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

March 10, 2023 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Strategies for tackling teacher burnout

Teacher burnout is a growing problem, but there are some strategies that can help to address it. The author shares tips, e.g., ensure that teachers feel respected and empowered, and provide novice teachers with needed support.

Gintas Bradunas. "Teacher burnout is real. These 5 strategies can help." *Smart Brief/Education*. March 2, 2023

Teacher burnout is real. These 5 strategies can help - SmartBrief

Turnover among teachers, principals

Turnover among teachers and principals has risen since the start of the pandemic, but is less acute this school year than the prior one, according to a RAND Corp. report. Survey data from 300 school district and charter school network leaders indicates that principal turnover was 16% nationwide in the 2021-22 school year (up 13% from pre-pandemic levels) and teacher turnover grew 4% to 10% across the US.

Anna Merod. "Principal, teacher turnover exceeds pre-pandemic levels." *K-12 Dive*. February 28, 2023

Principal, teacher turnover exceeds pre-pandemic levels | K-12 Dive (k12dive.com)

Morale is increasing for some teens

More than a third of teenagers responding to an EdWeek Research Center survey say their morale is higher now than before the pandemic; 82% say they are more hopeful about the future; but 25% of the teens reported lower morale.

Alyson Klein. "Teen Morale and Optimism Are on the Rise. Are You Surprised?" *Education Week*. February 24, 2023

Teen Morale and Optimism Are on the Rise. Are You Surprised? (edweek.org)

AI tool used by many teachers, students

In a survey, 40% of teachers said they've used AI-powered tool ChatGPT at least one time per week, according to a survey funded by the Walton Family Foundation conducted by Impact Research. The survey of more than 1,000 teachers and slightly more than 1,000 students ages 12 to 17 found that 22% of students surveyed said they use the tool to help them with their schoolwork or other activities.

Kayla Jimenez. "ChatGPT in the classroom: Here's what teachers and students are saying." *USA Today*. March 1, 2023

ChatGPT in the classroom: Here's what teachers and students are saying (usatoday.com)

Written Out Loud: A collaborative writing program

Written Out Loud is a writing and storytelling program that works with schools and students to teach writing and empathy skills through collaborative storytelling practices. Founded by Joshua Shelov, a filmmaker and screen-writer, it builds on ancient storytelling traditions and modern practices in Hollywood writing rooms. Shelov began sharing the real-time, human-to-human storytelling process used in television with students, first at Yale where he is an adjunct professor, and then with younger students. In his program, students write in groups the way a TV show writer's room operates. Once they complete the program, students receive a physical book they wrote together. Written Out Loud can also train K-12 educators. Byram Hills CSD in Armonk, NY, has built Written Out Loud teaching strategies into its ELA curriculum for 8th graders after running a successful pilot program. Written Out Loud ranges in price from $59 to $429 per student, depending on whether the program taught in school is an ELA unit (by classroom teachers) or as an enrichment program or summer camp and taught by Written Out Loud teachers. Written Out Loud also runs cohorts for kids and adults online.

Erik Ofgang. "What is Written Out Loud? The Collaborative Writing Program Explained by Its Screenwriter Founder." *Tech & Learning*.

What is Written Out Loud? Its Founder Explains The Program | Tech & Learning (techlearning.com)

Superintendents concerned with faculty morale

Almost all (94%) if superintendents who responded to a recent survey said they are concerned about special education teachers' morale, and 90% are concerned about teacher morale and burnout in general, a concern that remains top-of-mind following the pandemic. The same survey found that superintendents generally feel more upbeat about their own careers.

Evie Blad. "Employee Morale Is Keeping Superintendents Up at Night." *Education Week*. February 24, 2023

Employee Morale Is Keeping Superintendents Up at Night (edweek.org)

How do we establish effective tutoring programs

High-impact tutoring is reaching no more than 5% of students. Research shows that tutoring is a powerful tool to

catch students up and boost them forward. Early evidence suggests there are multiple ways to effectively deliver tutoring, not just the frequent, in-person, one-to-one or small group models that have been tested in the past. Initial data from preliminary studies suggest that some technology-enhanced and hybrid programs will advance academic outcomes at rates similar to those of in-person models. Some programs are proving that a wide range of adults can be effective tutors. While not every person can be a good tutor, and all tutors require some structured training and professional development, the country has a lot of untapped human potential that could be cultivated to make tutoring available to every student. Tutoring needs to be easier and more affordable to implement. And doing that, means there must be significant progress building effective policy and a base of highly effective providers. States can remove barriers and issue specific guidance on grant and funding opportunities. They can offer models and waivers for implementing tutoring during the school day. Over time we can help build up the number of evidence-backed models that are easier for schools to implement. We can also help states (and the federal government) to create policy frameworks, funding, and support to help local schools.

