

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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February 3, 2023 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Effective use of math manipulatives

Manipulatives, particularly those with cultural connections, can improve math comprehension, writes an associate professor of mathematics. She encourages educators to use atypical objects for manipulatives or offer a BYOM day -- bring your own manipulative -- for students to share an object of significance to them.

Carol Buckley. "Using math manipulatives with cultural connections builds relationships." *Smart Brief/Education*. January 25, 2023
[Using math manipulatives with cultural connections builds relationships - SmartBrief](#)

Program will allow teachers to tutor during school day

Florida's Polk County Public School District is launching a program in elementary schools this spring allowing teachers to schedule personalized, online tutoring for students during class time. Researchers have found the most successful tutoring programs offer students support during school hours, are conducted 1-to-1 and in small groups, and have well-trained and supervised tutors. The program is also expected to help boost teacher recruitment and retention by giving classroom educators assistance in differentiating instruction to a variety of learners.

Kara Arundel. "Florida district to launch teacher-driven classroom tutoring support." *K-12 Dive*. January 25, 2023
[Florida district to launch teacher-driven classroom tutoring support | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

Educator suggests involving 1st graders in research

Teaching students how to conduct academically honest research is an important skill that can be introduced to first-graders, writes an educator in Oregon. He shares how he uses a flowchart to help students learn how to take notes as well as graphic organizers to help them collect, organize, prioritize and interpret information.

Matther James Friday. "Getting First Graders Started With Research." *Edutopia*. January 24, 2023
[Introducing Research Skills to Elementary Students | Edutopia](#)

The 1619 Project comes to Hulu

The 1619 Project was a *New York Times Magazine* endeavor that explored the ways the legacy of slavery shapes American society. Told through Pulitzer Prize-winning author Nikole Hannah-Jones' personal story, historical events and the modern fights for voting rights, the Project explores Black America's centuries-long fight to democratize America and hold it to its founding ideals. Hannah-Jones discusses how politics affected the project and what it means to be in the middle of this social reckoning.

"'The 1619 Project' comes to Hulu, expanding the story of enslaved Africans". *National Geographic*. January 27, 2023
['The 1619 Project' comes to Hulu, expanding the story of enslaved Africans](#)

Study: Music programs boost students' confidence

Many school districts' music programs stalled due to the pandemic, but a study of music instruction at the Los Angeles Unified School District found that students who participated in music programs, whether in person or virtual, experienced higher confidence and connection to school. Beatriz Ilari, University of Southern California and lead author of the study, said confidence gained in music may transfer to other areas and boost students' well-being.

Sarah D. Sparks. "How a School District Used Music Teaching to Keep Students Connected." *Education Week*. January 25, 2023
[How a School District Used Music Teaching to Keep Students Connected \(edweek.org\)](#)

Benefits of student-led PD for teachers

Student-led professional development can help teachers develop skills and awareness of the needs of students, who benefit by learning to advocate and building their confidence, writes an educator and youth organizer. He describes personal experience working with students who were eager to share their thoughts about how teachers do their jobs.

Matt Homrich-Knieling. "Tired of the Same Old Professional Development? Let Students Lead." *Ed Surge*. January 25, 2023
[Tired of the Same Old Professional Development? Let Students Lead. | EdSurge News](#)

Districts rethink writing instruction

Districts have worked for years to overhaul reading instruction to boost students' literacy. Research suggests that writing can enhance students' foundational reading skills and knowledge of how words and sentences work. Some districts are tackling this head on, embedding writing throughout their curriculum. Reading comprehension—unlike

foundational skills such as phonics—takes years to build. As they identify words, students need to know a lot to make sense of what they read, so they have to be introduced to content systematically.

"Districts rethink writing instruction." Strategic District Leaders/Education Week. January 31, 2023

[Strategic District Leader- Edition 22- January 31, 2023 \(ADS PLACED\) \(edweek.org\)](#)

Students dig into news, memes in media literacy class

Media literacy lessons include opportunities to analyze news articles, memes and images for perspective and intent, says says a teacher of the subject in Chicago. Students need to learn to go beyond what they read in a single news article or what they see in popular memes to better understand the media and explore how perspectives can change the message. Some states have implemented laws requiring news literacy classes in schools.

