

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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April 1, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Analysis: Guided play on par with direct instruction

Students can learn as much about literacy and executive function through guided play as they do through direct instruction from teachers and adults, according to a review of 17 studies published in the journal *Child Development*. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, says "real learning" takes place when students are active and engaged.

Jackie Mader. "Kids can learn more from guided play than from direct instruction, report finds." *Hechinger Report*. March 24, 2022
<https://hechingerreport.org/kids-can-learn-more-from-guided-play-than-from-direct-instruction-report-finds/>

5 ways guidance counselors can connect virtually

School guidance counselors can coordinate virtual events to help foster connections with students and families virtually, says Lisa Carr, a HS counselor. She explains five virtual programs that have worked for her and notes that remote programs and counseling services likely will continue after the pandemic.

Lisa Carr. "5 Simple Virtual Programs to Keep in Your High School." *Edutopia*. March 23, 2022
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-simple-virtual-programs-keep-your-high-school>

What life-altering teaching looks like

A review of nearly two dozen studies reveals teaching strategies that can have life-altering effects for students. One study from 2019 found that top teachers consistently asked for feedback from students about what was working -- and what was not -- and separate research shows the importance of maintaining high standards.

Youki Terada & Stephen Merrill. "The Research on Life-Changing Teaching." *Edutopia*. March 25, 2022
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/research-life-changing-teaching>

Brain Body Behavior combines movement, learning

An elementary school in a North Carolina district adopted the Brain Body Behavior program, which makes physical activity a part of learning math, reading and sensory skills. The program, adopted in 2017 and expanded in 2019, also led to better student behavior in the 2019-20 school year.

Courtney Cole. "CMS B3 program helps students stay active while learning new materials." *WBTW-TV* (Charlotte, NC). March 24, 2022
<https://www.wbtv.com/2022/03/24/cms-b3-program-helps-students-stay-active-while-learning-new-materials/>

Traditional hall pass goes digital

Some school districts are adopting digital hall passes, saying they help to prevent abuse of traditional physical hall passes and help counteract social media vandalism trends. However, a senior fellow at Sesame Workshop who studies child rights, says digital hall passes may raise privacy concerns.

Jeffrey R. Young. "The School Hall Pass Is Going Digital. Is That a Good Thing?" *Ed Surge*. March 25, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-03-25-the-school-hall-pass-is-going-digital-is-that-a-good-thing>

Some school librarians self-censoring collections

Some school librarians say they are taking steps to preemptively deal with books that have faced challenges as objectionable by some parents, politicians or others. Librarians share their stories and discuss how they are addressing the situation, as the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom says it logged a record high 330 book bans in schools in a three-month period last fall.

Hannah Natanson. "Schools nationwide are quietly removing books from their libraries." *Washington Post*. March 22, 2022
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/03/22/school-librarian-book-bans-challenges/?wpisrc=nl_sb_smartbrief

Report finds "invisible tax" paid by Black educators

Black male educators spend nearly three more nonwork hours each week than their white male colleagues to counsel or mentor students and are three times more likely than other teachers of color to report being asked to discipline students of color, according to a recent report and educators during a recent panel discussion. School leaders can address these disparities, which amount to an "invisible tax," by training all teachers to work with all students and to refrain from expecting Black staffers to provide lessons about racism to peers or students, the panelists said.

Naaz Modan. "Report suggests 'invisible tax' levied against Black male educators." *K-12 Dive*. March 25, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/report-suggests-invisible-tax-levied-against-black-male-educators/621044/>

Why kids aren't reading more

YouTube and TikTok could be to blame, according to a new survey. Technology-related media use among students increased during the coronavirus pandemic, while rates of reading remained flat, according to a survey by the nonprofit Common Sense Media. Data found that social media use, particularly viewing videos, rose; and only 1/3 of tweens and 1/5 of teenagers said they read for pleasure daily.