Kevin Huffman is former Tennessee schools chief and current CEO of Accelerate.

Kevin Huffman, "Done Right, Tutoring Can Greatly Boost Student Learning. How Do We Get There?" *The 74 Million*. March 6, 2023

Done Right, Tutoring Can Greatly Boost Student Learning. How Do We Get There? – The 74 (the74million.org)

The right kind of anxiety can facilitate learning

When students encounter some academic challenges, like unfamiliar math problems, it activates the same fear center that lights up when people see snakes or spiders. The fear can send the mind reeling and lead to feelings of inadequacy and destructive thoughts. But not all feelings of anxiety and self-doubt are harmful to learning. A recent *Mindshift* article clarifies that some anxiety can be fruitful, and even build up a student's self-esteem as they face more difficult tasks in the future.

Andrew Boryga. "Hard School Work and the Right Kind of Anxiety." *Edutopia*. March 3, 2023

Hard School Work and the Right Kind of Anxiety | Edutopia

More American students skipping college

Hundreds of thousands of Americans who came of age during the pandemic have opted not to go to college. Undergraduate college enrollment dropped 8% from 2019 to 2022. Fewer college graduates could worsen labor shortages in fields from health care to information technology. For those who forgo college, it usually means lower lifetime earnings — 75% less compared with those who get bachelor's degrees. And when the economy sours, those without degrees are more likely to lose jobs. Even more alarming are the figures for Black, Hispanic and low-income students, who saw the largest slides in many states. There is some hope. The number of freshmen enrolling at U.S. colleges increased slightly from 2021 to 2022. And, more young people are pursuing education programs other than a four-year degree. Some states are seeing growing demand for apprenticeships, which usually provide credentials. The number of new apprentices in the U.S. has rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels.

Collin Binkley. "Jaded with education, more Americans are skipping college." *Associated Press*. March 9, 2023

Jaded with education, more Americans are skipping college | AP News

Middle schoolers moved by handwritten notes

Educators at a middle school near Detroit are using hand written notes to uplift and encourage students. School staff were asked to write letters to students that detail why they are inspired by the student. In January, they surprised some of the students with the handwritten notes of gratitude.' shares the profound and moving moments from the students receiving the uplifting letters

Kate Snow. "Michigan school staff uplift students through letters." *NBC News*. March 5, 2023

Michigan school staff uplift students through letters (nbcnews.com)

Report: Girls' aptitude for STEM far exceeds interest

A review of data from more than 225,000 female MS and HS students has revealed a major gap between the aptitude of girls for STEM and their interest in pursuing STEM careers. It also found their interest exceeds aptitude in some non-STEM disciplines. Among those findings: Girls' aptitude for careers exceeded their interest—in computers and technology by 8 times, and in advanced manufacturing exceeded interest by 11.3 times. Conversely, girls' interest exceeded their aptitude—in arts and media by 1.4 times, in teaching by 2.3 times, in law and public safety by 3.8 times, and in human services careers by 5.5 times. The report suggests that schools encourage girls to pursue careers that are in line with their potential, starting in MS.

The complete report, is available here.

David Nagel. "Report: Girls' Aptitude Far Exceeds Interest in STEM." *T.H.E. Journal*. March 9, 2023

Report: Girls' Aptitude Far Exceeds Interest in STEM -- THE Journal

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Cybersecurity attacks on education increase

Cybersecurity attacks on educational institutions accounted for 7.3% of all attacks in 2022, compared with 2.8% in 2021, a report from IBM Security finds. 42% of the attacks in education were on public-facing platforms, while data theft and spear phishing attacks each accounted for 25%.

Kate Lucariello. "Education Accounts for 7.3% of Cybersecurity Incidents Across Industries in 2022, Up from 2.8% in 2021." *Campus Technology*. March 1, 2023
Education Accounts for 7.3% of Cybersecurity Incidents Across Industries in 2022, Up from 2.8% in 2021 -- Campus Technology

Phishing attacks targeting students

In a monthlong study of one U.S. school district with newly implemented PhishID security software, Identity Automation uncovered detailed markers of increasingly sophisticated phishing attacks and dangerous proxy services targeting students, according to a new report out from Identity Automation.

