

# 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)

## February 10, 2023 Education News Update

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### Young learners benefit from early career education

Integrating career education at the ES level can give students the opportunity to explore new areas of interest and begin building relevant skills. Schools should avoid a narrow focus, instead aiming for a broad approach that exposes students to myriad career options.

Lauren Barack. "Launching career activities in elementary school? Keep the focus wide." *K-12 Dive*. February 1, 2023  
[Launching career activities in elementary school? Keep the focus wide | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

#### Teacher: PBL brings real-world lessons to CTE

Project-based learning helps make career and technical education more relevant for students, says a cosmetology teacher at Ulster Board of Cooperative Education Services in New York. She shares how using this approach allows students to tackle real-world issues and engage with industry partners.

Kate Weston. "Project-based learning helps CTE meet its potential." *Smart Brief/Education*. February 2, 2023  
[Project-based learning helps CTE meet its potential - SmartBrief](#)

#### Examining the decrease in student-to-counselor ratios

New data reveals the lowest ratio of students to school counselors in decades exists in our schools. Years of effort, accelerated by a global pandemic, helped us get here. The ratio of students to school counselors was 408 to 1 in the 2021-22 school year, down from 415 to 1 in the prior school year, data from the American School Counselor Association shows. This article examines the year-over-year improvement, driven in part by pandemic relief funding and increasing awareness of the youth mental health crisis.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "What's Driving the Change in Student-to-Counselor Ratios in Schools?" *Ed Surge*. January 31, 2023  
[What's Driving the Change in Student-to-Counselor Ratios in Schools? | EdSurge News](#)

#### NYC teachers train in 'critical computing'

Some schools are asking student programmers to think critically about rapid advances in artificial intelligence. Some NYC computer science teachers are training to help students uncover potential bias and risks associated with artificial intelligence -- an approach known as "critical computing." At the Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx, a public MS-HS, students recently learned about potentially biased AI face-matching algorithms that struggle to identify darker skin tones.

Natasha Singer. "At This School, Computer Science Class Now Includes Critiquing Chatbots." *NY Times*. February 6, 2023  
[At This School, Computer Science Class Now Includes Critiquing Chatbots - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

#### Schools explore fast-track certification to fill teacher vacancies

Many states are struggling to prevent significant shortages of certain educators, in part because of declining graduations from teacher colleges and the profession's low pay. One alternative is the Arkansas Teacher Corps, a three-year alternative certification program that helps educators in the state become licensed to teach while working. The corps offers its intensive training and coaching virtually, too. About 85% of corps members are people of color, and it partners with rural, high-needs schools. Districts and states across the U.S. are establishing or expanding programs that remove some of the barriers to becoming a teacher. Policymakers in a dozen or so states are rolling out apprenticeships and similar models in which people without bachelor's degrees get paid on-the-job training to become teachers. Early evidence suggests these programs, when done right, can help fill positions with people who are dedicated to and will stay on the job -- and will better reflect student demographics.

Alia Wong. "Schools explore new avenues into teaching." *USA TODAY*. February 7, 2023  
<https://bus7do-cdn.newsmemory.com?selDate=20230207&goTo=A01&artid=2>

#### Teacher grief and mental health challenges

While the youth mental health crisis mounts, so does the toll for educators on the frontlines who work with students in crisis — especially as [clinical shortages](#) force teachers to manage alone. [Traction is building](#) for student supports, but some worry teachers are being left behind, a direct hit to learning recovery. Teachers are [tied with nurses](#) for experiencing more job-related stress than any other profession. Yet help for classroom leaders is hard to come by.

Mental health insurance coverage varies district to district, if visits are covered at all. This article focuses on one NYS HS teacher who has lost six students to violent death.

Marianna McMurdock. "What One Educator's Grief Reveals About the Mental Health Challenges Facing Teachers Now." *The 74*. February 4, 2023 <https://www.the74million.org/article/what-one-educators-grief-reveals-about-the-mental-health-challenges-facing-teachers-now/>

### **Trauma can affect children's brain structure**

A study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* found that Black children were more likely to experience childhood adversity than white children due to structural inequalities, and this adversity negatively affects gray matter volume in the brain. Structural racism creates barriers for Black people and other people of color. According to data compiled from 1,786 Black and 7,350 white participants ages 9 to 10, racial disparities were reflected in differing adversity outcomes for each group. Factors including marital hardship, [neighborhood disadvantages](#) and trauma history led to greater disadvantages for Black children, particularly affecting the prefrontal cortex which controls cognitive functions like problem-solving, impulse control and the ability to regulate thoughts and emotions. racial disparities, the study says, are the result of structural inequalities. Income was the greatest factor reflected in the disparities of gray matter development, confirming data from [previous studies](#).

