

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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February 17, 2023 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Helping post-pandemic students to thrive after pandemic isolation

Post-pandemic children entering MS experienced half of their school years in social isolation that inhibited natural development, thus perpetuating an escalation in conflict. Schools have seen an increase in typical conflict spiraling in unusual and accelerated ways. While discipline is necessary, it is not the solution, at least not standalone. Teaching children to learn through conflict is a valuable lifelong skill, and focuses on the future. The author recommends approaches to help students learn to resolve conflict constructively.

Michael Gaskell. "How to Lead Post-Pandemic Students to Thrive After Years of Isolation." *Tech & Learning*. February 10, 2023
[How to Lead Post-Pandemic Students to Thrive After Years of Isolation | Tech & Learning \(techlearning.com\)](#)

Why Black families homeschooling grew fivefold

Black children blossomed during home schooling during the pandemic and their parents see no reason to return to public schools. Public school Black students have long experienced exclusionary practices. Data indicate a dramatic rise in homeschooling during the pandemic, from an estimated 5.4% of school-aged children in spring 2020 to 11.1% the following school year. The number of Black families increased by more than five times – from 3.3% to 16.1%. Black parents are unhappy with public schools that disproportionately punish Black children, rely heavily on standardized testing, and lack diverse representation in the literature and history used. But homeschooling is not a good fit for all students, and when it doesn't work and children return to public schools, they may be behind.

Mario Koran "No more skewed history": why Black families homeschooling grew fivefold." *The Guardian* (England). February 9, 2023
['No more skewed history': why Black families homeschooling grew fivefold | US education | The Guardian](#)

Commentary: For the love of learning

Teachers know the lifelong value of the love of learning, but how to teach it can be difficult. Montessori education is probably the best example of encouraging the love of learning through how the classroom is designed and students interact. Many traditional classrooms attempt to allow students to personalize their learning but are often sidetracked by ensuring students are prepared for standardized tests. The love of learning in the classroom might be promoted by hands-on learning experiences, enabling students to explore options and possibilities as they seek to solve a problem. In addition, teachers could share their own learning passions with students Making learning fun has to be fun with intention, so finding interesting activities to incorporate, or different approaches can be key.

Dr.Kecia Ray. "For The Love of Learning." *Tech & Learning*. February 13, 2023
[For The Love of Learning | Tech & Learning \(techlearning.com\)](#)

Job readiness 'badges' help students prepare for work

Indianapolis schools and businesses are helping students show employers they are prepared for jobs with six virtual "badges," verifying they have mastered so-called soft skills needed to thrive at work. By teaching students professionalism, time management and effective communication, and offering digital badges as credentials of those skills, schools are easing common concerns that teens don't know how to handle a job.

Patrick O'Donnell. "How Indianapolis High Schools Are Using 'Badges' to Help Students Demonstrate Skills — and Land Jobs." *The 74 Million*. February 13, 2023
[How Indianapolis High Schools Are Using 'Badges' to Help Students Demonstrate Skills — and Land Jobs — The 74 \(the74million.org\)](#)

Two articles on tutoring for catching up

Schools have been encouraged to spend their \$122 billion in federal recovery funds on tutoring to help students make up pandemic learning losses. This federal campaign is based on evidence for helping students who are behind. Studies have found that tutoring once or twice a week, or after school, has not boosted achievement. Instead, tutoring produces outsized gains in reading and math when it takes place daily, using paid, well-trained tutors who are following a good curriculum or lesson plans linked to classroom learning. Effective tutoring is scheduled during the school day, when attendance is mandatory. But little is known about how widespread such efforts are.