Alyson Klein. "The real reason kids aren't reading more." *Education Week*. March 28, 2022

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-real-reasons-kids-arent-reading-more/2022/03?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=enl&utm_campaign=eu&M=64371113&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfa

Benefits of service learning for HS students

Service learning and volunteering help HS students give back to their community and grow as individuals. When students become more involved in the community through volunteering or service learning, it has a long-lasting impact on their development into adulthood. While volunteering is beneficial to both the student and the organization, service learning challenges students to go beyond volunteering. In service learning, students work to identify a problem or need within their community and make a plan of action to help—conducting research on that topic, and collaborating and communicating with their peers in implementing change.

Joe Shim. "Benefits of Service Learning for High School Students." *Edutopia*. March 24, 2022

https://www.edutopia.org/article/benefits-service-learning-high-school-students?utm_content=linkpost1&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-03-31

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

GAO data shows spike in "unaccounted for" students

An estimated 1.1 million K-12 students registered for the 2020-21 school year never showed up for class, according to a [Government Accountability Office report](#) released Wednesday. The long-term impact of the disruptions of the last 2 years on student enrollment and attendance remains to be seen, particularly for students with whom schools have lost contact. While the issue of students not showing up at all during the pandemic is of grave significance, little is known about the obstacles these students face or the types of schools they come from. About 48% of public elementary and secondary school teachers nationwide had at least one student who was registered but never showed up for class during the 2020-21 school year. Based on these data, the GAO estimates that at least 1.1 million students were unaccounted for in the 2020-2021 school year.

"Report to Congress." *Government Accountability Office (GAO)*. March 23, 2022

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-104581.pdf>

Request: Support U.S.E.D. effort to hold charter schools accountable

For the first time since the federal Charter Schools program was established in 1994, the U.S.E.D. is setting forth regulation of the program. This development should prevent the charter industry from escaping accountability and transparency, while tolerating graft and profiteering. Key features of the regulations are:

- * To qualify for federal funding, charters must develop an impact statement, describing the demographics that they will serve, whether there is a need for their proposed charter, whether the charter would intensify racial segregation in district schools, and how the charter would impact the local district schools.
- * Charters would have to demonstrate how they will serve the local community.
- * Charters operated by for-profit organizations would not be eligible for funding.

Dr. Ravitch urges readers to support the effort to regulate the recipients of federal money for charters (\$440 million) and provides a link to learn more - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/03/14/2022-05463/proposed-priorities-requirements-definitions-and-selection-criteria-expanding-opportunity-through#open-comment>.

The full column provides details that could be used in comments. **The deadline for comments is April 13, 2022.**

"Please Support the U.S. Department of Education's Proposals to Regulate Federal Funding of Charter Schools." *Diane Ravitch's blog*. March 30, 2022

<https://dianeravitch.net/2022/03/30/please-support-the-u-s-department-of-educations-proposals-to-regulate-federal-funding-of-charter-schools/>

NEW YORK STATE

Data of 820,000 NYC students compromised in hack on online grading system

NYC Education Department officials are accusing Illuminate Education, the California-based company behind the popular Skedula and PupilPath platforms, of misrepresenting its cybersecurity measures by certifying that it encrypts all student data when in fact it left some of it unencrypted. Personal data for roughly 820,000 current and former NYC public school students was compromised, perhaps the largest-ever breach of K-12 student data in the U.S.

Michael Elsen-Rooney. "Data of 820,000 NYC students compromised in hack of online grading system: Education Dept." *NY Daily News*. March 25, 2022

https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/nv-hack-illuminate-online-gradebook-compromised-personal-data-20220325-ahy3b3tScizajau63muqcnq-story.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Don%27%20Miss&utm_content=5631648250850#nws=true

Federal support for free meals set to expire in June

The federal waivers and subsidies that enabled school districts to offer meals free of charge are set to expire in June, and advocates are calling for the establishment and funding of a permanent, statewide program to ensure students have access to a healthy breakfast and lunch. The New York School Nutrition Association, with more than 300 state education associations, anti-hunger groups, child nutrition advocates, and school districts, has launched a Healthy School Meals for All campaign to urge state legislators and Governor Hochul to include the funds in the state budget. School meals are among the most effective anti-hunger programs and are proven to reduce food insecurity, improve mental and physical health and academic performance.