Claretta Bellamy. "Racial disparities can affect brain development in Black children, new study finds." *NBC News*. February 2, 2023 <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/study-racial-disparities-can-affect-brain-development-black-children-rcna68641>

### **Letting students use many ways to solve math problems**

Many teachers are moving beyond [traditional ways of teaching math](#) towards more evidence-based equitable teaching and assessment practices. This means every student is provided with what they need as opposed to being provided with the exact same resources and assessment practices. Biases in math exist that are grounded in colonial ideals and only standard in western cultures. [Traditional mathematics teaching](#) focuses on the teacher's way of solving a problem as the right way. Students who might think about the problem in a different way are then at a disadvantage. In some cases, their cultural way of doing mathematics is viewed as incorrect. To serve students with multiple learning styles, teachers need to view their students as having knowledge that can be shared within the learning community as opposed to seeing them as empty vessels to fill. Equitable classrooms promote student voice and agency, peer collaboration and values learning from each other. This creates an equitable learning environment and validates students' cultural ways of knowing math that may have otherwise been hidden. A bonus is that if [all students have multiple ways to solve a problem](#), they have more strategies to rely on.

Tori Trajanovski. "Why teachers are letting students solve math problems in lots of different ways." *The Conversation*. January 31, 2023 <https://theconversation.com/why-teachers-are-letting-students-solve-math-problems-in-lots-of-different-ways-197601>

### **Two articles on the value of higher math in HS**

#### **Study: 4<sup>th</sup> year of math more often leads to college**

More than 65% of Los Angeles Unified School District students who took a fourth year of HS math were more likely to enroll, and stay in, a four-year college compared with nearly 25% of peers who did not take that extra year of math. The findings were based on a study that followed 45,400 students and was conducted by UCLA's Los Angeles Education Research Institute.

John Fensterwald. "Study of LAUSD confirms benefits of four years of math; Superintendent Alberto Carvalho embraces findings." *Ed Source*. February 7, 2023 [Study of LAUSD confirms benefits of four years of math; Superintendent Alberto Carvalho embraces findings | EdSource](#)

#### **Problems with using calculus as gateway course to college**

Now that many colleges no longer are requiring SAT or ACT test scores, some admissions officials are looking at whether a HS student has taken calculus as an indicator of their prospects for success. Calculus is an easy way to sort students: those who took it, and those who didn't. But there's a problem. However, Data from the U.S.E.D. shows that calculus is available in only half of the country's HSs, including a little more than a third of schools mostly serving Latino and Black students.

Lisa Philip. "With test optional now the norm in college admissions, another gatekeeper rises: calculus." *WBEZ-FM (Chicago)*. February 6, 2023 [Does taking calculus help college applications? | WBEZ Chicago](#)

## **FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL**

### **College Board updates African American studies course**

The College Board released its final Advanced Placement African American studies curriculum on February 1, following a pilot in 60 schools. The revised curriculum makes optional some topics that have drawn criticism, especially from Florida governor Ron DeSantis—including Black Lives Matter and slavery reparations, but the board asserts changes were mostly made before criticisms were leveled.

Douglas Belkin. "College Board Shrinks Advanced-Placement Curriculum for African-American Studies." *Wall Street Journal*. February 1, 2023 [College Board Shrinks Advanced-Placement Curriculum for African-American Studies - WSJ](#)

Cheyenne Mumphrey & Sharon Lurye. "Black history class revised by College Board amid criticism." *Associated Press*. February 1, 2023 [College Board revises its A.P. curriculum for African American studies after criticism from conservatives | AP News](#)

## **Commentary: Defunding Public Schools Defunds Democracy**

Florida has introduced legislation to dramatically expand eligibility for school vouchers (public money intended for public education) to pay for private school tuition. It not only covers students regardless of their ability to pay, but it also includes private school students who have never attended a public school. Similar legislation has passed in three other states—all backed by powerful lobbying groups. Voucher-friendly private school students are not required to take the same standardized tests as public-school pupils. Private schools do not have to report graduation rates or follow academic standards, and their teachers are not required to have certification or even a bachelor's degree. Private schools don't have the same building codes as public schools. Unlike public schools, they are allowed to teach a religious curriculum, and they may and do discriminate. Vouchers starve public schools of financial support and allow lawmakers to abdicate their responsibility to keep our whole population well-educated and our citizens well-informed, leaving that role instead to unchecked, unregulated entities with narrow interests.

