

# EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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## May 13, 2022 Education News Update

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### How to help teachers combat misinformation

Teaching students to decipher fact from fiction can be daunting, according to Kimberly Rues, a librarian in Lee's Summit, Mo, who suggests a number of resources to help teachers get started, including The News Literacy Project. Kimberly Rues. "Are We Doomed to a Culture Where Fake News Wins? Not if Schools Can Help It." *Ed Surge*. May 5, 2022 <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-05-05-are-we-doomed-to-a-culture-where-fake-news-wins-not-if-schools-can-help-it>

#### Eliminate math worksheets and use real-world problem solving in K-5

Connecting math to the real world can deepen a student's understanding. The problem-solving approach to teaching math to ES kids makes the subject much more intriguing and relevant, educators say. It allows students to experience math the way it is used in real life, rather than as a pile of equations with no meaningful context. It's never too early to begin having kids learn math this way, experts say.

Alyson Klein. "Ditch Those Math Worksheets. The Case for Teaching Real-World Problem Solving in K-5." *Education Week*. May 3, 2022 [https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/ditch-those-math-worksheets-the-case-for-teaching-real-world-problem-solving-in-k-5/2022/05?utm\\_source=n1&utm\\_medium=eml&utm\\_campaign=eu&M=4230368&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfa](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/ditch-those-math-worksheets-the-case-for-teaching-real-world-problem-solving-in-k-5/2022/05?utm_source=n1&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4230368&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfa)

#### Recess and discipline

Some experts suggest it's time to rethink the long-standing practice of withholding recess as a punishment for ES students. Despite evidence they shouldn't, teachers still take away recess. Experts say it's time to stop. Data suggests recess benefits children's development, and some states are considering passing laws to protect it, while some are criticizing efforts to eliminate a tool they say helps teachers discipline students.

Jackie Mader. "Is recess a right or a privilege?" *Hechinger Report*. May 7, 2022 <https://hechingerreport.org/is-recess-a-right-or-a-privilege/>

#### Best Buddies program boosts inclusion & friendships

The Best Buddies program pairs students with disabilities with peers in general education programs to foster inclusion and socialization. More than 50 K-12 schools in the Pittsburgh area participate in this international program, which also has chapters at the college level.

Jane Milner. "Best Buddies connects young friends who lift each other." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. May 6, 2022 <https://www.post-gazette.com/life/goodness/2022/05/06/best-buddies-connects-young-friends-who-lift-each-other-intellectually-developmentally-disabled-students-support/stories/202204260097>

#### How administrators are lifting teacher morale

Reducing administrative tasks from teachers' workloads, offering praise privately and publicly, bringing in lunches or treats, and implementing teachers' suggestions for improvements are the top four tactics school administrators say they are using to help weary teachers, a survey by Unruly Studios shows.

Matt Zalaznick. "Here are principals' 9 most effective strategies for boosting teacher morale." *District Administration*. May 6, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/principals-9-favorite-ways-raise-teacher-morale/>

#### To transform HS, combine academics and career skills

U.S. HSs must adopt curricula that include intellectual rigor in career and technical education courses and structures to link learning in academic and related CTE courses. A recent head of the Southern Regional Education Board describes a series of project-based assignments that meet SREB's criteria for rigorous work (work that includes both high-level thinking and career skills businesses now value) in the May issue of *Educational Leadership*.

Gene Bottoms. "How to Transform High School? Let Academics and Career Skills Join Forces." *Educational Leadership*. May 1, 2022 <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/how-to-transform-high-school-let-academics-and-career-skills-join-forces>

#### Guidelines for school-to-college intervention

A Kentucky transition-intervention program designed to ensure HS students are ready for college has shown an 8-10% reduction in the share of students needing remedial math classes in college, a study shows. Researchers say the best transition-intervention programs would start 12<sup>th</sup> grade and offer additional instruction time rather than replace time in core classes.