Kristal Kuykendall. "Report Details Increasingly Sophisticated Phishing Attacks and Proxies Targeting Students." *T.H.E. Journal*. February 23, 2023   Report Details Increasingly Sophisticated Phishing Attacks and Proxies Targeting Students -- THE Journal

Biden administration releases National Cyber Strategy

The White House has unveiled its National Cyber Strategy, which details a plan to protect against online threats, including proposing legislation to establish liability for software-makers that fail to take security precautions. The administration also said it would examine the idea of a national insurance backstop for catastrophic attacks.

Lauren Feiner. "White House aims to shift cybersecurity burden from individuals and small businesses to tech providers." *CNBC*. March 2, 2023
White House unveils National Cyber Strategy to shift security burden (cnbc.com)

Major charter network in NYC with shrinking enrollment campaigns for students

Success Academy, a major charter school network in NYC, has a million-dollar operation to market its schools, augmented by a division whose job is student recruitment. Charter schools claim that their numbers need to expand because there are thousands of children on waiting lists. *Yet, 58% of NYC charter schools lost* enrollment over the past three years; and *45% lost enrollment in the last year*. In NYC, Success Academy enrollment has fallen by 7.7% in the last year even though the Academy recruits students outside NYC. Moreover, claims of high demand and long waiting lists at charter schools are unconfirmed by any independent audits and likely include many duplicates. The chain also has high rates of attrition, with *75% of students leaving* from Kindergarten on; and *about 50%* of those students who make it to HS departing before graduation.

"Success Academy's aggressive expansion efforts despite falling enrollment, their questionable "waiting lists" and over $13 million per year spent on marketing." *NYC Public School parents Blog*. February 25, 2023
NYC Public School Parents: Success Academy's aggressive expansion efforts despite falling enrollment, their questionable "waiting lists" and over $13 million per year spent on marketing

After-school Satan Club launches at Colorado ES

Colorado's first-ever 'After School Satan Club' met for the first time on March 5. It was created at the request of a parent who had reached out to The Satanic Temple, a church whose mission, contrary to its name, encourages benevolence and empathy, rejects tyrannical authority, advocates practical common sense and opposes injustice. The article examines the origins and programming of such clubs.

Sharon Sullivan, Colorado Newsline. "Colorado's First-Ever 'After School Satan Club' to Launch at Elementary School." *The 74 Million*. March 6, 2023   Colorado's First-Ever 'After School Satan Club' to Launch at Elementary School – The 74 (the74million.org)

Court ruling: College esports don't fall under Title IX

Competitive video gaming, known as esports, does not count as athletics for the purposes of the federal Title IX antidiscrimination law, according to a February court decision. The Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) sought to use esports to comply with the federal law requiring balance between men's and women's athletics. FIT had been sued by six members of its varsity men's rowing program, alleging the institution's decision to shift the team to the club level violated Title IX and that men were underrepresented as athletes compared to the institution's student body. But FIT argued it was near parity when esport participants were taken into account.

Jeremy Bauer-Wolf. "First-of-its-kind court ruling says college esports don't fall under Title IX." *Higher Ed Dive*. March 3, 2023
First-of-its-kind court ruling says college esports don't fall under Title IX | Higher Ed Dive

How schools can screen edtech for racial bias

Research has shown that some technology -- like facial recognition software -- can be biased, and some educators and experts now are urging that greater care be taken when designing education technology to ensure that racial gaps do not grow. Because ed tech sometimes reflects the biases of its designers and society, careless expansion of tech tools into the classroom can exacerbate the discrimination Black and Brown students face. The article suggests that educators ask tech firms for documentation that they have addressed potential bias and have a plan to address it.

Javeria Salman. "How ed tech can worsen racial inequality." *Hechinger Report*. March 3, 2023
How ed tech can worsen racial inequality (hechingerreport.org)

How districts can help prevent loss of Medicaid coverage for millions of children

In April, when continuous Medicaid enrollment expires, about 6.7 million children currently insured under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program could lose their coverage, potentially impacting student health and attendance as well as district finances. For schools that benefit from the Medicaid reimbursement program, unenrolled children and families means a loss in reimbursements for services such as physical and speech therapy schools will still be required to provide. Housing instability and income fluctuations during the pandemic make procedural hurdles, like not receiving renewal paperwork due to address changes, even more likely. Public schools

are uniquely positioned between families at risk of losing Medicaid coverage and the state trying to reach them. AASA emphasizes that district leaders play a critical role in ensuring families are aware of these Medicaid changes. Districts should communicate with families about updating their contact information with state Medicaid agencies. Almost every state is partnering with schools and community advocates for this purpose.