Donald Cohen. "Defunding Public Schools Defunds Democracy." *In The Public Interest*. February 3, 2023  
[Defunding Public Schools Defunds Democracy \(inthepublicinterest.org\)](https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/defunding-public-schools-defunds-democracy)

## **Some states consider revising cross-border teacher licensing**

An Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact that would remove teacher relicensing requirements is being weighed by lawmakers in 10 states to mitigate the teacher shortage and remove barriers for teachers who move across state lines. The proposal, which must be approved by the 10 states to take effect, has drawn criticism from those who say it will not address like low pay and high housing costs that are seen as factors driving the teacher shortages in some states. Jesse Bedayn. "10 states mull cross-border rules to tackle teacher shortage." *Associated Press*. February 2, 2023

[10 states mull cross-border rules to tackle teacher shortage | AP News](https://www.apnews.com/10-states-mull-cross-border-rules-to-tackle-teacher-shortage)

## **Title IX non-compliance issues**

All schools accused of violating Title IX – which bans sex discrimination across all aspects of education, including athletics and sexual harassment – have little to fear from the Office for Civil Rights; they can openly defy the agency, withhold records and fail to heed agreements with impunity, a *USA TODAY* investigation found. Even when the agency finds them at fault for violations of the law, sanctions do not follow. Rather, it nudges schools toward compliance with resolution agreements and monitoring, a process that often takes years and ends after the aggrieved students graduate or leave school. Its only sanction for violating Title IX is to revoke all federal funds, an act so severe that it has never been used. Congress passed Title IX in 1972 with the lofty goal of eliminating sex discrimination in schools, but it gave the Office for Civil Rights neither sanctions nor the resources and funding to efficiently enforce the law. Instead, the office is rehabilitative rather than punitive.

Rachel Axon. "What happens if a school doesn't comply with Title IX? NOT A WHOLE LOT." *USA TODAY/Democrat & Chronicle*. 2023-02-06  
<https://lbus7do-cdn.newsmemory.com?selDate=20230206&goTo=A01&artid=0>

## **How schools can improve cybersecurity**

K-12 schools maintain sensitive data but typically lack adequate cybersecurity resources, making them prime targets for cyberattacks, says TJ Sayers of the Center for Internet Security. Sayers lists common cybersecurity mistakes that districts should avoid, including incomplete or nonexistent backups, which prevent complete recovery from attacks. Micah Ward. "Cybersecurity: Your district can't afford to make these avoidable mistakes." *District Administration*. February 1, 2023

[Cybersecurity in 2023: 3 things schools should look out for \(districtadministration.com\)](https://www.districtadministration.com/cybersecurity-in-2023-3-things-schools-should-look-out-for)

## **NRC chief urges increased support for education**

Rampant violence, conflict and a lack of funding are depriving millions of children around the world the opportunity for education, writes the Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary-General. Egeland advises that, to improve educational opportunities, the donor community needs to establish reliable, long-term funding; governments must develop pathways for children to return to school; and the safety and well-being of students and teachers must be a priority in educational decision-making.

Jan Egeland. "Educating the World's Children of Conflict." *Project Syndicate (Prague)*. February 6, 2023  
[Educating the World's Children of Conflict by Jan Egeland - Project Syndicate \(project-syndicate.org\)](https://www.project-syndicate.org/educating-the-worlds-children-of-conflict-by-jan-egeland)

## **Funding needed to help 222M children resume education**

The number of children worldwide not receiving an education has tripled from 75 million in 2016 to 222 million today as violent conflicts, climate disasters, disease and poverty push children out of school, leaving them more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and recruitment by militia groups. "Let's keep pushing for the brighter future every child deserves," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

Joyce Chimbi. "Global Leaders Urge Participation in High-Level Financing Conference to Fund Education for 222 Million Crisis-Impacted Children." *Inter Press Service* (focusing on Southern Hemisphere issues). February 7, 2023  
[Global Leaders Urge Participation in Education Financing Conference | Inter Press Service \(ipsnews.net\)](https://www.ipsnews.net/global-leaders-urge-participation-in-education-financing-conference)

## **President calls for more mental health care at schools**

During his State of the Union address, President Biden focused on the mental health and well-being of children. Rising rates of anxiety and depression among children and teens should be a top concern for the nation. He called

for greater investment in mental health care in schools, universal prekindergarten, higher pay for teachers and more focus on career preparation in K-12 schools. He also stated that high-schoolers should have greater access to career opportunities and two years of community college for free.