Amber Strong. "Media literacy helps students think critically about the news." *Scripps News*. January 25, 2023

[Media literacy helps students think critically about news \(VIDEO\) \(scrippsnews.com\)](#)

Study considers disparities in college, career readiness

More female students feel uncertain about their career and college choices, compared with their male counterparts, a YouScience survey finds. While female students may have the aptitude for a technical field, they often are not introduced to career choices in the same way male students are, the survey shows.

Laura Ascione. "Major gender disparities harm students' college and career readiness." *eCampus News*. January 30, 2023

[Major gender disparities harm students' college and career readiness - eCampus News](#)

Mental health check-in chart lets students share feelings

A mental health check-in chart in the classroom allows students to quietly share how they are feeling using sticky notes -- with options spanning from "I'm great" to "I'm in a really dark place," says the teacher who created the chart in her classroom in a California HS. She says the check-in system -- in which students write their names on the back of the notes for privacy -- has drawn interest from educators around the world.

Nicole Pelletiere. "This teacher created a mental health check-in chart for her students and now teachers around the world are doing the same."

Good Morning America. January 25, 2023

[This teacher created a mental health check-in chart for her students and now teachers around the world are doing the same - Good Morning America](#)

Autism up among kids without intellectual disability

Researchers analyzed cases of autism spectrum disorder among 8-year-olds residing in New Jersey from 2000-16 and found a five-fold increase in ASD diagnosis, with the highest increase among children without an intellectual disability. Researchers also noted that ASD prevalence was associated with race and socioeconomic status, highlighting that Black children without an intellectual disability were 30% less likely to be identified than white children, while children without an intellectual disability living in higher-income areas were 80% more likely to be identified with ASD, compared with children residing in underserved areas.

Rose Weldon. "Autism rates jump, especially among children without co-occurring intellectual disability." *Healio*. January 26, 2023

[Autism rates jump, especially among children without co-occurring intellectual disability \(healio.com\)](#)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

The value of teachers

For decades, teachers nationwide have lamented lackluster pay. Then, a teacher-turned-congresswoman, Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Democrat from Florida, on January 25 introduced the [American Teacher Act](#), a four-year federal grant program that would help states lift their starting teacher salaries to \$60,000, boost pay for veteran teachers, and make cost-of-living adjustments tied to inflation. As states grapple with teacher shortages and fewer people entering the field, compensation often rises to the top of the concern list. The proposal faces an uphill battle.

Jackie Valley. "Reading, writing, and paychecks. What's a teacher worth?" *Christian Science Monitor*. January 24, 2023

https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Education/2023/0124/Reading-writing-and-paychecks.-What-s-a-teacher-worth?i=808799&sfmc_sub=13815550&l=1223_HTML&u=30360184&mid=10979696&jb=1001&cmpid=ema:EqualEd:20230126&src=newsletter

Apps that monitor students raise privacy concerns

The use of apps to monitor students' online activity have caused some to express concern about student privacy and data security. Some concerns have centered on whether such monitoring will be detrimental rather than helpful to students' mental health and personal privacy.

Carey L. Biron. "As children in U.S. study online, apps watch their every move." *Reuters*. January 24, 2023

[FEATURE-As children in U.S. study online, apps watch their every move | Reuters](#)

College Board: No state controls content of AP African American Studies

Florida banned the Advanced Placement Black history course earlier this month. The College Board told its members on January 26 that it will not consider input from states or districts when releasing the final version of the pilot Black history class that [Florida banned](#). Attorney Ben Crump threatened to file a lawsuit

against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, and his administration amid the ban of a proposed Advanced Placement course on African America Studies in Florida high schools on behalf of three Leon County, Fla., school students. Eesha Pendharkar. "College Board: No State Has Sway Over Final Version of AP African American Studies." *Education Week*. January 26, 2023 [College Board: No State Has Sway Over Final Version of AP African American Studies \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/college-board/2023/01/26/college-board-no-state-has-sway-over-final-version-of-ap-african-american-studies)

Preparing for a funding cliff

An infusion of federal aid has created opportunities and challenges for school systems. Leaders must commit their federal COVID-19 relief funds, known as ESSER, before they expire on September 30, 2024. Among districts' biggest concerns is that personnel-heavy projects funded with relief aid—like more school counselors and literacy screeners—will be forced to fold when funding for salaries ends. Some districts have already scheduled referenda for tax increases on upcoming ballots, citing the rising cost of paying for education and declining federal and state aid. It's important to communicate with the public now about how the drop in aid will affect your district.

