

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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May 20, 2022 Education News Update

The next update will come to you on June 3. Best wishes for an enjoyable, commemorative Memorial Day weekend.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Report examines efforts to curb learning loss

Few efforts worked over the past two years to help curb learning loss associated with the pandemic, according to a Government Accountability Office report. The GAO found that 60% of teachers doing remote instruction said students had more trouble understanding, and remote learning was challenged by conditions at home.

Evie Blad. "Teachers Struggled to Stem 'Learning Loss' During Pandemic, GAO Finds." *Education Week*. May 12, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/teachers-struggled-to-stem-learning-loss-during-pandemic-gao-finds/2022/05>

District focuses on digital citizenship

Wash. state district focuses on digital citizenship

One Washington state school district is prioritizing digital citizenship as part of the curriculum. The Peninsula School District uses curricula from the nonprofit Common Sense Media to help students better understand expectations and consequences for online behavior.

Christina T. Henry. "'Digital citizenship' a key part of the curriculum at Peninsula schools." *Gig Harbor Now* (Washington). May 12, 2022
<https://www.gigharbormow.org/news/education/digital-citizenship-a-key-part-of-the-curriculum-at-peninsula-schools/>

Virtual tours broaden accessibility for students

Many institutions of higher education are making use of virtual tours to recruit prospective students, including those from thousands of miles away. Campus leaders say the virtual tours offer schools the opportunity to showcase their schools to students who may not have the budget or time to travel extensively. HS counselors can guide students with these online resources, which give all applicants the chance to find the right higher education experience.

Rebecca Torchia. "Virtual College Tours Continue Expanding Opportunities for K-12 Students." *Ed Tech*. May 12, 2022
<https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2022/05/virtual-college-tours-continue-expanding-opportunities-k-12-students>

Math books need more real-world explanations

A study found that math textbooks need more real-world problems, so students can gain more than just fundamental skills. The Mathematics Curriculum Document Analysis study found that while teachers do add their own lessons, the majority of those lessons follow textbook content.

Sarah D. Sparks. "Textbooks Need More Real-World Math Exercises, Study Finds." *Education Week*. May 16, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/textbooks-need-more-real-world-math-exercises-study-finds/2022/05>

Research: Fiction better than nonfiction for language skills

Four research studies indicate that students who read fiction rather than nonfiction are likely to have better language skills, perform better at school, get more education and be more successful at work, writes a psychology professor who suggests that educators try to encourage students to read fiction for pleasure starting at a young age.

Raymond A. Mar. "Reading to improve language skills? Focus on fiction rather than non-fiction." *The Conversation*. May 9, 2022
<https://theconversation.com/reading-to-improve-language-skills-focus-on-fiction-rather-than-non-fiction-179552>

The need to teach digital citizenship

Despite growing up as digital natives, some educators say students still need lessons and guidance on digital citizenship. The foundation of digital citizenship is safety, and schools can build from there.

Alexandra Frost. "Building the Themes of Digital Citizenship into Instruction and Business Planning." *Ed Tech*. May 16, 2022
<https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2022/05/building-themes-digital-citizenship-instruction-and-business-planning-perfcon>

Educators: History lessons best step against racism

The mass shooting in Buffalo put a spotlight on what students should be taught about our history of discrimination and violence against marginalized communities. The News Literacy Project has called on educators to incorporate news literacy lessons into their teaching to help young people better recognize conspiracy theories so they can better understand, recognize and resist that psychological appeal.

Educators and advocates pointed to the value of historical thinking, weighing sources of evidence and scrutinizing their validity. Related skills include media, news and digital literacy.

Alia Wong and Romina Ruiz-Goiriena. "Educators say history lesson is best dam against racist tide." *USA TODAY*. May 19, 2022
<https://rochesterdemocrat-nv.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220519&goTo=A01&artid=6>

Surveys: Educators, parents see value in SEL

Two recent surveys show widespread support for social and emotional learning -- both among teachers and parents. In one survey, by Teachers Pay Teachers, two-thirds of educators say a student or parent has sought mental or social and emotional support during the past two years.

Kara Arundel. "Parents, teachers say SEL is valued and needed in schools." *K-12 Dive*. May 17, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/parents-teachers-say-sel-is-valued-and-needed-in-schools/623877/>

Researchers study schools' early-warning indicators

Indicators and interventions to support struggling students before the pandemic may not be effective now, some experts say. Robert Balfanz, co-director of the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University who helped establish early-warning systems for schools, is working with the Center for Social Organization of Schools and the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research and other groups to create the "next-generation" early-warning and intervention systems that focus on broader indicators of academic and nonacademic outcomes.

Sarah D. Sparks. "With So Many Kids Struggling in School, Experts Call for Revamping 'Early Warning Systems'." *Education Week*. May 18, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/with-so-many-kids-struggling-in-school-experts-call-for-revamping-early-warning-systems/2022/05>

Trends in students' college plans

Survey data shows a decline in the percentage of Black, Latino and male HS students who want to go to college in 2022, compared with students surveyed from the class of 2019, according to a report by the nonprofit YouthTruth. The report highlights how the coronavirus pandemic has changed the priorities of students, with some choosing community colleges and employment instead of a four-year university.

