

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 9, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Google: What's next in education

Three education trends can be seen across many countries, according to a study by Google for Education: demand for global problem-solvers, evolving workplace skills and importance of a lifelong learning mindset. The global head of education impact at Google (and veteran math and science middle-grades teacher) says the findings backed her own approach to teaching and preparing students for the workforce.

Erik Ofgang. "Google for Education Identifies 3 New Education Trends." *Tech & Learning*. December 5, 2022
[Google for Education Identifies 3 New Trends | Tech & Learning \(techlearning.com\)](#)

Care structures, agile systems among pandemic lessons

The author queried education leaders on the top lessons learned from the pandemic and whether they expected the lessons to last. Among the lessons listed by educators were the importance of embedded care structures for students, a need for flexibility and agility in systems, and a mindset that fosters more rapid change.

Larry Ferlazzo. "The Pandemic May Have Eased, But There's No Going Back for Districts." *Education Week*. December 1, 2022
[The Pandemic May Have Eased, But There's No Going Back for Districts \(Opinion\) \(edweek.org\)](#)

Study: Poverty tied to externalizing problems in preteens

A study involving more than 7,500 early adolescents ages 9 - 10 from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study found that poverty was associated with an increase in externalizing problems at one-year follow-up. The study also found this association was mediated by decreases in cortical surface area of numerous brain regions, highlighting the potential neurobiological mechanisms underlying the link between poverty and externalizing problems.

Ken Downey, Jr. "Poverty linked to externalizing problems in early adolescence." *Healio*. December 1, 2022
[Poverty linked to externalizing problems in early adolescence \(healio.com\)](#)

Pandemic stress linked to physically aged brain of teens

A study published in *Biological Psychiatry: Global Open Science* found that pandemic-related stressors have physically altered teens' brains, highlighting that the brains of teens who were assessed after the pandemic shutdowns appeared several years older than those who were assessed before the pandemic. Researchers also noted that teens assessed during the pandemic showed signs of advanced cortical thinning and had larger hippocampal and amygdala volume compared with teens examined pre-pandemic.

Judy Packer-Tursman. "Study: Teens' brains physically altered, prematurely aged by pandemic stress." *United Press International*. December 1, 2022
[Study: Teens' brains physically altered, prematurely aged by pandemic stress - UPI.com](#)

NWEA: Academic recovery slower for some students

It could take 2 - 5+ years for some students to make a full academic recovery from losses stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, according to an analysis by the nonprofit testing company NWEA. NWEA says teachers will need flexibility moving forward to support students at varied levels of proficiency.

Julian Shen-Berro. "Fall test scores show a slow, uneven academic rebound." *Chalkbeat*. December 6, 2022
[Fall test scores show an uneven academic rebound - Chalkbeat: Essential education reporting across America](#)

Pandemic struggles add to demands on special ed

Ripple effects stemming from the pandemic have left many students in need of intensive emotional and academic support. However, concerns are rising about the ongoing strain on special education. Educators and experts say they are making close calls to determine whether students need added support or require special-education services.

Heather Hollingsworth. "Many kids are struggling. Is special education the answer?" *Associated Press*. December 6, 2022
[Many kids are struggling. Is special education the answer? | AP News](#)

Schools often punish poverty

In the name of "equality," many school policies perpetuate inequalities. The founder of the Equity Literacy Institute addresses four school policy areas that alienate and punish students of lesser means: considering students "deficient"; treating students "equally" while ignoring context; humiliating kids by making them admit "I can't pay"; and offering learning opportunities -- only to those who pay an extra fee.

Paul Gorski. "Stop Punishing Poverty in Schools." *ASCD*. December 1, 2022

How can neuroscience inform approaches to learning?

New research shows that brain scans can predict learning better than traditional assessments, and give clues about effective teaching approaches. A study led by neuroscientists at Georgetown University examined brain scans of students before and after learning to identify changes and found that curricula that emphasized spatial reasoning had the largest effect on verbal reasoning skills. While brain scans are not affordable for education assessment, educators can use the results of such studies to determine which teaching approaches are most effective.

Chris Parr. "Can you see learning in the brain?" *London Times/The Education Supplement (TES)*. December 5, 2022
[Research: Can brain scans measure learning better than exams? \(tes.com\)](https://www.tes.com)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

GAO faults colleges for not providing clarity about financial aid

The Government Accountability Office is calling out colleges for not providing more clear information to prospective students about the cost of an education. The GAO reviewed more than 500 financial aid packages from across the country and found them to be unclear or misleading and failed to show out-of-pocket costs.

Elissa Nadworny. "College aid letters are misleading students and need a legal fix." *National Public Radio*. December 6, 2022
[College financial aid letters mislead and confuse, with real consequences. : NPR](https://www.npr.org)

Effort aims to help users spot misinformation on TikTok

TikTok users, particularly teenagers, are vulnerable to being exposed to misinformation served to them via the platform's algorithm. The nonprofit News Literacy Project has launched its own TikTok account aimed at combating misinformation, and encourages more news organizations to join the platform.

