

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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April 14, 2023 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Report: Students learning English missed by gifted ed

Gifted and talented programs often overlook students who are English-language learners and those with disabilities, according to a recent study. Inclusion rates of these students in Colorado schools are higher than the national average due to universal screening procedures, but researchers note that some students still fall through the cracks. Yesenia Robles. "Study: Gifted education too often excludes English learners, students with disabilities." *Chalkbeat*. April 6, 2023
[Study: Gifted programs too often exclude English learners - Chalkbeat Colorado](#)

Supporting continued growth for expert teachers

There is a difference between experienced teachers and expert teachers. This article highlights three ways that expert teachers can continue to improve their teaching practice, including considering a "small shift" that could improve learning and how it would be sustained. Small shifts in practice are often all it takes to reach the next level. Michael McDowell. "3 Ways to Help Expert Teachers Get Even Better." *Edutopia*. April 7, 2023
[Helping Expert Teachers Improve | Edutopia](#)

Updating a school's mission statement

80% of school mission statements focus on preparing students for post-HS lives, but student-centered education is mentioned only in 12% and mental health in 4%, data indicate. Crafting a mission statement is a school's first chance at achieving transparency into the values, goals, and commitments necessary to achieve academic excellence. It helps to ensure every student is represented in the plan. However, this priority is often missed by schools. There's always time to reimagine a school's mission statement to ensure it covers all the important areas. Recommendations include involvement of all stakeholders, collection of data to be addressed, identification of a vision, draft by a small group, presentation of draft to the community, revision, and implementation. Micah Ward. "Is it time to rethink your school's mission statement? Research says yes." *District Administration*. April 6, 2023
[Is it time to rethink your school's mission statement? \(districtadministration.com\)](#)

Strategies for coaching teachers

Easy-to-implement feedback in checklist form makes coaching more successful for teachers, according to Jim Knight of the Instructional Coaching Group, who interviewed hundreds of teachers for input. Among three other tips, Knight advises ensuring you don't quash teachers' collaborative nature when sharing ideas. Jim Knight. "4 Steps for Focusing Coaching Sessions." *Educational Leadership*. April 2, 2023
[4 Steps for Focusing Coaching Sessions \(ascd.org\)](#)

Classroom discussion now more important

With the rise of AI, including language models like ChatGPT, "classroom discussion now assumes a central role in instruction that it hasn't seen in a very long time," writes a teacher and columnist. Shared social learning experiences are one thing that can't be automated. Matthew R. Kay. "Classroom Discussion Just Got More Important." *ASCD*. April 1, 2023
[Classroom Discussion Just Got More Important \(ascd.org\)](#)

Explore-before-explanation better for teaching ES science

Elementary science teachers can build student engagement and enhance learning by using the explore-before-explain approach. An explore-before-explain mindset in primary school science is one that allows students to examine new ideas and learn through doing. The author recommends teachers work backward from the desired destination, engaging student ideas, building on student understanding and encouraging metacognition on the learning process. Patrick Brown is executive director of STEAM for the Fort Zumwalt School District in O'Fallon, Missouri. Patrick Brown. "Exploring Before Explaining Sparks Learning." *Edutopia*. April 7, 2023
[Explore Before Explain In Elementary Science | Edutopia](#)

What the past tells us about the future of AI in education

Current attitudes toward generative AI hearken back to early skepticism about the impact of the internet on education. Both then and now, technology has created challenges but also opportunities that can't be ignored. Dr. David Wiley. "What the Past Can Teach Us About the Future of AI and Education." *Campus Technology*. April 6, 2023
[What the Past Can Teach Us About the Future of AI and Education -- Campus Technology](#)

After-school programs to counter pandemic losses

The typical school day might not be long enough to help kids catch up from the pandemic. So, a national campaign calls for communities to invest in high-quality and holistic after-school activities. Yet with limited funding and staff shortages, it's hard to make these programs accessible and affordable for families.

Eleanore Catolico. "Can After-School Programs Help Children Recover From the Pandemic?" *Ed Surge*. April 10, 2023
[Can After-School Programs Help Children Recover From the Pandemic? | EdSurge News](#)

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Fairly proctoring online exams

The University of New England in Australia has been supervising online exams since 2017, so when the pandemic struck, the university already had an infrastructure for online assessments. University faculty offer best practices for proctoring online exams, including an emphasis on flexibility and student support.

Kylie Day & Sarah Thorne Croft. "Tips to help students perform their best in online exams." *Smart Brief/Education*. April 4, 2023
[Tips to help students perform their best in online exams - SmartBrief](#)

Turnitin AI writing-detection now live

Plagiarism detection software Turnitin now includes new live AI-writing detection features that "identify the use of AI writing tools including ChatGPT, with 98% confidence," the company said.