Libby Sanford. "Biden Calls for More Mental Health Care at Schools in State of the Union." *Education Week*. February 7, 2023

[Biden Calls for More Mental Health Care at Schools in State of the Union \(edweek.org\)](#)

### **Schools can help students who may lose Medicaid stay covered**

School and district administrators can play a key role in ensuring that millions of students don't lose coverage during a change in federal Medicaid policy that could threaten their enrollment, children's health advocates say. School communications could be critical to keep children's coverage from lapsing.

Evie Blad. "Millions of Students May Lose Medicaid Coverage. Schools Can Help Them Stay Enrolled." *Education Week*. February 7, 2023

[Millions of Students May Lose Medicaid Coverage. Schools Can Help Them Stay Enrolled \(edweek.org\)](#)

## **NEW YORK STATE**

### **NYS legislators unlikely to support expanded numbers of charter schools**

Democrats in the NYS Senate and Assembly have stated opposition to opening more charter schools in NYC as proposed by the governor. Hochul's [\\$227 billion budget plan](#) would keep a statewide cap of 460 charters in place but eliminate a regional cap for New York City to make dozens of more slots available for new charter schools in NYC. There is currently a cap of 275 charters for New York City and that limit has been reached. There are currently 357 charter schools operating statewide, which is well under the 460 statewide cap.

Carl Campanile & Zach Williams. "Dems allied with teachers union vow to block Kathy Hochul's NYC charter school plan." *NY Post*. February 1, 2023

[https://nypost.com/2023/02/01/democrats-oppose-hochul-plan-to-expand-nyc-charter-schools/?oref=csny\\_albanvagenda\\_nl](https://nypost.com/2023/02/01/democrats-oppose-hochul-plan-to-expand-nyc-charter-schools/?oref=csny_albanvagenda_nl)

### **Legislation being considered to limit student seclusion in NYS schools**

The legislation would restrict when physical restraint can be used and ban some techniques like prone restraints and seclusion, after a *Times Union* investigation found some students are regularly punished using such techniques.

Emilie Munson. "Bill would restrict restraint and ban seclusion in New York schools." *Albany Times Union*. February 6, 2023

[Bill would restrict restraint and ban seclusion in New York schools \(timesunion.com\)](#)

### **Report: Business tax breaks cost NYS school districts millions**

Incentives meant to entice new businesses have cost NYS school districts \$1.8 billion in lost revenue, according to a report released on February 8. Some Democratic lawmakers and good government advocates assert that at least \$1.8 billion of local property taxes that would have funded school districts instead went to Industrial Development Agencies. Property owned by IDAs is exempt from local property taxes, a move meant to promote the economic development of local communities. IDAs funnel the subsidies to corporations as an incentive for them moving into a specific area, with the expectation that the economic value they provide in the form of jobs and other benefits will compensate local communities and counties for any lost revenue. There are more than 100 IDAs in the state, operated either through counties or cities.

Raga Justin. "Tax breaks for businesses are costing NY school districts millions, advocates say" *Albany Times Union*. February 8, 2023

<https://www.timesunion.com/state/article/business-tax-breaks-cost-ny-schools-millions-17772079.php>

### **Thousands of NYS students have disappeared from school rolls**

Tens of thousands of former NYS students disappeared from school rolls during the pandemic and never returned. Many dropped out, far more than before the pandemic, and are unaccounted for. Meanwhile the practice of delaying kindergarten grew more popular during the same time period.

Kathleen Moore & Emilie Munson. "Thousands of New York kids are missing from school. Where did they go?" *Albany Times Union*. February 9, 2023

[https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/thousands-new-york-kids-missing-school-17772103.php?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=headline&utm\\_campaign=alt%20%7C%20eanito%20confidential&sid=5951844424c17c09a3f115af](https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/thousands-new-york-kids-missing-school-17772103.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headline&utm_campaign=alt%20%7C%20eanito%20confidential&sid=5951844424c17c09a3f115af)

Bianca Vazquez Tones & Sharon Lurye. "Thousands of kids are missing from school. Where did they go?" *Associated Press*. February 9, 2023

[COVID school enrollment shows thousands of missing kids, homeschooling \(apnews.com\)](#)