

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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December 14, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

Arts and Creativity in Schools

The arts and creativity are making a comeback in education. The latest issue of *Educational Leadership* examines the role of arts and creativity in fostering perception and problem solving, empowering students, and boosting learning. Articles include: "Arts Integration: A Creative Pathway for Teaching"; "Research Matters / Does Arts Education Matter?"; and "Confronting Inequity / More Than a Math and Science Teacher."

Educational Leadership, December 2018 Issue

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec18/vol76/num04/toc.aspx?utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_content=el&utm_campaign=el-newissue-dec18-email-120718

MIT researchers pilot "playful assessment"

Education researchers at MIT are developing a way to assess students to measure skills like creativity, critical thinking and curiosity. The "playful assessment" approach has the potential to change teaching and learning overall, in part, by making assessments less threatening, MIT researcher Yoon Jeon Kim says.

Emily Taate. "Is Assessment Ready to Move Beyond Standardized Tests? These MIT Researchers Think So." *Ed Surge*. December 10, 2018

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2018-12-10-is-assessment-ready-to-move-beyond-standardized-tests-these-mit-researchers-think-so>

Teachers' role in school decisions debated

Most school leaders think teachers are involved in making important school decisions; about 50% of teachers agree.

Madeline Will. "Do teachers have sway I school decisions? It depends on who you ask." *Education Week*. December 13, 2018

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2018/12/teacher_influence_school_decisions.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=58696259&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfa

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

Report shows cost of tax abatement to public schools

The national policy resource center, [Good Jobs First](http://www.goodjobsfirst.org), has produced "the first-ever disclosure of corporate tax abatements' cost to public education" in a report showing that subsidies in the form of tax abatement for corporations cost schools at least \$1.8 billion last year. School districts in ten states, led by South Carolina, New York and Louisiana, collectively lost \$1.6 billion. The report also includes suggestions for those seeking to increase compliance with tax abatement disclosure.

"New Math for School Finance." *Good Jobs First*. December 2018. <https://www.goodjobsfirst.org/newmath>

Full report. <https://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdfs/newmath2.pdf>

Communities of color increasingly resist charter schools

Families in communities of color are resisting corporate efforts to privatize their schools and stifle their voices. Corporate education 'reformers' target communities of color since their schools have lower test scores, which requires the suspension of elected schoolboards and the substitution of private corporations to run their district. But locals have figured out that the game is not to help their children but to take control and silence them.

Jeff Bryant. "Here's why urban communities of color are increasingly rejecting charter schools." *Alternet*. December 5, 2018

<https://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/urban-communities-color-increasingly-reject-charter-schools>

USDA to scale back school nutrition requirements

The US Department of Agriculture said an upcoming final rule will scale back school nutrition standards, reducing whole-grain requirements and allowing low-fat chocolate milk. The rule, to be issued later this month, also will give schools additional time to meet sodium-level requirements.

Chris Mills Rodrigo. "Trump administration to return refined grains to school lunches." *The Hill*. December 6, 2018

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/420184-trump-administration-to-return-refined-grains-to-school-lunches>

Julia Jacobs. "Trump Administration Rolls Back Obama-Era Rules for School Lunches." *NY Times*. December 8, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/08/us/trump-school-lunch-usda.html?emc=edit_th_181209&nl=todaysheadlines&nliid=188779071209

TEACH Grant recipients could turn their loans back into grants

The thousands of teachers who had their TEACH Grants converted to loans even when they were meeting the program's requirements now have an opportunity to redress the situation. Even if their annual certification paperwork was late or missing, if recipients can document that they are meeting or have met the teaching requirements of the program, the U.S.E.D. says it will change the loans back to grants. The U.S.E.D. will attempt to contact teachers who it thinks may qualify, but regardless, teachers will need to actively reach out to get help. Teachers can go to this [website](#) to monitor news of the department's reconsideration process.

Cory Turner and Chris Arnold. "Exclusive: Ed Department To Erase Debts Of Teachers, Fix Troubled Grant Program." *National Public Radio*. December 9, 2018. https://www.npr.org/2018/12/09/664317114/exclusive-ed-department-to-erase-debts-of-teachers-fix-troubled-grant-program?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20181210&utm_campaign=ed&utm_term=nprnews

School safety commission may rescind discipline rule

The Federal School Safety Commission will suggest eliminating a discipline rule, adopted during President Obama's administration, when it releases its report later this month. The rule was designed to prevent racial disparities in school discipline, but many conservatives say it gives the federal government too much authority over local matters.

Laura Meckler. "Betsy DeVos panel rejects Obama-era effort to reduce discrimination in school discipline." *Washington Post*. December 10, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/betsy-devos-school-safety-panel-takes-aim-at-obamas-discipline-guidance/2018/12/10/7e515700-f6b6-11e8-8c9a-860ce2a8148f_story.html?utm_term=.426d2ca58745&wpisrc=nl_sb_smartbrief

What's frustrating school leaders about ESSA

Tensions flare between state policymakers, K-12 practitioners, and parents over how to best define and report school success under redesigned accountability systems.

Daarel Burnette II. "Rollout of ESSA report cards frustrates school leaders." *Education Week*. December 11, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/12/12/rollout-of-essa-report-cards-frustrates-school.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-rm&M=58696259&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc>

NEW YORK STATE

Education issues likely to be discussed in Albany in 2019

School funding is not the only issue state lawmakers will try to advance next year. Some of the most major issues in education for the coming legislative session are teacher evaluations, charter schools and mayoral control.

Annie McDonough. "Albany's education to-do list." *City & State New York*. December 7, 2018

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/policy/education/albanys-education-to-do-list.html>

All NYS schools now must report allegations of sex abuse

NYC public schools and private academies across the state will be required to report allegations of sex abuse to public authorities under a new law signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The new law puts private schools on equal footing with public schools, which have been required for years to automatically report abuse to law enforcement, parents and education officials.

Nolan Hicks. "Cuomo signs bill forcing schools to report sex abuse allegations." *NY Post*. December 7, 2018

<https://nypost.com/2018/12/07/cuomo-signs-bill-forcing-schools-to-report-sex-abuse-allegations/>

Kenneth Lovett. "Cuomo signs bill requiring private schools to report allegations of sex abuse." *NY Daily News*. December 7, 2018

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-cuomo-private-schools-sex-abuse-20181207-story.html>

Regents seek \$2.1 billion hike in ed funding

The NYS Board of Regents has called for a \$2.1 billion hike in Foundation Aid for schools in the 2019-20 school year, a move applauded by education advocates.

Nick Neisman. "Board of Regents Wants \$2.1B Boost In School Aid." *State of Politics*. December 10, 2018

<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2018/12/board-of-regents-wants-2-1b-boost-in-school-aid/>

Catholic schools opposed new rule

The SED has proposed that all parochial schools be inspected by their local public school officials to ensure that students are receiving a "substantially equivalent" education. The proposal is the result of concerns that students in Ultra-Orthodox Yeshivas are not receiving education in the 3 Rs. Catholic schools have been caught up in the controversy and they see serious problems in the state's solution. Leaders of NYS's more than 500 Catholic schools say they will boycott a proposed new review system. SED officials said they are reviewing the situation.

Rick Karlin. "N.Y. Catholic schools will boycott new state survey, inspection program." *Albany Times Union*. December 11, 2018

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Catholic-schools-will-boycott-new-13458470.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon

Rick Karlin. "New York's Catholic schools are in revolt against the State Ed Dept." *Albany Times Union*. December 12, 2018

<https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/285185/new-yorks-catholic-schools-are-in-revolt-against-the-state-ed-dept/>