and social policy in perpetuating the trauma. In addition, trauma-informed practices are often isolated from other efforts to improve school environment or provide holistic student support. The author suggests that trauma-informed education should be a systemwide commitment, rather than an intervention. Specifically, equity-centered trauma-informed education is rooted in social justice, highlighting the systemic roots of trauma as well as the need for equitable, systemic solutions. The article offers specific recommendations for education leaders. Also included are recommendations for state and local policymakers to promote broader social and education policy changes through specific funding strategies.

Dr. Stacy Gherardi, LCSW, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at New Mexico State University.

Stacy Gherardi. "Improving Trauma-Informed Education: Responding to Student Adversity With Equity-Centered, Systemic Support."

National Education Policy Center, U Colorado/Boulder. November 15, 2022

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/trauma>

Study: Teachers' COVID-19 anxiety tops health workers

The coronavirus pandemic has led to high rates of anxiety for educators, exceeding those of health care workers, according to an analysis of survey data from nearly 3 million US employees. Joseph Kush, an assistant psychology professor at James Madison University in Virginia and co-author of the study, said data showed that younger teachers had higher rates of depression and anxiety and remote teachers were more likely to feel isolated.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Pandemic Anxiety Was Higher for Teachers Than for Health-Care Workers." *Education Week*. November 15, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/pandemic-anxiety-was-higher-for-teachers-than-for-health-care-workers/2022/11>

Helping students with online searches

ES and MS students may have internet experience, but may not understand how to most effectively conduct online searches for information, according to the author who shares five tips to help teach effective online searching, including sharing keyword search strategies and brainstorming search terms.

Monica Burns is an educational consultant and founder of ClassTechTips.com.

Monica Burns. "5 Tips for Teaching Students to Improve Their Online Searches." *Edutopia*. November 15, 2022

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-tips-for-teaching-students-to-improve-their-online-searches>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

USDA awards \$50 million to support school meal supply chain

The USDA has allocated \$50 million in funding to strengthen the food supply chain for schools and reduce food waste. Grants can go to food producers, suppliers, and distributors—and, according to USDA, will "support schools' ability to access a wider variety of healthy, appealing products and promote innovation by food producers and suppliers, including local producers and small and disadvantaged businesses."

Peter Kasperowicz. "USDA hopes \$50M can make school lunch more 'appetizing,' 'appealing'." *Fox News*. November 10, 2022

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/usda-hopes-50m-grant-can-make-school-lunch-more-appetizing-appealing>

CDC: Over 11% of US students use tobacco products

A study published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report found that more than 11% of MS and HS students reported current tobacco product use. For the ninth straight year, e-cigarettes were by far the most frequently used tobacco product among all students, based on data from the 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey.

Cara Murez. "Over 3 Million U.S. School Kids Now Vaping or Smoking." *Health Day News*. November 10, 2022

<https://consumer.healthday.com/teen-vaping-2658629908.html>

Vouchers problematic for students who leave public schools

In an extensive article, the author delineates how vouchers harm the children who leave public schools to use them. He also notes that most of the early voucher research was conducted by researchers who were voucher supporters. Large-scale independent studies show that for kids who left public schools, voucher impacts met or exceeded what the pandemic did to test scores. Yet some politicians seek support for private schools to offset what the pandemic did to student learning. The author notes also that vouchers overwhelmingly fund children who were already in private school, and that when tax dollars are diverted to private schools it creates venture capitalism for education.

Josh Cowen is a professor at Michigan State University who has studied vouchers for more than 20 years and has been a member of the teams conducting major studies of vouchers. Other articles on this topics by him are accessible at [here](#) or [here](#) or [here](#) or [here](#).

Josh Cowen. "Vouchers are a disaster for students who leave public schools." *Diane Ravitch's blog*. November 15, 2022

<https://dianeravitch.net/2022/11/15/josh-cowen-vouchers-are-a-disaster-for-students/>

International students returning to American colleges

International enrollment has largely recovered from a steep drop during the pandemic, according to a new report, but some numbers are still short of pre-pandemic levels. International student enrollment increased 4% in 2021-22 after dropping 15% during the previous school year, the Institute for International Education reports. International students contributed nearly \$34 billion to the US economy last year and, because they pay full tuition, provide a significant revenue stream for colleges.

Liam Knox. "International Enrollment Rebounds." *Inside Higher Ed*. November 14, 2022

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2022/11/14/international-students-are-coming-back-us-campuses>

Another appeals court blocks student debt relief program

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis has become the latest to challenge the Biden administration's student debt relief program by imposing an injunction and declaring it overrides congressional authority. Applications for the program already have been put on hold, with White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre describing the lawsuits against the program as "baseless."

Annie Nova & Dan Mangan. "Federal appeals court blocks Biden student debt relief program nationwide." *CNBC*. November 14, 2022

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/14/biden-student-loan-debt-relief-plan-appeals-court-rules.html>

Initiative encourages apprenticeships, work-based learning

A new "Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success" initiative will provide K-12 schools with best practices for ramping up apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs, US Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said recently. Education Department guidelines outlines how federal funds can be used to support such programs.

Libby Stanford. "Biden Administration Urges Schools to Expand Apprenticeships and Career Learning." *Education Week*. November 14, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/biden-administration-urges-schools-to-expand-apprenticeships-and-career-learning/2022/11>

U.S.E.D. calls for timely student evaluations

The U.S.E.D. is requiring schools to complete evaluations for new students with disabilities within 30 days, and has laid out steps to smooth the process. Students with disabilities often experience a lapse in services when they move to a new school district, a problem that is compounded for students who change districts frequently.

Michelle Diamant. "Ed Department Wants Expedited Evaluations For Students With Disabilities Who Move." *Disability Scoop*. November 14, 2022
<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2022/11/14/ed-department-wants-expedited-evaluations-for-students-with-disabilities-who-move/30133/>

NEW YORK STATE

Survey: Regents exams should be altered or scrapped

Members of the Board of Regents are considering the value of Regents exams as part of an overall planned examination of the state testing system and graduation requirements that had been delayed due to the pandemic. A majority of NYS school professionals and others surveyed by the SED favor altering the use of Regents exams or eliminating them, according to a report released on November 14. Survey questions dealt with such issues as the knowledge and skills that students require to graduate, and the type of course requirements or exams needed to ensure that they are prepared for college, careers and civic engagement. While a majority of respondents suggested modifying or eliminating Regents exams, a few preferred to keep them to ensure rigor. Many respondents, including school administrators, teachers and parents, also stated that they would prefer "performance-based" assessments such as power-point presentations or research projects by students, rather than paper-and-pencil tests. The survey drew responses from more than 2,600 school administrators, teachers, parents, and others statewide.

John Hildebrand. "Most survey respondents say Regents exams should be altered or scrapped." *Newsday*. November 14, 2022
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/regents-exams-survey-j9amojvu#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Top-Stories&utm_term=7f80daea0ff17e08169c7036e559bbf4b9e7b92a72c79686b9188cc63f596bd4&utm_term=non