Jill Barshay. "New federal survey estimates one out of 10 public school students get high-dosage tutoring." *Hechinger Report*. February 13, 2023
[PROOF POINTS: New federal survey estimates one out of 10 public school students get high-dosage tutoring \(hechingerreport.org\)](#)

At the beginning of this school year, almost half of K-12 students in the US didn't meet proficiency standards in one or more subjects, usually math or reading, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Its

report points out that learning recovery is slow, because only 10% of students in schools that provide tutoring receive high-dosage tutoring, and a third of the students who are offered high-dosage tutoring aren't using it. Linda Jacobson. "Survey: Nearly Half of Students Started Last Fall Below Grade Level — Usually in Math and Reading — but Tutoring Remains Elusive." *The 74 Million*. February 9, 2023
[Survey: Nearly Half of Students Started Last Fall Below Grade Level — Usually in Math and Reading — but Tutoring Remains Elusive – The 74 \(the74million.org\)](#)

How students helped transform one HS in Tennessee

Students at one Tennessee HS play an active role in transforming their school. By working closely with their teachers, they've created project-based classes for learning how to start new businesses, make community improvements and more. When students said they wanted additional adult guidance for exploring college and career, the HS listened, hoping to make a difference in the number of graduates who go on to college.

Beth Fertig. "How Educators Transformed Their Tennessee School by Listening to Students." *The 74 Million*. February 14, 2023
[How Educators Transformed Their Tennessee School by Listening to Students – The 74 \(the74million.org\)](#)

Commentary: Science of reading gains support

650 teachers have drafted a letter declaring support for science-based reading programs amid concerns over lagging student literacy. The authors discuss growing issues with intervention for students facing literacy challenges, but they are optimistic as many districts shift toward reading programs based in phonics and foundational skills.

Megan Faughnan is a reading specialist and Jessica Boisen is a curriculum expert.

Megan Faughnan & Jessica Boisen. "TEACHER VOICES: Help may finally be on the way for struggling readers." *Hechinger Report*. February 13, 2023
<https://hechingerreport.org/teacher-voices-help-may-finally-be-on-the-way-for-struggling-readers/>

The Antidote to Bullying

Interpersonal harm among students can take many forms, but in an SEL-informed school environment, students can learn how to intervene in instances of bullying and support one another with a variety of strategies that play to their individual strengths and personalities. The authors share the latest research and a video of an anti-bullying exercise.

Douglas Fisher & Nancy Frey. "The Antidote to Bullying." *Educational Leadership*. February 2023
[The Antidote to Bullying \(ascd.org\)](#)

Afterschool programs can help close STEM ed gaps

Addressing underrepresentation of girls, Blacks and Latinos in STEM fields starts with schools, but they need help. Afterschool programs can improve students' grades, behavior, and homework completion, and offer activities that spark interest in STEM. They also can reach under-represented populations with hands-on opportunities that schools can't always offer. This article offers examples of how government and philanthropy can help.

Kyle Hartung & Melissa Moritz. "Investing in Afterschool Programs Can Help Close Stubborn STEM Education Gaps." *The 74 Million*. February 14, 2023
[Investing in Afterschool Programs Can Help Close Stubborn STEM Education Gaps – The 74 \(the74million.org\)](#)

Tips for helping ES students feel ready to read

K-5 students who are physically overstimulated or emotionally dysregulated, often rush reading, skip lines, have difficulty visually scanning words and/or comprehending what they're reading, and demonstrate decreased visual focus, decreased stamina, and work avoidance. The article offers strategies to help young readers focus on reading.

Lauren Brukner. "An Occupational Therapist's Tips for Helping Elementary Students Feel Ready to Read." *EduTopia*. February 9, 2023
[Occupational Therapy Tips Can Help Students Feel Ready to Read | EduTopia](#)

Report: School counselors' task list has expanded

School counselors not only help students with social and emotional development, academic success and career development, but they also handle long list of tasks outside their traditional responsibilities, according to a new report. The report finds counselors often are coordinating statewide testing and providing long-term therapy, and suggests more effective collaboration between counselors and administrators to address issues related to equity.

Matt Zalaznick. "Are your school counselors being pushed beyond their job descriptions?" *District Administration*. February 14, 2023
[Are your school counselors being pushed beyond their job descriptions? - District Administration](#)

Debate: Is algebra an equity builder or racial barrier

Some say algebra is critical for success in college and beyond; others argue that it's a barrier meant to keep students of color from higher education. As the longstanding debate about algebra continues, there is consensus on a few key issues: Race and wealth can determine how and when the course is offered in K-12; failure to pass it can bar students from earning a degree and qualifying for high-paying jobs; and COVID-19 has only made things worse.

