

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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December 2, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Principles to support successful SEL

Districts have incorporated social-emotional-learning principles for decades to teach students how to manage emotions, achieve goals, show empathy, and build strong relationships. And 83% of educators said in a survey that [SEL has had a positive impact](#) on their students' academic performance. Effective SEL programs depend on use of best practices. Here's [what experts recommend](#) to implement or recharge SEL programs and curricula:

- **Use evidence-based strategies.** Organizations like the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) offer website resources. Districts should also collect their own data to assess program.
- **Avoid a one-size-fits-all approach.** Districts can customize SEL based on a school's racial demographics, socio-economic statuses, and knowledge of potentially traumatic events that have occurred there.
- **Embed SEL into the curriculum.** SEL should include lesson plans specific to the practice plus a regular curriculum with integrated SEL lessons.
- **Target all age groups.** While SEL helps students, it can also benefit school staff.
- **Be transparent.** Since 41% of school district leaders say they've received negative feedback about SEL, make clear what's being taught. Bonus feature: [See a lesson on empathy](#) and kindness.

Libby Stanford. "Make SEL Work by Applying These 6 Best Practices." *Education Week*. November 7, 2022
[Make SEL Work by Applying These 6 Best Practices](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/make-sel-work-by-applying-these-6-best-practices/2022/11) (edweek.org)

Study: Starting school day after 9:00 a.m. helps teachers

Later school start times in MS and HS may benefit teachers, too, according to a study by researchers. The study found that these teachers were more effective when the school day began after 9:00 a.m.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Later School Start Times Could Help Teachers, Too." *Education Week*. November 17, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/late-school-start-times-could-help-teachers-too/2022/11>

Middle-school educators tout benefits of play, recess

A Virginia MS is scheduling recess for to give students -- and teachers -- a much-needed break, to help students develop soft skills and to promote physical activity at a time when students typically grow more sedentary.

Adolescents need unstructured time to build connections with other students and learn how to recover after failure.

Christiana A. Samuels. "Play is crucial for middle schoolers, too." *Hechinger Report*. November 17, 2022
<https://hechingerreport.org/play-is-crucial-for-middle-schoolers-too/>

Tech tools engage struggling students with reading

Tools such as augmented reality and audiobooks can help engage students who struggle with traditional books. AR creates an immersive visual and sometimes audio experience that can draw in reluctant readers.

Alexandra Frost. "Improve K-12 Literacy with Next-Gen Reading Tools." *Ed Tech*. November 9, 2022
<https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2022/11/improve-k-12-literacy-next-gen-reading-tools-perfcon>

Districts struggle to meet mental health needs

As demand for mental health services has risen, school districts across the US are struggling to address students' mental health needs—12 of the 18 largest school districts had fewer counselors or psychologists at the start of this school year than in 2019, according to a Chalkbeat analysis, while federal data shows that social workers are taking on some of the need, as their ranks have grown by almost 50%, compared with before the pandemic.

Patrick Wall et alia. "School psychologist, counselor hiring lags nationwide even as student mental health needs soar." *Chalkbeat*. November 18, 2022
[Schools struggle to staff up for youth mental health crisis - Chalkbeat: Essential education reporting across America](#)

Creating a unified school culture in a divisive society

We know there's a correlation between students' academic performance and their sense of belonging in the school community. A Maryland HS principal explains what leaders can do to prevent political and social division from impacting a unified school culture.

Gina Davenport. "Building a Unified School Culture in a Divisive Society." *ASCD*. October 24, 2022
[Building a Unified School Culture in a Divisive Society](https://www.ascd.org/Building-a-Unified-School-Culture-in-a-Divisive-Society) ([ascd.org](https://www.ascd.org))

SEL helps prepare students for the workplace

Social and emotional learning helps prepare students for future careers by helping to develop their "soft skills," according to 84% of educators and leaders surveyed by the EdWeek Research Center. SEL skills are desirable among employers and key to students' success in school and beyond.

Lauraine Langreo. "Does SEL Make Students Ready for Work? We Asked Educators." *Education Week*. November 21, 2022
[Does SEL Make Students Ready for Work? We Asked Educators \(edweek.org\)](#)

How teachers can move beyond traditional assessments

A humanities and drama teacher writes that standards-based grading, when combined with other approaches, can make a big difference in facilitating positive learning experiences for students. She encourages educators to make student assessment goals clear, provide learning opportunities for students of all levels, promote a growth mindset and adapt lessons to include student voices.

Shannon Schinkel. "7 Ways to Build a Learner-Centered Classroom." *Edutopia*. November 18, 2022
[7 Ways to Build a Learner-Centered Classroom for High School | Edutopia](#)

Ed tech investments & equity

Investments in education technology since the start of the pandemic may have helped narrow access gaps, but several educators and experts caution that equity gaps still remain. They say to measure equity that other factors, such as product design, teacher training and organizational capacity, should be evaluated.

