

# 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](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net)

## December 7, 2018 News Round-up

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### Is education research funding paying off?

The Institute of Education Sciences has been getting teacher and administrator feedback on education research and found that there may be a disconnect between studies completed and their practical implementation in schools.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Teachers want education research. The feds spend millions on it. So why can't it get to the classroom?" *Education Week*.

November 27, 2018

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/11/get\\_teachers\\_research\\_on\\_education.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/11/get_teachers_research_on_education.html)

Emily Tate. "Education Leaders Propose Ways to Add Teacher Voice to Research Decisions." *Ed Surge*. November 28, 2018

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2018-11-28-education-leaders-propose-ways-to-add-teacher-voice-to-research-decisions>

#### ADHD over-diagnosis for youngest students

Harvard University researchers have found that children who start school up to a year sooner than many of their peers are more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD — even if they don't really have the condition. As a result, large numbers of children may be improperly labeled with the disorder when, instead, they are just immature and display behavior consistent with their younger age.

Valerie Strauss. "Harvard study: Children who start school early more likely to get ADHD diagnosis — even if they don't have it." *Washington Post/Answer Sheet* blog. November 28, 2018

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/11/28/harvard-study-children-who-start-school-early-more-likely-get-adhd-diagnosis-even-if-they-dont-have-it/?utm\\_term=.deb0cda706bf&wpsrc=nl\\_answer&wpm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/11/28/harvard-study-children-who-start-school-early-more-likely-get-adhd-diagnosis-even-if-they-dont-have-it/?utm_term=.deb0cda706bf&wpsrc=nl_answer&wpm=1)

#### Study of the Constitution rekindled by political climate

Is the current political climate rekindling interest in teaching about the U.S. Constitution? That's what some civics teachers, law experts, and leaders of national groups are saying.

Mark Walsh. "Lessons on U.S. Constitution find new relevance." *Education Week*. November 27, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/11/28/lessons-on-us-constitution-find-new-relevance.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-rm&M=58687563&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

#### Shortage of special education teachers

Educating children with disabilities is among the most challenging pieces of the public school system's mission — and regulations, funding, and legalities are just the start.

Christine Samuels & Alex Harwin. "Shortage of special educators adds to classroom pressures." *Education Week*. December 5, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/12/05/shortage-of-special-educators-adds-to-classroom.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-rm&M=58688740&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

#### Study finds toxic substances in school supplies

The U.S. PIRG Education Fund, a public-interest research group, tested 27 products commonly used by schoolchildren. They found toxic substances in crayons, markers, and binders.

Sasha Jones. "Toxic substances found in school supplies, according to report." *Education Week*. December 4, 2018

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/District\\_Dossier/2018/12/toxic\\_substances\\_found\\_in\\_scho.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58688740&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/District_Dossier/2018/12/toxic_substances_found_in_scho.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58688740&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

#### Schools & businesses partner to address skills gap

Manufacturers expect a skills gap to worsen — creating additional challenges as firms seek to fill jobs, according to a recent report. Now some schools, particularly in the Midwest, are partnering with manufacturers to offer training in the trades to help shore up the pipeline of skilled workers.

Jesse Higgins. "U.S. manufacturers struggling to find workers turning to high schools." *United Press International*. December 4, 2018

[https://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2018/12/04/US-manufacturers-struggling-to-find-workers-turning-to-high-schools/7841543589283/](https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2018/12/04/US-manufacturers-struggling-to-find-workers-turning-to-high-schools/7841543589283/)

#### Teachers increasingly disillusioned about education profession

America's teachers remain committed to their students, but take an increasingly dim view of the future of the profession, according to the 2018 *Schooling in America* survey.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Teachers: I trust my students, I trust my principal, but trust me, you don't want my job." *Education Week*. December 6, 2018

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/12/teachers\\_i\\_love\\_my\\_students\\_i.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58690952&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2018/12/teachers_i_love_my_students_i.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58690952&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

Complete 2018 *Schooling in America* Survey accessible at <https://www.edchoice.org/research/2018-schooling-in-america-survey/>

#### Considerations in recruiting and retaining millennial teachers

Dozens of coaches and administrators gathered to address tactics for hiring and retaining millennial teachers-and with an eye toward avoiding stereotypes.