Naomi Thiers. "Research Alert / Do Transition-Intervention Programs Really Boost College Readiness?" *Educational Leadership*. May 2022 <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/research-alert-do-transition-intervention-programs-really-boost-college>

## **Commentary: Adapted summer school to recover learning loss**

Some districts are holding summer school programs this year that look and feel more like summer camps to help students recover learning loss, among other things. The author highlights several innovative programs.

Stephanie Malia Krauss. "Commentary: Students Need Summer Learning That Doesn't Feel Like School." *Ed Surge*. May 9, 2022  
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-05-09-students-need-summer-learning-that-doesn-t-feel-like-school>

## **More tech professionals enter edtech careers**

Engineers, programmers and other technology professionals are leaving the traditional corporate world to enter education-centered technology careers. The professionals are drawn, at least in part, to the opportunity to make a positive difference for teachers and students, some say.

Matt Zalaznick. "How the Great Resignation is giving ed-tech a talent boost." *District Administration*. May 9, 2022  
<https://districtadministration.com/great-resignation-gives-ed-tech-talent-boost/>

## **Misconceptions about dyslexia**

Dismantling myths about dyslexia—and drawing on evidence-based practices when teaching—can make a powerful difference for students with the condition. Dyslexia, which affects about 20% of students and often includes a genetic component, is sometimes perceived as a vision problem—reversing letters, or writing backwards, for example. But the disorder is actually connected to decoding—particularly to matching letters to sounds and identifying basic morphemic units of sound in written language—according to a growing body of research.

Andrew Boryga. "Common Misconceptions About Dyslexia." *Edutopia*. May 4, 2022  
[https://www.edutopia.org/article/common-misconceptions-about-dyslexia?utm\\_content=linkpos1&utm\\_source=edu-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly-2022-05-12](https://www.edutopia.org/article/common-misconceptions-about-dyslexia?utm_content=linkpos1&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-05-12)

## **Sequence of movement helps students with self regulation**

An occupational therapist offers a series of calming whole-body exercises for students to do as a class throughout the school day.

Lauren Brukner. "A Movement Sequence to Help Students Maintain Self-Regulation." *Edutopia*. May 6, 2022  
[https://www.edutopia.org/article/movement-sequence-help-students-maintain-self-regulation?utm\\_content=linkpos2&utm\\_source=edu-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly-2022-05-12](https://www.edutopia.org/article/movement-sequence-help-students-maintain-self-regulation?utm_content=linkpos2&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-05-12)

## **Experts laud edtech in special education**

The increased use of education technology for special education instruction has benefited some students, in part by helping families get more involved, and by helping students communicate with more ease in a digital environment in which they feel comfortable.

Giovanni Albanese. "Special Ed Leaders: Tech Has Proven Beneficial Post-Pandemic." *Government Technology*. May 11, 2022  
<https://www.govtech.com/education/k-12/special-ed-leaders-tech-has-proven-beneficial-post-pandemic>

# **FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL**

## **U.S.E.D. to update Section 504**

The US Department of Education plans to update Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities. The Department said there would be a public comment period for the civil rights law, which has gone largely unchanged since it was released in 1977.

Linda Jacobson. "Ed Department to Update 45-Year-Old Federal Law Protecting Children With Disabilities From Discrimination." *The 74*. May 6, 2022  
<https://www.the74million.org/article/ed-department-to-update-45-year-old-federal-law-protecting-children-with-disabilities-from-discrimination/>

## **States to resume identifying schools needing help**

The U.S.E.D. once again will require states to use standardized test scores to hold schools accountable and identify schools that need improvement after pausing the practice in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. One official says she expects the reversal to be disruptive, adding that it's as if a lot of states will be "starting from a clean slate." The pandemic hit just as the Every Student Succeeds Act was finally underway, with states beginning to work with the first schools they identified under the law's framework for improvement. The disruption interrupted that process, and now many states will be clearing the decks—setting new testing goals, rejiggering their school quality and academic indicators, and trying to make the systems mesh with students' unprecedented academic needs.

Stephen Sawchuk. "School Accountability Is Restarting After a Two-Year Pause. Here's What That Means." *Education Week*. May 11, 2022  
<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/school-accountability-is-restarting-after-a-two-year-pause-heres-what-that-means/2022/05>