Benjamin Herold. "All That Ed Tech Schools Bought During the Pandemic Won't Improve Equity. Here's Why." *Education Week*. November 28, 2022
[All That Ed Tech Schools Bought During the Pandemic Won't Improve Equity. Here's Why \(edweek.org\)](#)

Data: Dual enrollment among high-schoolers rises

Community-college enrollment nationwide is up slightly on average, in large part due to an 11% increase in dual enrollment among HS students, data indicate. John Fink, a senior research associate at the Community College Research Center of Teachers College at Columbia University, says this is an important constituency for community colleges, as enrollment of older adults declines.

Liam Knox. "Can High Schoolers Save the Community College?" *Inside Higher Education*. November 22, 2022
[As community colleges struggle, dual enrollment grows \(insidehighered.com\) As community colleges struggle, dual enrollment grows \(insidehighered.com\)](#)

Teacher prep programs take steps to include more tech

Teaching and learning may be permanently altered by the pandemic, and now teacher preparation programs nationwide are including some of the teaching techniques that challenged educators during the period of remote instruction. Most institutions have made progress toward including technology in their teacher prep programs.

Silas Allen. "Virtual learning left teachers scrambling. How are teacher prep programs catching up?" *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. November 28, 2022
[Texas colleges of education update curricula after COVID pandemic | Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#)
Read more at: <https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/education/article268921392.html#storylink=cpy>

Dual-language learning boosts student learning outcomes

Dual-language programs have been shown to improve student achievement for students who are English-language learners and those from low-income households, writes a language specialist and social studies teacher. He writes that dual-language programs engage students while helping improve their cognitive development because they understand more in class.

Tan Huynh. "Transform Learning with Dual Language Programs." *Middle Web*. November 27, 2022
[Transforming Learning with Dual Language Programs \(middleweb.com\)](#)

Making digital learning work for students

Despite concerns about screen time, digital learning can engage and empower students and improve academic outcomes, writes the digital coach at Denver Public Schools. She shares how her district maximized digital learning by having students research, problem-solve and then present their findings to peers.

Britney Horton. "Staying the course: Lessons learned from digital learning." *Smart Brief/Education*. November 29, 2022
[Staying the course: Lessons learned from digital learning - SmartBrief](#)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Federal Judge Overturns Florida's "WOKE" Act in Higher Education

A federal judge ruled on November 17 that Florida's WOKE act is "dystopian" and banned its enforcement in the state's public colleges. WOKE means any teaching that makes white students uncomfortable, so teaching anti-racism is WOKE. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis unveiled the framework for the law in December 2021. During the 2022 legislative session, the measure spurred fierce debates and criticism from those who said it would exacerbate inequities faced by minorities. The law took effect July 1.

More at: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/education/article268882172.html#storylink=cpy>

'Florida: Federal Judge Overturns "WOKE" Act in Higher Education.' *Diane Ravitch's blog*. November 18, 2022
<https://dianeravitch.net/2022/11/18/florida-federal-judge-rules-woke-act-unconstitutional-in-higher-education/>

K-12 schools make gains but still struggle with security

Schools improved cybersecurity this year with better identity management and cyber-hygiene training, the Center for Internet Security reports, but ransomware attacks on K-12 schools continued due to insufficient funds and cybersecurity personnel.

Benjamin Freed. "K-12 cyber maturity improving, but still lags behind other sectors." *State Scoop*. November 14, 2022
<https://statescoop.com/k-12-cyber-maturity-improving-but-still-lags-behind-other-sectors/>

Some popular VR products violate privacy laws

Much of the virtual reality technology that is popular with schools collect a concerning amount of personal data from students, according to analysis by Common Sense Media. Girard Kelly, Common Sense's director of privacy, said none of the products currently on the market meet the organization's requirements -- saying they all could be violating federal private laws -- and advises districts to delay plans to invest in VR.

Alyson Klein. "VR Devices Collect 'Intimate' Data, Lack Privacy Protections. Should Schools Invest?" *Education Week*. November 18, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/technology/vr-devices-collect-intimate-data-lack-privacy-protections-should-schools-invest/2022/11>

How to use \$1 billion in grants to curb violence

The U.S.E.D. has released a draft FAQ for the \$1 billion Stronger Connections grant program, which is intended to help strengthen effort to prevent school violence. The department's recommendations include the hiring of behavior specialists, adoption of anti-bullying practices, and curtailing the use of exclusionary discipline practices.

Kara Arundel. "Ed Dept outlines school violence prevention options under \$1B Stronger Connections grant program." *K-12 Dive*. November 18, 2022
[Ed Dept outlines school violence prevention options under \\$1B Stronger Connections grant program | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/ed-dept-outlines-school-violence-prevention-options-under-1-billion-stronger-connections-grant-program/)

Test-optional admissions procedures continue beyond pandemic

Test-optional and test-free college admissions, which took hold during the early days of the pandemic, will be made permanent at 1,450 colleges, according to data from FairTest. For fall 2023, FairTest reports, 1,835 four-year colleges are not requiring students to submit SAT or ACT scores to be considered.

