

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

April 8, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Using student voices to reinvigorate school culture

Student advisory councils that include diverse student voices have administrators taking cues from students' ideas for solutions to challenges identified through data, according to two teachers in Connecticut and Nevada. These educators explain the ways they are incorporating student voice this year. Student voice was surging in importance pre-COVID among K-12 educators seeking new ways to engage learners in the curriculum and build more authentic relationships with young people. Now, in a growing number of districts, teachers and administrators are elevating student voice as a key step in bouncing back from COVID. 'We were busting the myth that student voice is a privilege and making it part of our culture that student voice is a right,' educator says.

Matt Zalaznick. "Why two educators say elevating student voice is key to building back better." *District Administrators*. March 31, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/educators-elevate-student-voice-build-schools-back-better/>

Some states consider later school start times

A California law that passed in 2019 made the state the first to require that HSs do not start before 8:30 a.m., and now several other states and school districts are considering following suit. The push comes as schools look for ways to support students' mental health.

Meredith Deliso. "Later school start times eyed to address youth mental health crisis." *ABC News*. April 3, 2022 <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/school-start-times-eyed-address-youth-mental-health/story?id=83791358>

Study: Naps beneficial for preK literacy skills

A study involving 32 children found that daytime naps could be beneficial for preK children's learning of letter-sound mappings, which is crucial to early reading development. Researchers reported in *Child Development* that children who napped recognized the letter sounds they had learned, while no nap benefit was found for explicit learning tasks such as distinguishing letter sounds they hadn't learned earlier.

Cara Murez, *HealthDay News*. "Daytime naps may boost early literacy skills in preschoolers." *United Press International*. March 31, 2022 https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/03/31/preschool-literacy-naps/7841648670320/

Report: Do not reward perfect attendance

The pandemic has led to a rise in student absenteeism, and challenges such as transportation that were leading causes of absenteeism have worsened as well, a report from Brown University's EdResearch for Recovery team finds. The researchers offer seven strategies that can boost attendance, including home visits, but they advise against rewarding perfect attendance, which has been found to lead to future increases in absenteeism.

Matt Zalaznick. "7 new ways to stem a rash of new school attendance problems." *District Administration*. April 4, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/7-new-ways-school-stem-attendance-chronic-absenteeism-covid/>

How the pandemic elevated ed tech in schools

Many teachers are building upon the technology use initiated during remote and hybrid instruction, and saying that the use of digital tools has become more advanced. Teachers' more sophisticated use of technology is expected to continue, such as using voice notes embedded in YouTube videos to offer students a deeper dive of lessons.

Matt Zalaznick. "Many ed-tech advances were inspired by crisis. These will outlast COVID." *District Administration*. April 4, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/ed-tech-online-learning-instructional-technology-advances-outlast-covid/>

Why In-School Suspension Is Not a Helpful Alternative

This article dispels myths about in-school suspension that can lead to a reliance on seemingly innocuous but harmful and racially disparate discipline practices. The U.S.E.D. defines both out-of-school suspension *and* in-school suspension as exclusionary. The research on this exclusionary practice highlights the important role that district leaders must play in supporting racial equity and interrupting the historical cycle of exclusion. In-school suspension, seemingly innocuous, is not a new, helpful, nor racially just alternative.

"Why In-School Suspension Is Not a Helpful Alternative." *National Education Policy Center*. April 7, 2022 <http://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=243489&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440247f0ff88d5>

Concerns about school digital surveillance

US Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey are asking the Federal Communications Commission to clarify how schools should use digital surveillance of students' online activities so as not to interfere with their civil rights, and for the U.S.E.D. to gather data to determine whether any particular student groups are disproportionately affected. Mark Keierleber. "Senate Inquiry Warns About Harms of Digital School Surveillance Tools, Calls on FCC to Clarify Student Monitoring Rules" *The 74*. April 4, 2022 <https://www.the74million.org/article/senate-inquiry-warns-about-harms-of-digital-school-surveillance-tools-calls-on-fcc-to-clarify-student-monitoring-rules/>

Memory & storage upgrades should be part of school tech plans

Upgrading memory and storage capabilities are actually investments in learning, as high usage can hinder technological effectiveness. Virtual reality applications are becoming more popular in schools and require more storage space, and advances in computer memory can double bandwidth.

Erin Cunningham. "Q&A: Speed and Storage Support Mobile Technology in K–12 Classrooms." *Ed Tech Magazine*. April 1, 2022 <https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2022/04/qa-speed-and-storage-support-mobile-technology-k-12-classrooms>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Closing schools can speed gentrification

Shuttering schools increases gentrification in predominantly Black communities, an analysis of census and school closure data finds. Opponents of school closures point to the impact on students' education, such as larger class sizes and longer travel times to and from school. But according to a new study, shuttering a school affects more than its students. It changes a community, contributing to disintegration of Black neighborhoods.

