

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

December 16, 2022 Education News Update

Education News Update will be on hiatus until January 6, 2023. Best wishes for enjoying quality time with family and friends until then.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Is time an outdated measure of learning?

For more than a century, students' progress toward academic degrees has been broken into 120-hour chunks: the Carnegie unit (i.e., seat time, student hours, contact credit). The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching -- the architect of the time-based education system that has been the gold standard for over a century -- now is pursuing an initiative to establish a new measure of learning. The foundation's president tells why the Carnegie unit is outdated and makes the case for an outcomes-based system.

Sarah D. Sparks. "The Head of the Carnegie Foundation Wants to Ditch the Carnegie Unit. Here's Why." *Education Week*. December 08, 2022 [The Head of the Carnegie Foundation Wants to Ditch the Carnegie Unit. Here's Why \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/technology/the-head-of-the-carnegie-foundation-wants-to-ditch-the-carnegie-unit-here-s-why/2022/12/08)

3rd graders struggling most to recover from pandemic losses

Evidence shows that remote school and socially distanced instruction were profoundly detrimental to reading development. Children in kindergarten when the pandemic broke out are now in third grade. A new report by the nonprofit educational assessment maker NWEA documents that third graders are currently suffering the largest pandemic-related learning losses in reading, compared to older students in grades 4-8, and not readily recovering. Primary school kids rely on classroom instruction in school to learn to read. In older grades, much of the learning that accrues in reading is due to the students' own reading and writing activity. The early elementary years are critical because that's when most children learn how to read words, what educators call "decoding." Teachers in older grades don't necessarily have the specialized training to backfill what students missed. After children learn to read, they read to learn. Poor reading ability in third grade can hobble their future academic achievement. Therefore, states could be facing an avalanche of held-back children if retention rules are enforced later this school year.

Jill Barshay. "Third graders struggling the most to recover in reading after the pandemic." *Hechinger Report*. December 12, 2022

[PROOF POINTS: Third graders struggling the most to recover in reading after the pandemic \(hechingerreport.org\)](https://www.hechingerreport.org/third-graders-struggling-the-most-to-recover-in-reading-after-the-pandemic/)

Teacher's testing approach encourages note-taking skills

Students are encouraged to take conscientious notes in high-school government teacher Benjamin Barbour's classes because they are allowed to take exams twice -- first on their own and a second time with the help of their notes. In this article, Barbour explains that the two scores are then averaged, a process that he says encourages students to take notes and keep them organized.

Benjamin Barbour. "A Testing Strategy That Promotes Good Note-Taking." *Edutopia*. December 8, 2022

[A Testing Strategy That Promotes Good Note-Taking Skills | Edutopia](https://www.edutopia.org/article/a-testing-strategy-that-promotes-good-note-taking-skills/)

Program pairs future teachers, struggling readers

A reading tutor program of the City University of New York is pairing students who are enrolled in teacher training with some of the about 50% of NYC public-school students who are unable to read at grade level by third grade. Started in the fall of 2020, the CUNY Reading supports struggling readers while also giving future teachers the opportunity to work directly with students.

Alex Zimmerman. "Half of NYC students are behind in reading. Hundreds of CUNY tutors aim to change that." *Chalkbeat/NY*.

December 7, 2022 [CUNY Reading Corps tackles student literacy gaps with tutoring - Chalkbeat New York](https://www.chalkbeat.com/story/cuny-reading-corps-tackles-student-literacy-gaps-with-tutoring/2022/12/07/)

How to use Snopes in classroom lessons

Snopes, a fact-checking website, can be a useful teaching tool to help students engage in fact-checking and distinguish fact from fiction online. This article identifies several ways to use the free resource in lessons, including a "show and tell" exercise where students share a story and what information has been debunked.