"Preparing for a funding cliff." Strategic District Leaders/Education Week. January 31, 2023

[Strategic District Leader- Edition 22- January 31, 2023 \(ADS PLACED\) \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/strategic-district-leader-edition-22-january-31-2023-ads-placed)

Report: COVID-19 relief funds not matching need

The federal coronavirus relief funding for education in some states does not reflect the need because of the variation in student learning delays, according to a new report. At issue is that the funds were distributed based on student poverty levels, but that does not always match the level of learning loss.

Jill Barshay. "PROOF POINTS: Federal funds to combat pandemic learning loss don't reflect need." *Hechinger Report*. January 30, 2023

[PROOF POINTS: Federal funds to combat pandemic learning loss don't reflect need \(hechingerreport.org\)](https://www.hechingerreport.org/proof-points-federal-funds-to-combat-pandemic-learning-loss-dont-reflect-need/)

Surgeon general: Social media may affect youth well-being

US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has recommended that 13-year-olds not be exposed to social media, including those that allow young teens to join. Murthy said early adolescence is a time when children's sense of self and mental wellness are still developing, making them vulnerable to distorted messaging about self-worth and relationships. Murthy called for tighter accountability, transparency and safety standards.

Julia Mueller. "Surgeon general: 13-year-olds too young to join social media." *The Hill*. January 30, 2023

[Surgeon general: 13-year-olds too young to join social media | The Hill](https://www.thehill.com/health/surgeon-general-13-year-olds-too-young-to-join-social-media/2023/01/30/)

Survey: Global learning loss persists

Students worldwide have not recovered from learning loss stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, according to an analysis of 42 studies of primary and secondary students in 15 high- and middle-income countries between 2020 and March 2022. Data shows students lost the equivalent of about one-third of a school year of progress. Students experienced learning deficits during the pandemic that amounted to about one-third of a school-year's-worth of knowledge and skills, according to a new global analysis, and had not recovered from those losses more than two years later. Learning delays and regressions were most severe in developing countries and among students from low-income backgrounds, researchers said, worsening existing disparities and threatening to follow children into higher education and the work force.

Emily Baumgaertner. "Students Lost One-Third of a School Year to Pandemic, Study Finds." *NY Times*. January 30, 2023

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/30/health/covid-education-children.html>

Video: Maryland HS a model for wellness and student learning

Sandy Spring Friends School's Pen y Bryn Upper School, a private Quaker school in Sandy Spring, Md., is the first HS in the US to be WELL Certified at the gold level. The WELL Building Standard, a set of concepts outlined by the International WELL Building Institute, measures the impact that building architecture and design have on student and educator mental and physical health. The school's leaders hope that the building inspires others to improve school building design across the country.

Kaylee Domzalski. "This School Is a Model for Wellness and Student Learning. See Why." *Education Week*. January 31, 2023

[This School Is a Model for Wellness and Student Learning. See Why \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/schools/this-school-is-a-model-for-wellness-and-student-learning-see-why/2023/01/31/)

Students want to learn about climate change but most teachers not trained for that

Seventy-five percent of teachers have received no formal training on how to teach climate change—a fact that likely influences the extent to which they teach the subject and whether they do so in a way that's accurate, relevant, and meaningful.

Madeline Will & Arianna Prothero. "Students Want Climate Change Education. Most Teachers Don't Get Enough Training." *Education Week*.