Carrie Spector, Stamford University. "Closing schools speeds gentrification in Black neighborhoods." *Futurity*. April 1, 2022 <https://www.futurity.org/gentrification-closed-schools-2719912-2/>

How 2 Industries Stymied Justice for Young Lead Paint Victims

The U.S. insurance and real estate industries have waged a decades-long campaign to avoid liability in lead cases, helping to prolong an epidemic. The cost for millions of children has been incalculable. The *New York Times* has found a decades-long campaign by the real estate and insurance industries to shield themselves from liability in lead-poisoning cases. The effort has allowed what is considered a problem of the past to remain a silent epidemic today. Ellen Gabler. "How 2 industries stymied justice for young lead paint victims." *NY Times*. March 29, 2022

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/29/us/lead-poisoning-insurance-landlords.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20220402&instance_id=57450&nl=todaysheadlines®i_id=18877907&segment_id=87328&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc

The Costs of Canceling Darwin

The author states that state science standards meaningfully affect student learning, adult attitudes about science, and future career choices, so in states that limit evolution instruction there will be fewer scientists and more skepticism of science. These findings are of further interest as the U.S. enters the third year of a deadly pandemic amid public distrust of science and vaccinations. He writes. "When state education leaders require comprehensive instruction in evolution theory in high school, they are helping grow the science workforce of the future."

Benjamin W. Arold is PhD Candidate in economics at LMU Munich and a junior economist at the ifo Center for the Economics of Education at the CESifo Group in Munich, Germany.

Benjamin W. Arold. "The costs of cancelling Darwin." *Education Next*. April 5, 2022

<https://www.educationnext.org/costs-of-canceling-darwin-fewer-scientists-more-skepticism-science-states-limit-evolution-instruction/>

Pandemic has done long-term damage to global education

This extensive report is an in-depth look at the damage the pandemic has done to the global education landscape. Results vary tremendously, but on average students are 8 months behind where they would be had the pandemic not occurred. The report also highlights ways education systems can continue shaping their response, which focus on 4 prescriptions: resilience, reenrollment, recovery and reimaging.

Jake Bryant, et alia. "How COVID-19 caused a global learning crisis." *McKinsey & Company*. April 4, 2022

<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/how-covid-19-caused-a-global-learning-crisis>

What increasingly partisan, venomous school board races reveal about elections

As traditionally nonpartisan school board campaigns become polarized battlegrounds, voters in next week's Wisconsin races may set the tone for how contentious races across the country will become this year.

Megan O'Matz, *Pro Publica*. "What Increasingly Partisan and Venomous School Board Races Reveal About Elections." *Route Fifty*. April 4, 2022

<https://www.route-fifty.com/public-safety/2022/04/what-increasingly-partisan-and-venomous-wisconsin-school-board-races-reveal-about-american-elections/363978/>

NEW YORK STATE

School bus camera program yields \$12M in first 8 months

From May, when the program began issuing fines, until December, 85,608 violations were issued to drivers who were captured on-camera purportedly failing to stop for school buses, according to the company that operates the program. Suffolk County officials said this yielded roughly \$12.1 million in revenue.

Lorena Mongelli. "Suffolk school bus camera program takes in \$12M in 8 months." *Newsday*. April 2, 2022

https://www.newsday.com/long-island/transportation/school-bus-cameras-suffolk-lpim2ygd#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Top-Stories&ctg=7f80dae0ff17e08169c7036e559bf4b9e7b92a72e79686b9188cc63f596bd4&utm_term=non

Governor announces agreement on Fiscal Year 2023 NYS budget

Governor Kathy Hochul on April 7 announced agreement on the Fiscal Year 2023 State Budget, which includes:

- Tax relief for middle-class New Yorkers and small businesses;
- Suspension of fuel taxes to tackle the high cost of gasoline;
- Billions of dollars to rebuild the health care workforce and build the health care system of the future;
- A historic investment in education to strengthen our higher education institutions and support our teachers and school employees;
- Increased funding for and access to child care;
- A historic investment in pandemic recovery funding;
- A comprehensive housing plan to make living in New York more affordable;
- A record-level investment in a five-year transportation infrastructure plan;
- A record investment in clean energy infrastructure, climate resiliency and preservation;
- Improved ethics oversight by replacing JCOPE with a new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying.

Both legislative houses are expected to pass bills that will enact these priorities.

Media release. *Governor's Office*. April 7, 2022

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/fy23-enacted-agreement>

NYS 2023 budget overview

New York ironed out a "conceptual agreement" on a \$220 billion budget deal on Thursday, with lawmakers coming to the end of eleventh hour discussions on bail reform changes, the state gas tax and a massive taxpayer deal for a new Buffalo Bills stadium. Official budget language and related bills are being finalized as this is written. Approved in the budget were expected spending measures, such as funding for expanded child care and expedited casino licenses in New York City, as well as a \$3-per-hour wage increase for New York home care workers and a deal for \$600 million in taxpayer funding for the Bills stadium. The deal also included to-go alcoholic drinks, a tax cut for the middle class and funding for SUNY schools and hospitals. The new budget would invest over \$7 billion in state support for child care over four years, more than double New York's current investment in subsidies.

Sarah Taddeo, NYS USA Today Team. "NY's \$220B budget deal tweaks bail reform, approves Bills stadium deal. What to know." *Democrat & Chronicle*. April 8, 2022

https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/04/07/new-york-budget-deal-bail-reform-buffalo-bills-stadium-deal/9496280002/?utm_source=democratandchronicle-Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=hero&utm_content=1070DC-E-NLETTER65