Rachel Silberstein. "With free school meal program set to expire, advocates want state to pick up tab." *Albany Times Union*. March 26, 2022 https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/With-free-school-meal-program-set-to-expire-17028248.php?IPID=Times-Union-state-spotlight&utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=0136892da5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_03_26_11_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c7d1-0136892da5-34743040&mc_cid=0136892da5&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

Almost 50% of Rochester children live in poverty

Nearly half of all children in Rochester live in poverty according to the U.S Census Bureau. That ranks second highest in the nation of areas with a population of 100,000 or more. Only Syracuse has a higher childhood poverty rate than Rochester among mid-to-large-size cities. Local non-profits are disappointed, but note that this is nothing new after decades of economic and political systems working against average families. Within that 48.2% of all children in Rochester living in poverty, the majority come from Black and Latino families, according to the Children's Agenda, highlighting racial disparities during economic hardships. Recently non-profits are also [partnering with the City of Rochester and Rochester City School District to guide children to better opportunities](#) through jobs and internships.

Alex Love. "Nearly half of all children in Rochester live in poverty, second-highest rate in the nation." *WROC TV-8*. March 29, 2022 <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/nearly-half-of-all-children-in-rochester-live-in-poverty-second-highest-in-the-nation/>

Creating more diversity and inclusion and NYS colleges

Conversations about diversity and inclusion have been pushed to the forefront in recent years, as academic institutions react to the Black Lives Matter movement, the rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans and health care disparities highlighted by the coronavirus pandemic. A growing number of institutions have taken actions, empowering college officials to encourage diversity and creating safer and more inclusive learning environments for all students. This article describes a few examples of innovative initiatives and academic efforts underway emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion in New York.

Julia Santiago. "Higher Education Power 100: Driving diversity on campus." *City & State NY*. March 30, 2022 <https://www.cityandstateny.com/power-lists/2022/03/higher-education-power-100-driving-diversity-campus/363756/>

DiNapoli: SED department not helping those with disabilities live independently

The program run by the state Education Department that helps New Yorkers with disabilities find jobs and live independently is not fulfilling its mission, too often leaving participants with inadequate plans that don't accomplish those goals, according to an audit released Wednesday by state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

Rachel Silberstein. "DiNapoli: State's employment program for people with disabilities falling short." *Albany Times Union*. March 30, 2022 https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/DiNapoli-State-s-employment-program-for-people-17039030.php?IPID=Times-Union-HP-latest-news&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=tu_capitolconfidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af

Schools want state help in mental health crisis

Educators want Governor Hochul and legislative leaders to acknowledge a worsening mental health crisis facing schools by boosting funding for services in the forthcoming state budget. Hochul has proposed spending \$100 million over two years for mental health services in "high needs" school districts, but hasn't identified which districts would qualify. The funds would be available to match district spending from federal stimulus grants. But some say that all districts need state help meeting the needs of students and staff who are feeling the effects of the pandemic and more. A survey of school superintendents in late 2021 found that 80% had a high level of concern about students' mental and emotional health. But mental health had been a growing concern of school chiefs before the pandemic, with the percentage naming it a priority soaring from 35% in 2016 to 67% in 2019. The need for improved mental health services for students are now universal, "cutting across all districts," said Bob Lowry, deputy director of the NYS Council of School Superintendents. Many school districts are using federal stimulus grants on therapy, counseling and other mental health supports, but that money has to be spent by 2024.

Gary Stern, *Rockland/Westchester Journal News*. "Schools want help in mental health crisis." *Democrat & Chronicle*. March 31, 2022 <https://rochesterdemocrat-ny.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220331&goTo=A01&artid=3>