## NATIONAL / FEDERAL

### US announces 5-year STEM education plan

The federal administration has released a five-year plan to expand science, technology, engineering and math education. The plan calls for more basic education about STEM concepts, an increase in STEM access and support for students who want to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Lauren Camera. "White House outlines five-year STEM push." *U.S. News & World Report*. December 3, 2018  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2018-12-03/white-house-outlines-five-year-stem-push>

### When Publicly Funded Schools Exclude Segments of the Public

This policy brief reveals three factors allowing voucher and charter school programs to practice discrimination: \* Federal law defines discrimination differently in public and private spaces.

- \* State legislatures have largely neglected issues of discrimination while constructing voucher and charter laws.
- \* Private and charter schools may determine what programs to offer to attract some students and exclude others.

The brief analyzes these factors and offers recommendations to help address the issue of publicly funded programs failing to serve all segments of the public:

*Julie F. Mead is a professor at the University of Wisconsin; Suzanne E. Eckes is a professor at Indiana University.*

Julie F. Mead & Suzanne E. Eckes. "How School Privatization Opens the Door for Discrimination." *National Education Policy Center/University of Colorado/Boulder*. December 6, 2018  
<https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/privatization>

### Federal plan to keep benefits from immigrants would hurt schools

An advocacy group representing school superintendents says the Trump administration proposal would place a greater and unfair burden on schools to provide health and other services.

Andrew Ujifusa. "Trump push to steer immigrants away from federal benefits worries schools." *Education Week*. December 5, 2018  
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/12/trump-federal-benefits-immigrants-public-charge-schools-worry.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58689768&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

### Does College Board deserve public subsidies?

The College Entrance Examination Board (College Board) develops, and administers standardized tests, most famously the "SAT suite of tests," and the Advanced-Placement (AP) courses. The College Board is a nonprofit, organization (a 501(c)(3)) and pays no taxes on revenues derived from activities aligned with its public mission. But College Board activities also affect public policy, even while it remains a private organization governed only by its own board of trustees. College Board pursues public funds, with much success to directly or indirectly support its programs. This report considers whether or not the College Board should receive subsidies. This extensive, well-researched report lifts most of its facts from College Board Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filings and US government grant award records. Other sources are referenced as appropriate.

*Richard Phelps is a testing expert.*

Richard P. Phelps. "Does College Board deserve public subsidies?" *Nonpartisan Education Review*. August 25, 2018  
<https://nonpartisaneducation.org/Review/Articles/v14n7.pdf>

## NEW YORK STATE

### Student facial-recognition security in question

Twenty-five school districts in NYS intend to spend state technology funds on high-tech security. One district's plans to adopt facial-recognition software, however, has drawn criticism from civil liberties groups and is prompting the state to ask the district to re-evaluate its decision.

Corinne Lestch. "Facial surveillance, other school security upgrades raise eyebrows in New York." *Ed Scoop*. November 27, 2018  
<https://edscoop.com/new-york-districts-face-privacy-concerns-amid-security-upgrades/>

### NYSUT membership drops 6%

New York State United Teachers, during the past year following the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision, saw a 6% drop in the number of people who pay either regular dues or special fees, as was expected.

Rick Karlin. "NYSUT has fewer payers post-Janus decision." *Albany Times Union*. December 3, 2018  
[https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/NYSUT-has-fewer-payers-post-Janus-13439737.php?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Timesunion\\_Capcon](https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/NYSUT-has-fewer-payers-post-Janus-13439737.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_Capcon)

### How to pay for SUNY wage increases debated

Questions about how to fund more than \$300 million in raises for SUNY professors and other employees were debated this week by the workers union and SUNY's administration. SUNY officials say a \$200 tuition hike next year should help balance the books for SUNY campuses. The UUP (United University Professionals, a NYSUT subsidiary) wants a special funding stream to ensure it doesn't harm other programs. The raises were negotiated with

the state and approved earlier this fall. The Assembly and Senate for three years have passed a “Enhanced Maintenance of Effort” law that would cover inflation, but the governor has vetoed it for two years.

Rick Karlin. “SUNY officials, union debate how to pay for professor raises.” *Albany Times Union*, December 5, 2018

[https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Officials-union-debates-how-to-pay-for-professor-13445397.php?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Timesunion\\_DailyBrief](https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Officials-union-debates-how-to-pay-for-professor-13445397.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Timesunion_DailyBrief)