

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 30, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

To prepare students for an unknown future, the focus of education needs a major shift

Schooling's emphasis needs to switch from recalling information to relating information, for the obvious reason that information becomes knowledge as new relationships are discovered.

Marion Brady is a retired Florida educator and author of the 2011 book, *"What's Worth Learning."* His course of study for secondary-level students, called "Connections: Investigating Reality," is [free for downloading](#).

Marion Brady. "Educating for an unknown future." *Washington Post/Valerie Strauss' Answer Sheet* blog. November 16, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/11/16/educating-an-unknown-future/?wpisrc=nl_answer&wpmm=1

Is personalized learning an education reform fad?

Educators and education researchers say that "personalized learning" encompasses many strategies with and without technology. One researcher says personalized learning can give students more control over their own education, but one of his studies also shows the approach could negatively affect learning in some schools.

Anya Kamenetz. "The Future Of Learning? Well, It's Personal." *National Public Radio*. November 16, 2018
<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/16/657895964/the-future-of-learning-well-it-s-personal>

Experts: PBL engages kindergartners in lessons

Project-based learning can motivate early learners, several presenters said at a recent National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

Jessica Campisi. "Experts stress project-based learning for all-day kindergarten." *Education Dive*. November 15, 2018
<https://www.educationdive.com/news/experts-stress-project-based-learning-for-all-day-kindergarten/542268/>

Multiple intelligences used but misunderstood

Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences theory was revolutionary when introduced 35 years ago, and has largely been confirmed by neuroscience. Children do learn differently but research shows that students show no dominant processing and retention style, and that matching instruction to a perceived learning style makes no difference.

Youki Terada. "Multiple Intelligences Theory: Widely Used, Yet Misunderstood." *Edutopia*. October 15, 2018
https://www.edutopia.org/article/multiple-intelligences-theory-widely-used-yet-misunderstood/?utm_medium=socialflow&utm_source=twitter

Reasons for the racial achievement gap

Sometimes the most racist aspects of a society are evident, but no one seems to notice. The reasons given for the racial achievement gap reveal more about our society than they do about black and Latino children.

Steven Singer. "Why is There a Racial Achievement Gap?" *Gadfly on the Wall* blog. November 16, 2018
<https://gadflyonthewallblog.com/2018/11/16/why-is-there-a-racial-achievement-gap/>

Much homework is irrelevant and jeopardizes student engagement

A review of more than 6,800 schoolwork assignments finds that only a fraction were relevant for students or offered them some say in how the work was done or what they studied.

Sasha Jones. "Too few schoolwork assignments offer students choice, relevance, study finds." *Education Week*. November 19, 2018
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2018/11/student_choice_relevancy_may_b.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news2&M=58675278&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Teacher training helps kids control emotions

When teachers participated in a training program focused on pro-social classroom behavior, their students were better able to control their emotions, a new study shows. It could also help kids have more success at school.

Cailinnn Riley-Missouri. "Teacher training helps kids rein in emotions." *Futurity*. November 16, 2018
https://www.futurity.org/teachers-emotions-education-1912832-2/?utm_source=Futurity-Today&utm_campaign=efa8c4985-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_11_20_03_50&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e34e8ec443-efa8c4985-206440697

Can there be too much student choice?

Educators are wrestling with tough questions as more schools embrace personalized learning and its accompanying belief in giving students more control over their academic experiences. [Read more.](#)

Michelle R. Davis. "Raising student 'voice and choice' is the mantra. But is it a good idea?" *Education Week*. November 6, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/07/raising-student-voice-and-choice-is-the.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news1&M=58676761&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

How student choice works in classrooms

Video excerpt; "Just Ask Us: Kids Speak Out on Student Engagement"

Heather Wolpert-Gawron. "What Giving Students Choice Looks Like in the Classroom." *KQED/Mind Shift*. November 20, 2018

http://www.feedspot.com/?dadi=1#feed/f_4470116/article/4845667359?dd=431151987287345

Snow days phasing out??