Jo Napolitano. "Equity Builder or Racial Barrier: Debate Rages Over Role of 8th-Grade Algebra." *The 74 Million*. February 16, 2023
[Equity Builder or Racial Barrier: Debate Rages Over Role of 8th-Grade Algebra – The 74 \(the74million.org\)](#)

Study: Holding 3rd graders back a factor in reading success

A new report by ExcelinEd and Wheelock Educational Policy Center at Boston University reinforces that, if early intervention and support for struggling readers are not enough for a child to read at grade level before 4th grade, provide

eng more time in 3rd grade dramatically increases their odds of succeeding in school and in life.

Educators: Resources are needed to address worsening mental health crises

Student mental health and behavioral concerns are more urgent now than before the pandemic, but schools are lacking resources to properly address the issues, according to two new surveys. While 81% of superintendents agree that student behavioral concerns have deepened since the pandemic, 79% also say they don't have the staff to focus on the problem. About 63% of superintendents cite budget concerns as a barrier; 84% said students are developmentally behind in self-regulation and relationship building post pandemic, and that incidents of violence have more than doubled. But almost 60% said pressure to boost academic outcomes leaves little time to address the situation.

Naaz Modan. "Educators say they lack resources to address worsening mental health crisis." *K-12 Dive*. February 16, 2023 [Educators say they lack resources to address worsening mental health crisis | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/educators-say-they-lack-resources-to-address-worsening-mental-health-crisis/)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Schools become flashpoint for Republicans considering presidential run

In the [opening stages of the 2024 GOP presidential race](https://www.the74million.org/article/schools-become-flashpoint-for-republicans-eyeing-white-house), the "parents' rights" movement and lessons for schoolchildren have become flashpoints. The focus on racism, sexuality and education lets potential presidential hopefuls distinguish themselves, suggesting deeper ways for government to shape what happens in local classrooms.

Michelle L. Price. "Schools become flashpoint for Republicans eyeing White House." *Associated Press*. February 10, 2023 [Schools become flashpoint for Republicans eyeing White House | AP News](https://www.apnews.com/story/schools-become-flashpoint-for-republicans-eyeing-white-house)

HR Judiciary committee subpoenas U.S.E.D. over NSBA letter

The subpoena, sent to the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General, and FBI Director, builds on a previous request for the U.S.E.D. to turn over documents related to a controversy. NSBA had asked the administration to look into threats against school boards that it called "equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes." The subpoena seeks "withheld documents" concerning the administration's "targeting of parents for exercising their First Amendment rights at school board meetings."

Naaz Modan. "House Judiciary subpoenas Ed Dept over controversial NSBA letter." *K-12 Dive*. February 7, 2023 [House Judiciary subpoenas Ed Dept over controversial NSBA letter | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/house-judiciary-subpoenas-ed-dept-over-controversial-nsba-letter/)

Survey: More than 50% of LBBTQ parents thinking of leaving Florida

A survey by UCLA's Williams Institute reveals that fears over Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law is causing more than half of LGBTQ parents to consider leaving the state. Many have actually begun the process. The law is preventing kids from discussing their families in class and dissuading parents from engaging in their kids' schools.

Beth Hawkins. "Survey: More Than Half of LGBTQ Florida Parents Are Thinking About Moving." *The 74 Million*. February 9, 2023 [Survey: More Than Half of LGBTQ Florida Parents Are Thinking About Moving – The 74 \(the74million.org\)](https://www.the74million.org/article/survey-more-than-half-of-lgbtq-florida-parents-are-thinking-about-moving)

Survey: Worries about STEM credentials, expense, and academic degrees

Credentials' promise and possible pitfalls weigh on students and employees alike, according to a survey based on 14,000 interviews in 13 countries. About 6 in 10 students, job seekers and employees aiming to change careers think they don't have the right academic degrees for jobs in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math, according to a new survey commissioned by IBM. 60% of respondents also worry that digital credentials will be too expensive to earn. And roughly 40% said the greatest barrier to gaining more skills is not knowing where to start. The study also found reason for optimism: 86% of respondents who earned a digital credential said it helped them meet their career goals, and 75% said digital credentials supplement more traditional forms of education.