Naaz Modan. "How can districts help prevent millions of children from losing Medicaid coverage?" *K-12 Dive*. March 6, 2023
How can districts help prevent millions of children from losing Medicaid coverage? | K-12 Dive (k12dive.com)

Parent groups rallying against HR GOP's parents bill of rights

National Parents Union President Keri Rodrigues says the Republicans' Parents Bill of Rights proposal is out of touch with the concerns of many families and plans to meet with House Democratic leadership Monday in hopes of killing the bill before it can move forward. Previously, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy joined fellow GOP members to introduce the plan, which calls for greater transparency into school curriculum, spending, and safety.

Linda Jacobson. "House GOP Pushes Parents Bill of Rights, But Some Advocates Call it 'Tone Deaf'." *The 74 Million*. March 6, 2023
House GOP Pushes Parents Bill of Rights, But Some Advocates Call it 'Tone Deaf' – The 74 (the74million.org)

What Can Free Online University Teach Traditional Colleges?

When the University of the People began nearly 15 years ago, online education was viewed as a poor substitute for in-person study and not sustainable. The college has won accreditation, has ~ 37,000 volunteers, and has grown to serve 126,000 students. Its student body comes from all around the world. It has worked to support students with obstacles to higher ed, including more than 16,000 refugees. The University of the People has found a way to keep growing — with a basic model of requiring fees for taking the final assessments, and offering financial aid for those who can't afford to do even that. It has also come up with plenty of clever ways to keep costs low, such as relying on free or low-cost open educational resources rather than costly commercial textbooks. Meanwhile, the pandemic changed views about online education.

Jeffrey R. Young. "A Free Online University Has Grown to 126,000 Students. What Can It Teach Traditional Colleges?" *Ed Surge*.
March 7, 2023   A Free Online University Has Grown to 126,000 Students. What Can It Teach Traditional Colleges? | EdSurge News

Ideas for ensuring a positive school image

Successful school leaders understand how their actions shape perceptions about their school. They consciously promote their school to build a positive reputation for their school as a place where families want to send their children and where teachers and other employees want to work. They:

* Collect stories about student and teacher success and share them with teachers, families, and community.
* Maximize time spent in classrooms and talk with teachers about their instruction and how they can be supportive.
* Plan how to respond to critical incidents and events since their behavior will model staff response.
* Publicly recognize student and teacher efforts to support your school's mission and vision.
* Value professional learning and join in. Talk about what you've learned and encourage others to do the same.
* Your presence, or absence, signals your priorities. The way you talk with teachers lets them know what is valued.
* Talk regularly with individual and small groups of students. Listen as much as you talk.
* Assure that your school budget supports your school's vision and mission.
* Identify ways to expand your presence in your school's community: groups to meet with, messages to share.

Ronald Williamson is professor emeritus of educational leadership, and Barbara Blackburn is a professor and best-selling author.
Ronald Williamson & Barbara R. Blackburn. "The Keys to Shaping Your School's Reputation." *Middle Web*. March 6, 2023
The Keys to Shaping Your School's Reputation (middleweb.com)

Strategies to Overcome Bus Driver Shortages

Benton Community School Corp. in Indiana was able to overcome longstanding bus driver shortages thanks to an innovative set of strategies, including recruiting teachers and parents and allowing new hires to choose morning or afternoon routes, says Superintendent Dr. Scott Van Der Aa.

Erik Ofgang. "4 Strategies to Overcome Bus Driver Shortages." *Tech & Learning*. March 7, 2023
4 Strategies to Overcome Bus Driver Shortages | Tech & Learning (techlearning.com)

Models for minimum teacher wage

Congress is weighing a significant change to the teaching profession — to help attract strong candidates to the classroom while retaining those already there. The American Teacher Act, a HR bill, would establish a minimum salary of $60,000 for every American public school teacher. Senator Bernie Sanders has said he would introduce complementary legislation. This article looks at two successful efforts to raise teacher salaries and raise the status of the profession. At the state level, Maryland in 2021 passed legislation to increase state education funding and establish a statewide teacher salary minimum. Within 10 years every local education agency in the state will begin offering a minimum starting teacher salary of $60,000.00. At the local level, the Houston School District began offering a minimum teacher salary of $61,500 at the start of the current school year—to compete with other school districts in the area, as well to counter the teacher shortage, especially in high-need, low-supply positions. Early signs suggest their efforts are paying off. Houston ISD has seen fewer teacher departures than in any of the prior five years and has received a "significant increase" in the number of applications for teaching positions this year.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "The Idea of a Teacher Salary Minimum Is Gaining Steam in Congress. Where Has This Worked?" *Ed Surge News*. March 6, 2023   The Idea of a Teacher Salary Minimum Is Gaining Steam in Congress. Where Has This Worked? | EdSurge News