Districts around the U.S. are working out policies and procedures for having kids work at home when inclement weather closes schools.

Tom Berger. "The Beginning of the End of Snow Days." *Edutopia*. November 19, 2018

https://www.edutopia.org/article/beginning-end-snow-days?utm_source=Edutopia+Newsletter&utm_campaign=dbdfe589f2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_112818_enews_helpingstudents&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f72e8cc8c4dbdfe589f2-78672623

Educators elected in record numbers

Midterms show educators have been swept into office in record numbers. A wave of pro-education energy, spurred by the April walkouts, led to election victories in Oklahoma, Arizona and Wisconsin

Mike Elk. "Midterms show educators have been swept into office in record numbers." *The Guardian* (US Edition). November 24, 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/nov/24/midterm-elections-teachers-public-office-education>

Applying Finnish applied to U.S. schools

The authors offer a 12-step program for American schools, based on what they learned during a trip to Finland. They found teachers treated like elite professionals, world-class vocational and technical schools, a system that protects childhood and encourages them to enjoy learning. Among their 12 steps are the following:

- 1) Emphasize well-being. Make child and teacher well-being a top priority in all schools.
- 2) Stop g.3-8 standardized testing with its ranking and sorting. Train students in self-assessment.
- 3) Fund schools equitably on the basis of need. Provide small class sizes.

Michael Hynes is superintendent of the Patchogue-Medford school district on Long Island; William Doyle is an author who has lived in Finland.

Michael Hynes & William Doyle. "OPINION: Can this 12-step program from Finland aid U.S. education?" *Hechinger Report*. November 19, 2018

<https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-can-this-12-step-program-from-finland-aid-u-s-education/>

SEL curriculum helps students make mistakes

Schools in a Minnesota community are teaching students about mistakes as part of a social/emotional learning curriculum called "Top 20." Students celebrate their confusion because it means they are learning.

Madeline Heim. "Confusion rocks': How Winona students are understanding their emotions in the classroom." *Winona Daily News* (Minn.). November 24, 2018

https://www.winonadailynews.com/news/local/education/confusion-rocks-how-winona-students-are-understanding-their-emotions-in/article_49e13c9c-0aa7-5eae-8442-fabdb3752cd2.html

ADHD diagnosis more likely for youngest in class

Children born in August in states with the September 1 kindergarten enrollment cutoff were nearly 35% more likely to be diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder than their older peers, according to a study in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. "Our findings suggest the possibility that large numbers of kids are being overdiagnosed and overtreated for ADHD because they happen to be relatively immature compared to their older classmates in the early years of elementary school," Timothy Layton, lead author of the study, said.

Richard Harris. "Youngest Children In A Class Are Most Likely To Get ADHD Diagnosis." *National Public Radio*. November 28, 2018

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/11/28/671614909/youngest-children-in-a-class-are-most-likely-to-get-adhd-diagnosis>

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

U.S.E.D. issues guidance on sexual assault

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has released a rewrite of federal Title IX guidance Friday that allows schools to raise the bar on what evidence is needed to prove claims of sexual assault and harassment.

Evie Blad. "What new Title IX guidance on sexual assault and harassment means for K-12 schools." *Education Week*. November 16, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2018/11/what_new_title_ix_guidance_on_sexual_assault_and_harassment_means_for_k-12_schools.html?cmp=soceml-twfdlbtz-ewnow

New NAEP performance levels

A modification to the Nation's Report Card achievement level descriptions—to include "basic," "proficient," and "advanced" performance—is the latest attempt to set the bar for student performance. The change is intended to improve understanding about NAEP achievement levels as separate from grade-level work.

Stephen Sawchuk. "Is 'proficient' insufficient? A new wrinkle in the debate over NAEP achievement levels." *Education Week*. November 18, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2018/11/when_is_proficient_insufficient_NAEP.html?cmp=eml-enl-enews2&M=58672794&U=252955&UJID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Report considers teacher workforce diversity

The number of nonwhite teachers in US classrooms increased to more than 760,000 in the 2015-16 school year—a 162% increase since 1987 -- according to a report from the Consortium for Policy Research in Education. However, data show that nonwhite teacher turnover was 25% higher than white teacher turnover in 2012.