Rick Seltzer. "Worries run high about digital credentials' expense, academic degrees' relevance for STEM jobs, survey finds." *Higher Ed Dive*. February 14, 2023 [Worries run high about digital credentials' expense, academic degrees' relevance for STEM jobs, survey finds | Higher Ed Dive](https://www.highereddiver.com/news/worries-run-high-about-digital-credentials-expense-academic-degrees-relevance-for-stem-jobs-survey-finds)

Study: Factors most common in teacher layoffs

Seniority and performance are the most common factors considered in teacher layoffs, according to a report from the National Council on Teacher Quality. Yet, a study from the journal of Education Finance & Policy finds that seniority-based layoffs could undermine recent progress in diversifying the teaching profession.

Anna Merod. "Seniority, performance most often weighed in teacher layoffs." *K-12 Dive*. February 13, 2023 [Seniority, performance most often weighed in teacher layoffs | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](https://www.k12dive.com/news/seniority-performance-most-often-weighed-in-teacher-layoffs/)

CDC: Sadness, hopelessness rises among teen girls

The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data reveals that the percentage of teen girls experiencing persistent feelings of hopelessness or sadness increased from 36% in 2011 to 57% in 2021. In 2021, 30% of teen girls seriously considered attempting suicide and 18% experienced sexual violence in the past year.

Rose Weldon. "CDC: Teen girls experiencing record level of sadness, hopelessness." *Healio*. February 13, 2023 [CDC: Teen girls experiencing record level of sadness, hopelessness \(healio.com\)](https://www.healio.com/news/psychiatry/2023/02/13/cdc-teen-girls-experiencing-record-level-of-sadness-hopelessness)

Federal push for a \$60,000 base teacher salary gains steam

State lawmakers from both parties are prioritizing legislation to boost teacher pay. US Senator Bernie Sanders has introduced legislation to pay teachers a minimum of \$60,000 a year, [complementing similar efforts in the House](#) as the conversation about low teacher wages picks up steam.

Madeline Will. "The Push for a \$60K Base Teacher Salary Gains Steam as Bernie Sanders Signs On." Education Week. February 14, 2023 [The Push for a \\$60K Base Teacher Salary Gains Steam as Bernie Sanders Signs On \(edweek.org\)](#)

USDA proposal could cause challenges for schools

The USDA's proposed nutrition requirements for school meals come as schools already are facing supply chain and workforce challenges. The proposal includes restricting sugar and sodium in school meals over the next six years.

Kayla Jimenez. "USDA wants healthier school lunches. Here's why officials say it may not become a reality." USA Today. February 15, 2023 [Why the USDA's plan for healthier school lunches has tough road ahead \(usatoday.com\)](#)

Many early childhood educators can't afford to retire

Many early childhood educators can't afford to retire. While home-based providers are far less likely to have retirement savings than their peers working in child care centers, all early childhood educators tend to be worse off than their K-12 counterparts. The article describes one program that's trying to do something about it

Emily Tate Sullivan. "Why Many Early Childhood Educators Can't Afford to Retire." Ed Surge. February 13, 2023 [Why Many Early Childhood Educators Can't Afford to Retire | EdSurge News](#)

Families leaving public schools changing education

Enrollment dips cost school districts money, which eventually mean fewer services, programs, and resources for students. Federal, state, and local money flow to districts on a per-pupil basis. Other funding streams exist, often for specific purposes, but district finances rely heavily on per-pupil dollars. Even slight deviations can cause problems.

Jackie Valley. "Families are leaving public schools. How will that change education?" Christian Science Monitor. February 15, 2023 [Families are leaving public schools. How will that change education? - CSMonitor.com](#)

Survey: Most states report teacher shortages

At least 39 states say they are experiencing ongoing teacher shortages. Some officials are calling it a crisis and one state adopted four-day school weeks to help, but the shortages are "more driven by the creation of new positions than a mass exodus of existing staff." Issues other than finance are also factors in teachers leaving.