Luke Edwards. "What is Snopes and How Can It Be Used to Teach? Tips & Tricks." *Tech & Learning*. December 8, 2022

[What is Snopes and How Can It Be Used to Teach? | Tech & Learning \(techlearning.com\)](https://www.techlearning.com/what-is-snopes-and-how-can-it-be-used-to-teach/)

Study to determine if "Syncretic Learning" can improve math instruction

Math is sometimes presented to students as impersonal and isolated from real life. The Writing Data Stories project aims to alter that approach by using a "syncretic" approach to learning. This method encourages students to integrate everyday personal and cultural experiences with school-based academic concepts—to deepen comprehension, provide opportunities to apply what's learned in different disciplinary areas and aspects of civic life, and

demonstrate how different texts and information are valued or devalued in different spheres. Dual language learners are a major focus, so students are encouraged to produce work that incorporates home cultures and languages. The project involves 2,500 San Francisco-area students and 20 teachers who are provided with professional development and curricular resources. Funded by the **National Science Foundation**, the **three-year project** co-led by NEPC Fellow **Kris Gutiérrez** is a collaboration between the University of California, Berkeley, North Carolina State University, University of Texas at Austin, and the Concord Consortium.

"Can 'Syncretic Learning' Improve Math Instruction?" *National Education Policy Center Newsletter*. December 13, 2022
www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=272324&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

School buses use AI to identify unsafe drivers

Several school districts in Pennsylvania are tapping artificial intelligence to identify drivers who do not stop for school buses. The technology uses school bus cameras to scan license plates of vehicles that illegally pass a school bus and taps AI to identify drivers and send them a \$300 ticket.

Jeff Cole. "Local schools planning to implement new AI technology to keep kids safe on school buses." *WTXF-Fox 29* (Philadelphia). December 7, 2022
[Local schools planning to implement new AI technology to keep kids safe on school buses \(fox29.com\)](https://www.fox29.com/local-schools-planning-to-implement-new-ai-technology-to-keep-kids-safe-on-school-buses/)

Report finds inequitable school funding

School districts that enroll more students of color and/or more students from low-income backgrounds, receive about 16% less in state and local revenue than districts that enroll the fewest students of color, according to a report by The Education Trust. The analysis finds that school districts with the most English-language learners receive about 14% fewer dollars.

Kara Arundel. "States failing to provide equitable funding for underserved students." *K-12 Dive*. December 8, 2022
[States failing to provide equitable funding for underserved students | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/states-failing-to-provide-equitable-funding-for-underserved-students/)

College financial aid confusing to students

Financial aid offers from colleges are confusing, misleading, and perhaps downright deceptive. The U.S. Government Accountability Office found that 91% of colleges did not include in their aid offers the information needed to understand their net price – which is how much out-of-pocket money the student or family will need to pay to attend, including using loans. Almost a quarter (22%) of colleges did not provide ANY information about the cost of attending the school in their financial aid offers.

Elissa Nadworny. "College aid letters are misleading students." *NPR/All Things Considered*. December 5, 2022
[College financial aid letters mislead and confuse, with real consequences. : NPR](https://www.npr.org/2022/12/05/1128888888)

N.J. could be first to require media literacy in K-12

A bill adopted by the New Jersey Legislature and headed to Governor Phil Murphy's desk for a signature would integrate lessons on how to identify misinformation across all K-12 grades and subjects. The legislation, believed to be the first of its kind adopted in the US, would have school librarians and media specialists, as well as teachers, teach media literacy.

Javeria Salman. "One state is poised to teach media literacy starting in kindergarten." *Hechinger Report*. December 10, 2022
[One state is poised to teach media literacy starting in kindergarten \(hechingerreport.org\)](https://hechingerreport.org/one-state-is-poised-to-teach-media-literacy-starting-in-kindergarten/)

President announces federal STEMM initiative

President Biden announced a new initiative during a Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence held on December 12 -- with the additional "m" in STEMM standing for medical fields. The initiative will focus on five action items, including addressing teacher shortages in STEMM and closing STEMM funding gaps.

Libby Stanford. "The Biden Administration's New STEM Initiative: What Will It Mean for K-12 Schools?" *Education Week*. December 12, 2022
[The Biden Administration's New STEM Initiative: What Will It Mean for K-12 Schools? \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/technology/the-biden-administrations-new-stem-initiative-what-will-it-mean-for-k-12-schools/2022/12/12)

Analysis: Racial, ethnic disparities in NYS schools

While 30% of students in NYS are Latinx, only 8% of teachers identify as such, according to an analysis released from The Education Trust New York. The report cites the benefits of having more teachers of color in the classroom.