January 31, 2023

[Students Want Climate Change Education. Most Teachers Don't Get Enough Training \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/students-want-climate-change-education-most-teachers-dont-get-enough-training/2023/01/31/)

Poll determines that parents not concerned with cultural indoctrination

More than two thirds of voters and parents are not worried about teachers indoctrinating kids, pushing a "woke" agenda on them, or teaching "critical race theory," as some Republican lawmakers and far-right parent groups have been accusing schools of doing for more than a year.

Eesha Pendharkar. "Poll: Parents don't want schools to focus on culture wars." *Education Week*. January 31, 2023

[Poll: Parents Don't Want Schools to Focus on Culture Wars \(edweek.org\)](https://www.edweek.org/poll-parents-dont-want-schools-to-focus-on-culture-wars/2023/01/31/)

New York State

Breakdown of Governor Hochul's budget proposal

Higher education

- Proposes \$7.5 billion in higher education funding, a decrease from \$8.1 billion last year.
- Proposes tuition increases at SUNY campuses and CUNY, indexed to Higher Education Price Index or 3 percent — whichever is less.
- SUNY's university centers, including UAlbany, could increase tuition an additional 6 percent each year for the next five years (capped at 30 percent) for in-state students. That's projected to provide \$97 million in operating support to SUNY and \$31 million for CUNY in the 2024 academic year.
- Funds all community colleges at 100 percent of their 2022 funding, instead of cutting aid in response to declining enrollment. Without a funding floor, community colleges would face a 22 percent (\$138 million) loss in aid.
- Maintains campus facilities by adding \$1.2 billion in capital funding.
- Includes one-time expenses for "SUNY's transformation," including \$200 million for digital and IT infrastructure; \$75 million to meet the workforce needs and provide student support; and \$200 million at Stony Brook University and the University at Buffalo for new or renovated research buildings and laboratories.

K-12 education

- Proposes \$34.5 billion for pre-K to grade 12 schools.
- Funds Foundation Aid for the first time, with a 12.8 percent (\$2.7 billion) increase. That would fulfill a promise to phase in full funding over the course of three years. Every school district would get at least a 3 percent increase in aid. School aid would increase by \$3.1 billion, a 10 percent increase.
- Foundation Aid would come with a restriction: \$250 million would have to be spent on high-impact reading and math tutoring for students in grades 3-8.
- Expands full-day pre-kindergarten to 95 percent of all 4-year-olds. The budget includes \$125 million to add seats for 17,500 children.
- In response to special education preschools closing due to rate-setting delays which do not bring full reimbursement for children's services until after they had aged out of preschool, the budget includes \$2.5 million to design a methodology that would streamline the rate-setting process.
- Adds \$20 million for more Early College High School and Pathways in Technology Early College High School programs.
- Proposes \$10 million in competitive grants for "strategic workforce" plans to meet the needs of local industries over the next two years.

Capitol Bureau. "Detailed breakdown of Gov. Kathy Hochul's executive budget. *Albany Times Union*. February 1, 2023
[A detailed breakdown of Gov. Kathy Hochul's executive budget \(timesunion.com\)](https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/gov-hochul-executive-budget-17697313.php)

NYS investigators find intentional abuse of students with disabilities

State investigators found staff at NYS schools serving children with disabilities intentionally misused physical restraints on students dozens of times annually in recent years, records show. Restraint and 'time-out' rooms are used hundreds of times per month at some schools for students with disabilities. The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, a state agency that investigates allegations of mistreatment, substantiated 214 such cases between 2016 and 2021. In some cases, holding students in physical restraints or confining them in padded "time-out" rooms may be appropriate to prevent certain students from hurting themselves or others if they cannot be safely stopped through other means, experts say. But data suggest that misuse and overuse of these last-resort methods also happens. Six years of NYSED data shows some schools reported their staff physically restrained students and sent them to time-out rooms in hundreds or even more than 1,000 incidents per month in recent years. Multiple schools said they were actively working to reduce use of these methods on students.

Emilie Munson. "NY students 'deliberately' restrained 214 times in recent years, state says." *Albany Times Union*.
January 29, 2023

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/ny-students-deliberately-inappropriately-17697313.php>