Report: Vouchers cannibalizing public school funds

An ongoing concern about using public funds for private schools is it that public education will suffer financial consequences as a result. A new report from Public Funds Public Schools, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Education Law Center suggests that this is indeed happening and quantifies the apparent losses to public schools, which 90% of the nation's students attend. The report finds that the share of gross domestic product allocated to K-12 education declined in the seven U.S. states with the longest-running private school voucher programs between 2008 and 2019, even as private school voucher spending more than doubled and public school enrollment rose. These developments underscore the importance of documenting and understanding the increasing levels of public funding diverted to private education through voucher programs. That expansion is happening at a time when the research evidence that voucher use has a very harmful impact on students' academic achievement, particularly their math scores. The politicians who adopt and expand voucher policies do so in the face of overwhelming evidence.

"Evidence That Vouchers Are Cannibalizing Public School Budgets." *National Education Policy Center* (U. Colorado). March 9, 2023
www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=282463&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5

Most popular school ed tech tools not aligned with ESSA

School districts are using more education technology tools, but only about 25% of the 100 most popular tools meet Every Student Succeeds Act requirements, according to a report from LearnPlatform. Some school districts, have begun requiring evidence of ESSA alignment during purchasing.

Lauraine Langreo. The Most Popular Ed-Tech Products Don't Meet Research Standards. *Education Week*. March 8, 2023
The Most Popular Ed-Tech Products Don't Meet Research Standards (edweek.org)

Study: Widespread education vulnerabilities due to email security settings

New research shows that an overwhelming majority of education institutions in the U.S. have incorrectly configured email security settings and as a result are more susceptible to phishing and spoofing threats. A review of the security policies of .edu email domains assigned to 1,930 U.S. higher education institutions found that only 152(7.8%) of the country's .edu domains have correctly implemented and configured security policies to flag, report, and remove outbound phishing emails. The survey did not include K–12 domains since the extensions used by school districts vary between states and are not uniform as higher ed domains are. However, the recommendations are just as urgent and important for public schools as they are for those at higher education institutions, the report indicated.

Kristal Kuykendall. "DMARC Study of Education Domains Warns of Widespread Vulnerabilities due to Email Security Settings." *T.H.E. Journal*. March 9, 2023   DMARC Study of Education Domains Warns of Widespread Vulnerabilities due to Email Security Settings -- THE Journal

NEW YORK STATE

Groups seek data on how NYS school aid is distributed

Money should be set aside in the state budget to review how money for schools is distributed to NYS districts and to explore ways of changing it, say education organizations such as the Association of School Business Officials of New York, the NYS Council of School Superintendents, NYSUT, and the Alliance for Quality Education. They are backing a call from the Board of Regents to spend $1 million to research state aid distribution. At issue is the foundation aid formula and how schools benefit from it. Schools are funded with a mix of property tax revenue and state aid. But education groups have long decried the system over concerns that it benefits wealthy districts with deeper tax bases. Governor Hochul's $227 billion spending proposal backs a steep rise in direct aid to schools at levels education advocates have long sought, but does not include funding for the foundation aid review. The education groups also want more than a simple review and are backing an update to how the money is allocated. It's potentially controversial to take aim at the funding formula and the potential fallout for some schools as a result.

Nick Reisman. "Education groups call for review of how school aid is distributed in New York." *Spectrum*. March 6, 2023
Education groups: Review of how school aid is distributed (spectrumlocalnews.com)

NYSED exploring updates to state regulations regarding restraint and seclusion

NYSED officials are exploring updates to state regulations governing the use of restraint and seclusion on schoolchildren, after problems associated with the widespread use of these emergency methods was made public. The department has convened a working group of staff that meets regularly to examine possible regulatory changes and plans to present any proposed amendments in the spring. The department said it will collect public input before making changes to the state rules. The department's study comes as state legislators consider multiple bills to curb the use of inappropriate physical force on students, including a proposed state law to ban seclusion and limit restraint to instances where serious injury is imminent. Unlike the majority of states, NYS does not require public schools to report how often they use restraints and time out rooms on students.

Emilie Munson. "State officials consider new rules on restraint and seclusion in school." *Albany Times Union*. March 8, 2023
New York considers new rules on restraint and seclusion (timesunion.com)