Jill Barshay. "Non-white teachers have increased 162 percent over the past 30 years, but they are also more likely to quit." *Hechinger Report*. November 19, 2018
<https://hechingerreport.org/non-white-teachers-have-increased-162-percent-over-the-past-30-years-but-they-are-also-more-likely-to-quit/>

Parents misspend education voucher \$\$ on other items

An audit by Arizona's attorney general revealed that parents with children in the state's education savings account program were making prohibited purchases with public money meant for educational purposes.

Arianna Prothero. "Cosmetics and clothes: Parents misspent \$700,000 in Arizona's school choice program." *Education Week*. November 19, 2018
<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/19/cosmetics-and-clothes-parents-misspent-700000-in.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news1&M=58675278&U=252955&UID=def379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

U.S.E.D. reverses controversial changes to handling civil rights probes

The U.S.E.D. office for civil rights is undoing several key changes it had made in the manual outlining how it investigates civil rights claims, changes that had infuriated the civil rights community. It has not eliminated language calling for investigators to dismiss multiple claims originating with the same source.

Alyson Klein. "Trump team reverses controversial changes to handling of civil rights probes." *Education Week*. November 20, 2018
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/11/trump-devos-civil-rights-changes-manual-special-education-complaints.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnow>

Public schools win support in midterm elections

The article reviews the victories for public education during mid-term elections around the country. In gubernatorial races across the Midwest, Democrats ran and won with strong oppositional messages against school privatization. Midterm elections in NYS took down a coalition of Republicans and Democrats in the state Senate who worked with Governor Andrew Cuomo to expand these schools and keep them relatively regulation-free.

Jeff Bryant. "The right's push to privatize school took a major beating in the midterms." *Alternet*. November 21, 2018
<https://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/school-privatization-agenda-took-major-beating-midterms>

Public schools may shrink over the next decade

The US could see an 8.5% decline in public-school enrollment over the next decade because of declining birth rates, according to an analysis from the nonprofit Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. This decline could lead to tighter school budgets and more consolidations because many districts receive funds on a per-pupil basis.

Jill Barshay. "The number of public school students could fall by more than 8% in a decade." *Hechinger Report*. November 26, 2018
<https://hechingerreport.org/the-number-of-public-school-students-could-fall-by-more-than-8-in-a-decade/>

NEW YORK STATE

SED updates guidance regarding nonpublic education

The NYSED has issued updated guidance to ensure that the nearly 2,000 nonpublic NYS schools offer their students instruction that is substantially equivalent to public school counterparts. Public school officials are required under state law to review instruction at nonpublic schools, so their programs are comparable to those in public schools.

Keshia Clukey. "NY updates guidance for instruction at state's nonpublic schools." *Newsday*. November 21, 2018
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/new-york-schools-nonpublic-parochial-yeshiva-1.23634189>

State regulation of student loan industry sought

Students are graduating from college with a dangerous amount of debt; consumer advocates want NYS to step up. Rick Karlin. "With federal abdication, calls for state regulation of student loan industry amid debt crisis." *Albany Times Union*. November 27, 2018

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/With-federal-abdication-state-needs-to-regulate-13425708.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon

Commissioner Elia praises Long Island education leaders

State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia on Wednesday promoted the work of Long Island education leaders as a statewide model for collaboration from prekindergarten through 12th grade and higher education. The Superintendents-College Presidents Partnership, formed in 2001, is a work group of the Long Island Regional Advisory Council on Higher Education, a consortium of 15 colleges and universities. It brings together college presidents and school district superintendents to discuss issues affecting teaching and learning across all levels.

Keshia Clukey. "LI education partnership is model for the state." *Newsday*. November 28, 2018
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/education-college-maryellen-elia-1.24015421>