Noelle E. C. Evans. "Study: teachers of color critical to education's future in NY." *WXXI News*. December 12, 2022

[Study: teachers of color critical to education's future in NY \(wxxi.com\)](https://www.wxxi.com/news/education/study-teachers-of-color-critical-to-education-s-future-in-ny/)

Schools vs. TikTok: How they take on challenge trends

Schools and school districts nationwide are taking steps to address TikTok challenges that encourage harm to school property and false police calls, among other things. Actions include beefing up education about social media use and even blocking TikTok and other platforms.

Sarah Wood. "How Schools Are Handling TikTok Challenges." *US News & World Report*. December 12, 2022
[How Schools Are Handling TikTok Challenges | K-12 Schools | U.S. News \(usnews.com\)](https://www.usnews.com/education/news-ideas/articles/2022/12/12/how-schools-are-handling-tiktok-challenges)

NEW YORK STATE

State officials recommend that schools return to masking

NYS health and education officials are recommending that school leaders protect themselves against the growing number of flu, COVID-19 and RSV cases by once again masking indoors. In a letter sent to school districts, state Health Commissioner Mary Bassett and state Education Commissioner Betty Rosa released a series of health recommendations for public schools as a surge of respiratory virus cases have strained the health care system. Beyond masking, they also advised schools to encourage students to stay up to date on their vaccinations, thoroughly wash hands and stay home when sick. The state recommendations [largely echo](#) guidance given by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but no mandates or directives have been implemented. Sahalie Donaldson. "New York recommends masking again. Will mask-weary schools comply?" *City & State/NY*. December 9, 2022 [New York recommends masking again. Will mask-weary schools comply? - City & State New York \(cityandstateny.com\)](#)

Regents: District names may remain but some mascots and nicknames must go

The Board of Regents is not relenting on a ban of mascots and nicknames that refer to indigenous people, but has agreed that school district names could remain. School district names, building names that refer to indigenous people, like Mohonasen and Shenendehowa, may stay, but nicknames and mascots must be replaced. Many places in New York have long had names that refer to Native American tribes, such as Seneca and Cayuga counties. Locally, Shenendehowa is a word in the Iroquois language, and every school building name in district also comes from that language. The Mohonasen school district is a reference to three tribes — Mohawk, Onondaga and Seneca. Kathleen Moore. "Board of Regents: Mohonasen's district name can stay, but mascot must go." *Albany Times Union*. December 12, 2022 https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Board-of-Regents-Mohonasen-s-district-name-can-17648766.php?IPID=Times-Union-HP-spotlight&oref=csny_firstreadtonight_nl

NYSED submits proposal for \$3.4 billion increase in state aid

On December 12, the NYSED put out its state aid proposal, which includes a \$3.4 billion increase from the current budget year. The proposal is the largest requested school aid increase in state history, which the department says is due to a fully funded foundation aid and inflation. "What we attempted to do this time was focusing around what we know about how young people are learning, grow and develop and what is the role of schools in this core mission," Chancellor Lester Young said. "I think it's a breath of fresh air because it really addresses an issue that I think has been wrong with public education, that there's actually nothing wrong with our children." Katelyn Cordero. "New York Education Department requests largest school aid increase in history." *Politico NY*. December 12, 2022 [POLITICO Pro | Article | New York Education Department requests largest school aid increase in history](#)

Survey offers snapshot of teaching profession

Regular, full-time public-school teachers on average are contractually obligated to work 38 hours a week, but work an average of 52 hours, according to the 2020-21 National Teacher and Principal Survey released Tuesday by the National Center for Education Statistics. The survey also revealed that public-school teachers earn about 30% more than their peers in private schools -- an average salary of \$61,600 per year, compared with \$46,400. Full Story: Education Week (12/13), The Washington Post (12/13), K-12 Dive (12/13)

FCC asked to step up K-12 Cybersecurity

US Rep. Doris Matsui, D-California, is asking the FCC to take action to improve K-12 cybersecurity. In a Dec. 8 letter to FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, Matsui advocates for a more coordinated approach between the FCC and other federal agencies to prevent cyberattacks. Full Story: K-12 Dive (12/13)