Scott Jaschik. "Decline in Male, Black and Latino Students Planning on College." *Inside Higher Ed*. May 18, 2022
<https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2022/05/18/male-black-and-latino-high-school-students-may-not-be-college-bound>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

School bus wi-fi qualifies for discounted rate

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said broadband on school buses has been especially helpful in closing the homework gap and qualifies for a discounted rate.

Susan Miller. "School Bus Wi-Fi Qualifies for Discounted Rate." *Route Fifty*. May 13, 2022
<https://www.route-fifty.com/tech-data/2022/05/school-bus-wi-fi-qualifies-e-rate-fcc-chair-says/366889/>

NEA analysis notes inflation's effect on teacher pay

The NEA asserts that inflation has wiped out much of the progress school districts have made in offering a living wage to educators. Representatives from the National Education Association claim districts must be active in increasing pay for educators or they risk seeing them leave in droves.

Matt Zalaznick. "Is teacher pay in your state providing educators with a living wage?" *District Administration*. May 12, 2022
<https://districtadministration.com/teacher-pay-salaries-your-state-minimum-living-wage/>

New charter school rules spur bipartisan backlash

Critics of the proposal say the rules are overly restrictive and would stymie the growth of charter schools, whose 3.6 million students are largely Black and Hispanic.

Erica L. Green. "New Biden administration rules for charter schools spur bipartisan backlash." *NY Times*. May 13, 2022
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/13/us/politics/charter-school-rules-biden.html?campaign_id=3&emc=edit_th_20220514&instance_id=61378&nl=today'sheadlines&resid=18877907&segment_id=92260&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f6688bfca

UNESCO: Low education funding worsens gender equity

Inadequate funding for education in developing countries has led to many teachers, most of whom are women, losing jobs or seeing their pay decline while girls in those regions often get less access to electronic devices and less time to support their studies, says UNESCO researcher Priyadarshani Joshi. "Education is one of the most cost-effective ways to train or empower women, to empower their communities," Joshi notes.

"Education is important, 'but the money does not seem to add up,' says UNESCO." *CNBC*. May 12, 2022
<https://www.cNBC.com/2022/05/13/unesco-says-money-spent-on-education-doesnt-match-its-importance.html>

Grow Your Own programs can help build diversity

Grow your own (GYO) programs recruit, prepare, and place community members as teachers in local schools-- through partnerships between educator preparation programs, school districts, and community-based organizations. Some GYO programs have an explicit commitment to advancing justice and equity in teacher development, which can be leveraged to open doors to the profession for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color teachers with roots in,

and understanding of, the community. For GYO programs to also improve retention of new teachers, they must consider how the teaching and learning needs of teachers evolve as they progress.

“ ‘Grow Your Own’ Programs Can Build Equity in Local Schools and Communities, Explains New Policy Brief.” *National Education Policy Center*. May 19, 2022
<http://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=1748247&f=3100&s=3172&m=249319&t=683ff6e55fceb8d669aa5ea6b8253ac84d14528c98c4873195440427f0ff88d5>

Report: 30% of Head Start positions vacant

National Head Start programs are facing an alarming workforce shortage, according to a report from the National Head Start Association. The report found that 30% of staff positions in Head Start programs are vacant, with 90% of those surveyed saying they have had to close some classrooms -- at least temporarily -- because of a lack of staffing.

Emily Tate. “ ‘We’re Sounding the Alarm Bells’: Head Start Report Underscores Workforce Crisis.” *Ed Surge*. May 18, 2022

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-05-18-we-re-sounding-the-alarm-bells-head-start-report-underscores-workforce-crisis>

NEW YORK STATE

Area district voters reject most ‘parental rights’ candidates

May 17 voters in Monroe County suburbs rejected most candidates who opposed to their school districts’ anti-racism efforts, repeating similar results from last year. The only exception was in Greece where two such candidates were elected. The article also reports that all district budgets and propositions were approved, and provides the board of education election results.

Justin Murphy. “Voters reject ‘parental rights’ candidates.” *Democrat and Chronicle*. May 19, 2022

<https://rochesterdemocrat-nv.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220519&goTo=A01&artid=4>

N.Y. expands appeals for failing scores on Regents exams

Students who fail to pass the Regents exams in NYS will be allowed to appeal to their school district to still get credit for a course they passed in a rule change precipitated by the pandemic. Previously, an appeal was available for scores of 60 to 64, but it has been expanded temporarily for scores of 50 to 64.

Reema Amin. “Proposal would make it easier for NY students to pass Regents exams.” *Chalkbeat New York*. May 17, 2022

<https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2022/5/16/23076991/new-york-regents-exams-pandemic-high-school-graduation>