Arthur Jones II. "Most of the US is dealing with a teaching shortage, but the data isn't so simple." ABC News. February 11, 2023

NEW YORK STATE

Record public school funding in governor's proposed budget

NYS public schools receive record funding in Governor Hochul's proposed budget, including the balance of promised foundation aid. The foundation aid formula was originally created in 2007 due to a court ruling which demanded the state provide every student with a "sound and basic education." As a result, schools were ordered to receive billions in aid based on student and school district need. The money was distributed via the foundation aid formula but because of the Great Recession, the formula was never fully implemented. A few years ago, a new phase-in plan was put into place, and this budget cycle is the third and final phase of the plan. Another priority for school boards is free universal school meals, which was paid for by the federal government during the pandemic.

Susan Arbetter. "NYS School Boards Association on future of foundation aid, universal school meals." NY State of Politics. February 10, 2023 [School Boards Association on foundation aid, school meals \(nystateofpolitics.com\)](#)

Issues with long term suspensions

NYS allows students to be suspended for up to 180 days (a school year). So, thousands of students have been kept out of school for a month or more, cut off from their peers and receiving just 1-2 hours of instruction per day. The NYSED does not collect data on suspension lengths, but in 17 of NYS's largest school districts, more than 6,200 suspensions of more than 20 days occurred over the course of the 5 most recent full school years. Thousands of long-term suspensions have been given out while legislative attempts to cap their length at 20 days continue to fail.

Sarah Butrymowicz, *The Hechinger Report*. "In New York, students can be suspended for an entire school year." Albany Times Union. February 11, 2023 [In New York, students can be suspended for up to an entire school year \(timesunion.com\)](#)

Superintendents: Ban on student suspensions a bad idea

A [ban on student suspensions is a bad idea](#), school superintendents told the state Board of Regents on Monday. They welcomed the idea of finding alternatives as often as possible, and cited many successful initiatives they have begun, but they said there are some situations in which they must be able to remove a child from school.

Kathleen Moore. "School superintendents: Don't ban all long-term suspensions." Albany Times Union. February 14, 2023 [School superintendents: Don't ban all long-term suspensions \(timesunion.com\)](#)

NYSUT: Charters have consumed the foundation aid increase for many urban districts

New York State United Teachers says it is fighting the governor's new plan to allow more than 100 new charter schools because some school districts are paying so much to charters that it's more than their entire increase in foundation aid over the last six years. The vast majority of recent survey respondents said that they wanted strong local public schools, and more charter schools were not a priority. Top priorities were expanding career and tech programs (92% called that a high priority) and expanding literacy and reading programs (82% said that should be very high priority). Filling job vacancies, reducing class sizes, and school safety also received high support. Only 20% said that expanding charter schools should be a very high priority, and 7% said it should be the top priority. Kathleen Moore. "NYSUT: School aid increase wiped out by charter school bills." *Albany Times Union*. February 10, 2023

[NYSUT: School aid increase wiped out by charter school bills \(timesunion.com\)](https://www.timesunion.com)

Hochul SUNY proposals opposed by some

Governor Hochul wants to burnish some institutions' research profiles and reverse SUNY's declining enrollment to grow to 500,000 students. However, the vision and the benchmarks tied to it were too aspirational for some higher ed scholars. After all, the state's pool of traditional-age college students continues to shrink, and U.S. colleges haven't bounced back from a pandemic-era enrollment crash. Higher ed experts and faculty leaders say Hochul's goals require an influx of public funding to achieve. The goals appear to have progressed minimally since she announced them. Hochul has expressed optimism about the system's future, though, especially with the installation of John King, a former U.S. education secretary and New York education commissioner, as its new chancellor. Jeremy Bauer-Wolf. "A year later, governor's revitalization plan for SUNY still getting off the ground." *Higher Ed Dive*. February 14, 2023
[A year later, governor's revitalization plan for SUNY still getting off the ground | Higher Ed Dive](#)

Finalist for AASA Superintendent of the Year focuses on students as individuals



McGowan (AASA, The School Superintendents Association)

"No child is a number," says Kevin McGowan, a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year award from AASA, The School Superintendents Association. In this interview, McGowan, head of Brighton Central Schools in New York, says his "secret sauce" is focusing on students' individual needs.

Kanoe Namahoe. "Superintendent of the Year finalist McGowan: "No child is a number"."
Smart Brief/Education. February 14, 2023

[Superintendent of the Year finalist McGowan: "No child is a number" - SmartBrief](#)