Kristal Kuykendall. "Turnitin's New AI Writing-Detection Features for Educators are Now Live." *Campus Technology*. April 6, 2023
[Turnitin's New AI Writing-Detection Features for Educators are Now Live -- Campus Technology](#)

Bias in privately run rating systems

Following the federal requirements for states to report school performance with a standardized measure of accountability, non-state organizations have drawn on states' publicly available data to create their own consumer-oriented rating systems. NEPC's policy brief, *Consumer-Oriented School Rating Systems and Their Implications for Educational Equity*, examines these rating systems, their cultural effects, how they work, and their implications for educational equity. It describes the evidence about these rating systems, their purpose supposedly to help families navigate school choice options. One consistent finding is that schools' ratings, or the measures that comprise school ratings, are associated with schools' demographic characteristics, such as students' race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status. School ratings shape how the public and parents perceive schools, as well as influence the work of school personnel and the value of houses in the neighborhoods surrounding schools. Consumer-oriented ratings systems may contribute to the acceleration or deepening of residential and school segregation. The paper provides recommendations for both policymakers and the organizations that create and maintain the ratings systems.

Find the report at: <https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/school-ratings>.

"Can we trust privately run school rating systems?" *National Education Policy Center*. U.Colorado/Boulder. April 13, 2023
<https://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=287044&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5>

Are those who left the teaching profession happier in new jobs?

In a 2022 survey, more than half of K-12 educators said they planned to leave the profession earlier than anticipated. This article includes interviews with six teachers who actually did; they all resigned at the end of the last school year. The article describes steps in their transitions and what life is like for them now.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "They Left Teaching in Search of a Better Life. Did They Find It?" *Ed Surge*. April 11, 2023
[They Left Teaching in Search of a Better Life. Did They Find It? | EdSurge News](#)

Ransomware attacks on K-12 schools grew 827% in 2022

Ransomware attacks targeting K-12 schools worldwide last year grew at an "absolutely massive" rate of 827% over 2021, according to SonicWall's 2023 Cyber Threat Report. Data show that education customers, those whose data were compromised, had the highest percentage reporting ransomware attempts of all sectors studied.

Kristal Kuykendall. "Ransomware Targeting K-12 Grew a Massive 827% Last Year, SonicWall Reports." *T.H.E. Journal*. April 13, 2023
[Ransomware Targeting K-12 Grew a Massive 827% Last Year, SonicWall Reports -- THE Journal](#)

Experts offer tips on ensure students benefit from ESSER spending

The pace of K-12 school districts' spending of ESSER Funds has picked up significantly this school year, and education leaders. Researchers share tips and guides to help district leaders efficiently evaluate, or re-evaluate, their options when making procurement decisions, to ensure students benefit and spending decisions don't fail.

Advice from Education Leaders Includes Emphasis on Equity, Do's and Don'ts for Procurement, Avoiding a Fiscal Cliff and Ensuring Sustainability
Kristal Kuykendall. "As ESSER Spending Ramps Up, Experts Offer Tips to Make Sure Students Truly Benefit, Now and Later." *T.H.E. Journal*. April 11, 2023
[As ESSER Spending Ramps Up, Experts Offer Tips to Make Sure Students Truly Benefit, Now and Later -- THE Journal](#)

NEW YORK STATE

NYC plans to install video doorbells in schools

NYC officials announced a plan to install video-equipped doorbells in all schools that would require visitors to be buzzed in, rather than entering through an unlocked door. The rollout will begin with elementary schools in May. Alex Zimmerman. "NYC officials unveil timeline for locking campus doors, beginning with elementary schools." *Chalkbeat/NY*. April 7, 2023 [NYC plans to begin locking elementary school entrances next month - Chalkbeat New York](#)

Students taking new g.3-8 state language arts tests next week

The NYSED has reset the bar for determining whether schools are showing year-to-year improvement, saying last year's much lower results are the new baseline. New state language arts tests for grades 3-8 start next week, reflecting new standards that were delayed due to the pandemic. There are fewer expectations on which to test students in the new assessment, in response to teachers saying there were too many on the previous version of the test. Among items removed were the requirement for 3rd-graders to read fables and myths. Instead, they must read a variety of genres. In writing, they must use descriptions of actions, thoughts and feelings, but no longer have to include dialogue. In 8th-grade, students no longer have to determine how the central theme of a text relates to the characters, setting and plot. Instead, the new assessment requires that they find the central theme and analyze it. Kathleen Moore. "Students in grades 3-8 will take new state English Language Arts tests next week." *Albany Times Union*. April 12, 2023 [New York students to take new state language arts tests next week \(timesunion.com\)](#)

School districts prepare for late state budget

This year, the Governor, the Senate and Assembly are committed to fully funding foundation aid but NYS districts are being put in a tough situation without a state budget deal. School districts outside the "Big Five" city districts have to finalize their budgets by April 18 to send out military ballots, gain school board approval, and hold budget hearings to inform voters of their proposals. Voters will decide the school budgets at the polls on May 16 for the school fiscal year that starts July 1. This year, the state is committed to fully funding foundation aid and is proposing a school budget of \$34.5 billion, a record \$3.1 billion increase over last year. So, districts can prepare for a sizable increase in funding which should alleviate some of the planning woes as the budget is negotiated.

Katelyn Cordero. "School districts prepare for late state budget." *Politico*. April 13, 2023 [POLITICO Pro | Article | School districts prepare for late state budget](#)