Jeremy Bauer-Wolf. "Over 1,830 colleges are test-optional for fall 2023 admissions." *K-12 Dive*. November 18, 2022
[Over 1,830 colleges are test-optional for fall 2023 admissions | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/over-1830-colleges-are-test-optional-for-fall-2023-admissions/)

Equity in support for schools = more \$\$ for lower-income students

A new study by Zachary Oberfield of Haverford College and NEPC Fellow Bruce Baker of the University of Miami, appearing in the current issue of the *American Educational Research Journal*, shows that students from lower-income families cost more to educate (from 122-167 % more). "Thus, if states are to ensure that all students have an equal chance at success, they must strive for finance equity, funding districts commensurate with their needs rather than aiming for mere parity," they write. Currently, "most states have achieved some level of progressivity in how they fund education," but "states are underspending on education for poor students," the authors warn. The authors urge further research into multiple aspects of their findings, including the association between changes in school funding progressivity and demographic shifts in the student population.

"Another Troubling Link Between K-12 Spending and Student Demographics." *National Education Policy Center*. November 29, 2022
www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=270559&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5

Researchers and funders behind vouchers

A longtime voucher researcher notes that all pro-voucher research is disguised advocacy for vouchers, especially if it funded or produced by individuals and organizations he identifies in this extensive article, and which he states are part of a small, interconnected and insular group of research-activists with direct ties to Betsy DeVos, Charles Koch, the Waltons and other privatization financiers. He says, "Pro-voucher research is pro-voucher advocacy, and pro-voucher advocacy is part of the larger effort to undermine public education, undermine a more humane approach to tolerating difference and diversity in our schools, and in many cases undermine free embrace of democracy itself."

Josh Cowen is a 20-year veteran voucher researcher. He is a professor of education policy at Michigan State University.

"Josh Cowen: A Citizen's Guide to the Researchers and Funders Behind Vouchers." *Diane Ravitch's blog*. November 29, 2022
<http://dianeravitch.net/2022/11/29/josh-cowen-beware-of-voucher-advocacy-disguised-as-research/>

Chan Zuckerberg backs research to improve education

The author notes that the past three years in education have revealed the need to tap the latest research to make teaching and learning more effective, and that Chan Zuckerberg is partnering with other stakeholders and educators to put research into practice and improve outcomes for students and teachers.

Sandra Liu Huang is head of education and vice president of product at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

Sandra Liu Huang. "Leveraging latest research for education technology tools teachers need." *Smart Brief/Education*. November 30, 2022
[Leveraging latest research for education technology tools teachers need - SmartBrief](https://www.smartbrief.com/education/leveraging-latest-research-for-education-technology-tools-teachers-need)

Federal programs support schools' energy upgrades

High-needs school districts in the US are eligible for new federal grant programs to support energy upgrades in schools. The programs will provide \$84.5 million in federal funding.

Anna Merod. "Applications open for \$84.5M in Energy Dept school infrastructure grants." *K-12 Dive*. November 29, 2022

NEW YORK STATE

NYSED bans use of team names, mascots depicting indigenous Americans

The New York State Education Department on November 17 ordered school districts in NYS to stop using mascots, team names or imagery depicting Native Americans by the end of the 2022-2023 school year or risk losing state aid. Joie Tyrrell. "State Ed tells schools to stop using team names, mascots depicting Native Americans." *Newsday*. November 18, 2022

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/state-education-department-native-american-mascots-team-names-symbols-whmm10z4>

In 2001, Richard Mills, the then-commissioner of the NYSED, urged NYS's school districts to "end the use of Native American mascots as soon as practical." Now the state's going to make it stick, but it likely won't be easy. "Editorial: The end of an error." Albany Times Union Editorial Board. November 29, 2022

https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Editorial-The-end-of-an-error-17610139.php?IPID=Times-Union-opinion-centerpiece&oref=csny_firstread_nl

Jewish schools file for injunction against NYS regs for private schools

Yeshiva groups have filed a motion for a preliminary injunction against NYS's new regulations on the curriculum of private schools, arguing the regulations violate the constitutional rights of Orthodox Jewish families as well as state education laws.

Reuvain Borchardt. "NY Yeshiva Groups Seek Injunction Against Education Regulations." *Hamodia*. November 22, 2022

[NY Yeshiva Groups Seek Injunction Against Education Regulations - Hamodia.com](https://www.hamodia.com/ny-yeshiva-groups-seek-injunction-against-education-regulations)

NYS under pressure to fund universal school meals

School districts and nonprofits in NYS are urging lawmakers to allocate about \$200 million in the state's 2024 fiscal budget to offer universal school meals, following the lead of other states. With many families continuing to struggle financially, children are going hungry, so "every dollar invested in school meals is a return on investment up to two times in health, equity, environmental and economic benefits."

Shenandoah Briere. "Feeding students: School districts, organizations push for state funding for universal meals." *Syracuse Daily Gazette*. November 26, 2022

[Feeding students: School districts, organizations push for state funding for universal meals - The Daily Gazette](https://www.syracuse.com/news/education/feeding-students-school-districts-organizations-push-for-state-funding-for-universal-meals/)

WIZARD OF ID Jeff Parker and Johnny Hart



Democrat & Chronicle. December 1, 2022, page C-6