Nadia Tamez-Rebledo. "For Teens (and Adults) Fighting Misinformation, TikTok Is Still 'Uncharted Territory'." *Ed Surge*. December 7, 2022
[For Teens \(and Adults\) Fighting Misinformation, TikTok Is Still 'Uncharted Territory' | EdSurge News](https://www.edsurge.com)

Data: Schools still see shortage of supplies, teachers

About 83% of schools have been struggling to purchase supplies, including food and technology, and 45% still have teaching vacancies, according to data from the National Center of Education Statistics. Teacher shortages are more acute in schools in high-poverty areas and schools serving more students of color, and the data indicates a disproportionate share of teacher vacancies in areas such as special education.

Moriah Balingit. "Shortages of staff and equipment continue to plague schools, new data shows." *Washington Post*. December 6, 2022
[Teacher and supply shortages linger in nation's public schools - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

NEW YORK STATE

End of Regents exams coming?

Mandatory Regents exams may be coming to an end, with a committee expected to make a recommendation next year, and superintendents can hardly wait. Despite criticism, many see scaling back importance of tests and providing more options to assess achievement as positive changes.

Kathleen Moore. "School leaders envision high school without mandatory Regents exams." *Albany Times Union*. December 4, 2022
[New state high school graduation requirements might not require exams \(timesunion.com\)](https://www.timesunion.com)

More than 1,200 families, teachers and advocates sent a petition yesterday urging the NYS Education Department to permanently remove Regents exams as a graduation requirement – a policy signatories say can be discriminatory.

Cayla Bamberger. "Parents, teachers petition for NY graduation policy that eliminates Regents exams requirement." *NY Daily News*. December 5, 2022
[Petition demands NY graduation policy eliminate Regents exams requirement \(nydailynews.com\)](https://www.nydailynews.com)

John King named SUNY Chancellor

Former NYS Education Commissioner John King Jr. – whose tenure in that post was marked by the controversial rollout of the Common Core Learning Standards – was appointed chancellor of the State University of New York, King, who served as U.S. secretary of education in the Obama administration, was picked by the SUNY Board of Trustees after a national search

Kathleen Moore. "Former state Education Commissioner John King appointed SUNY chancellor." *Albany Times Union*. December 5, 2022
[Former state Education Commissioner John King appointed SUNY chancellor \(timesunion.com\)](https://www.timesunion.com)

Merryl Tisch donated to John King's campaign for Maryland governor

While the SUNY system was moving ahead with what officials called a global search for a new chancellor, Merryl Tisch, chairwoman of the SUNY trustees who hire SUNY chancellors, donated \$6,000 to the Maryland gubernatorial campaign of John B. King Jr. King was named this week as the next chancellor of the SUNY system, a job that pays \$750,000 per year, plus a generous compensation package. Tisch had previously worked

with King when she chaired the NYS Board of Regents, and King served as the state education commissioner. King later served under President Obama as U.S. Secretary of Education. It's not known precisely when King became a candidate for the SUNY chancellor post or whether he and Tisch had conversations about the opening while an academic recruitment firm, retained by SUNY, was vetting candidates for the same position.

CNHI is a national news service providing news and information as well as advertising methods, and is housed in Alabama.

Joe Mahoney, CNHI. "SUNY leader donated to Maryland gubernatorial campaign of chancellor." *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*. December 8, 2022 [SUNY leader donated \\$6K to King campaign amid search | News, Sports, Jobs - Adirondack Daily Enterprise](#)

Long Island schools offer CTE pathways for students

Long Island HSs are offering career and technical education courses in areas such as cosmetology, construction and manufacturing aimed at helping students prepare for future careers. The Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services, reports that such classes are seeing increased interest and a 20% enrollment increase.

Jodi Goldberg. "Trade skills program gives Long Island students hands-on job training." *WNYW-TV* (NYC). November 30, 2022

[Trade skills program gives Long Island students hands-on job training \(fox5ny.com\)](#)

NYC charter school population shrinking

For years, NYC's charter schools were known for steady growth and long waitlists. But 58% of the city's charter schools shrank over the past three years, not including schools that opened or closed during that time. Some of the city's flagship networks are also struggling to fill all their campuses, including Uncommon Schools and Success Academy, the city's largest charter operator. The declines may complicate the sector's push to lift the current state cap on NYC charter schools, as new schools would compete to attract a shrinking student population.

Alex Zimmerman & Kae Petrin. "58% of NYC charter schools shrank during COVID, even as the sector grew overall." *Chalkbeat/NY*. December 5, 2022

https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2022/12/5/23488735/nyc-charter-schools-student-enrollment-population-statistics-decline-covid?oref=nyn_firstread_nl

Program uses "passports" to boost student reading

Students in the teaching education program at SUNY Buffalo are holding events in which young readers can learn about different countries through reading and activities. The events included "passports" for "travel" on their reading journey, such as "visiting" Canada by reading "Under the Snow" by Melissa Stewart.

Janet Gramza. "Global Book Hour helps kids navigate the world through reading." *Buffalo News*. December 5, 2022

[\(buffalonews.com\)](#)

Students' Academic Skills Are Rebounding, But Not Enough

Students may not fully recover academically before federal aid runs out.