

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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November 2, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

Commentary: Why don't all teachers know the research on reading instruction

A literacy shares evidence-based practices for how educators can boost reading proficiency.

Susan Pimentel. "Commentary: Why Doesn't Every Teacher Know the Research on Reading Instruction?" *Education Week*. October 26, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/29/why-doesnt-every-teacher-know-the-research.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58654035&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Commentary: A "middle way" for reading lessons

Phonics should be included in a strong reading curriculum along with other approaches, according to this teacher in Maine. She calls for an overhaul of teacher training and suggests there is a "middle way" to teach reading.

Kathleen Mikulka. "TEACHER VOICE: We need phonics, along with other supports, for reading." *Hechinger Report*. October 29, 2018
<https://hechingerreport.org/teacher-voice-we-need-phonics-along-with-other-supports-for-reading/>

Calls for anti-bias education follow shooting

The shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue comes amid a 94% increase in anti-Semitic incidents in K-12 schools across the US, according to a 2017 Anti-Defamation League report. Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, is offering resources to encourage educators to be proactive in introducing anti-bias tools in schools.

Francisco Vara-Orta, et alia. "Anti-Semitism is on the rise in schools. After Pittsburgh, teachers grapple with a response." *Chalkbeat*. October 29, 2018
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/us/2018/10/29/anti-semitism-is-on-the-rise-in-schools-after-pittsburgh-shooting-teachers-grapple-with-a-response/>

Report: Many apps claim to be educational but fall short

Some mobile apps claiming to help young children learn may not be designed to teach them in ways they need, according to a study at the University of California at Irvine. Josh Golin, executive director of the nonprofit Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, says many apps are marketed as educational without evidence.

Jackie Mader. "Few preschool apps are developmentally appropriate, report finds." *Hechinger Report*. October 29, 2018
<https://hechingerreport.org/few-preschool-apps-are-developmentally-appropriate-report-finds/>

Restorative Justice and PLT help students learn

One Colorado HS employs Professional Learning Teams organized by grade and content areas to support new teachers, review assessments, share lesson plans for feedback, and align course content. PLTs also support teams of special education, ELL, and content area teachers as they develop inclusion-focused co-teaching strategies. The school uses restorative justice (RJ) which teaches students, educators, and parents to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Valerie Strauss. "This school once had a reputation for violence. Here's how that changed." *Washington Post*. October 11, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/10/11/this-school-once-had-reputation-violence-heres-how-that-changed/?utm_term=.ee208bc8ca05

Competency-based education faces pushback

Dozens of states are moving toward competency-based education models, according to data from the nonprofit International Association for K-12 Online Learning. However, the movement is facing opposition in some areas, where officials are walking back the move to a proficiency-based approach after many parents criticized the change.

Liz Willen. "As states push for new ways of learning, some kids and parents feel left behind." *Hechinger Report*. October 30, 2018
<https://hechingerreport.org/as-states-push-for-new-ways-of-learning-some-kids-and-parents-feel-left-behind/>

'War' over teaching of reading strategies criticized

A scientist weighs in on the debate concerning the teaching of reading strategies.

Daniel Willingham. "Why the 'reading wars' are a waste of time." *Washington Post/Answer Sheet* blog. October 30, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/10/30/why-reading-wars-are-waste-time/?utm_term=.484d630048e7

Special education a weak spot for many school principals

Few principals have deep experience with special education, but managing it effectively is possible. Some experts offer their ideas for school leaders.

Christina A. Samuels. "The Important Role Principals Play in Special Education." *Education Week*. October 16, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/17/the-important-role-principals-play-in-special.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58657334&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

Millennials think more money can fix education

Most millennials say the best way to fix problems in US public schools is to pay teachers more, give additional funding to public education and invest in local schools, according to an ongoing GenForward survey. Younger Americans also support charter schools and vouchers for low-income students.

David Brancaccio & Daniel Shin. "Millennials believe more money is the way to improve public education." *Marketplace*. October 23, 2018
<https://www.marketplace.org/2018/10/23/education/gen-forward-public-education-funding>

Resistance to corporate education reform grows

The author outlines the reasons for optimism regarding corporate education reform, noting that such reformers have no magic to make better schools, only money.

"Advocates for Public Schools Have Good Reasons to Keep on Fighting Against Privatization and Corporate Reform." Jan Resseger blog. October 26, 2018
<https://janresseger.wordpress.com/2018/10/26/17839/>

Reasons not to get excited about new SAT scores

The author argues that no one should get excited by the latest SAT test scores. Press releases boast of higher scores and increased participation, but the test score gain was very small, and participation rates went up because some states required everyone to take the SAT. He states that, "The SAT measures SAT-taking skills."

Peter Greene. "Six Reasons Not To Get Excited About The New SAT Scores." *Forbes*. October 25, 2018

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2018/10/25/six-reasons-not-to-get-excited-about-the-new-sat-scores/#f87bd415b0df>

AFT president sees support for public schools among millennials

Randi Weingarten argues that those who came of age during the high-stakes testing movement can see through the attacks on public education.

Randi Weingarten is president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Randi Weingarten. "Commentary: Millennials Support Teachers' Unions. Politicians Should Take Heed." *Education Week*. October 30, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/10/30/millennials-support-teachers-unions-politicians-should-take.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58655091&U=252955&UUIID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Critique of study showing success of privatization of New Orleans schools

The Education Research Alliance at Tulane University released a study in July declaring that the privatization of almost every school in New Orleans was a great success. Bruce Baker, a researcher at Rutgers University, has studied charter schools, school funding and equity for years. He was commissioned to review the Tulane study. His conclusion: The authors minimized the importance of demographic changes following the hurricane and the enormous influx of new funding. These changes alone, he said, could have accounted for the positive effects.

"What Should We Really Learn From New Orleans After the Storm? A Q&A With NEPC Fellow Bruce Baker" *National Education Policy Center*. October 9, 2018
<https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/newsletter-baker-100918>

DeVos to reorganize Education Department

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has announced several plans to restructure the U.S.E.D., including by moving the Office of Nonpublic Education to report to her office directly. The planned changes also include establishing an office for student privacy policy.

Alyson Klein. "Betsy DeVos Shifts School Choice, Privacy Offices at Education Department." *Education Week*. October 30, 2018
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/10/devos-reorganization-privacy-choice-budget.html>

NEW YORK STATE

Charter supporters donate more \$\$ to Governor Cuomo's campaign

Charter school supporters have donated \$130,000 into Governor Cuomo's well-funded campaign as election day nears. Charter supporters are worried that Democrats might win control of the State Senate, which has supported charter schools, so they seek to cement ties with the governor who has supported charters but took heat on the issue during the primary race against Cynthia Nixon.

Kenneth Lovett. "Gov. Cuomo's coffers swell with \$130,000 from charter school donations in days leading up to the election." *NY Daily News*. October 29, 2018
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-cuomo-fundraising-molinaro-james-wofford-dinapoli-trichter-20181029-story.html>

SUNY to train members of conduct boards for colleges

Campus misconduct cases are growing ever-more complex and contentious, so SUNY plans to train members of these boards on how to conduct hearings. Private colleges are also interested in getting the training.

Rick Karlin. "SUNY looks to train members of campus conduct boards." *Albany Times Union*. November 1, 2018
<https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/284644/suny-looks-to-train-members-of-campus-conduct-boards/>