

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Report: Work-based programs help students

A report by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at MIT found that summer youth employment programs are growing across states and have a positive influence on students in several ways. Giving students the opportunity to try different careers and jobs helps them make better college and career decisions.

Kara Arundel. "Schools seek to strengthen work-based learning opportunities." *K-12 Dive*. June 1, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/schools-look-to-strengthen-work-based-learning-opportunities/624731/>

Effective practices for Principals' PD

Professional development for principals is most effective when it is rigorous, tied to a university and includes a cohort structure, according to a study by the Learning Policy Institute. This article outlines several concepts school districts should consider as they seek to bolster professional development for principals.

Matt Zalaznick. "These 4 principal PD strategies are backed by decades of research." *District Administration*. June 2, 2022
<https://www2.smartbrief.com/redirect.action?link=https%3A%2F%2Fdistrictadministration.com%2F4-principal-pd-professional-development-strategies-back-decades-leadership-research%2F&encoded=pezeBYketEubzibEfEdbawfCGvof>

Districts seek to boost teacher retention

Many teachers are considering leaving the profession, so some districts are getting creative to keep them on board. Special-education teachers in Detroit Public Schools Community District received bonuses, and other districts are paying relocation costs and offering signing bonuses to new teachers.

Matt Zalaznick. "How many of your teachers want to quit? Depends what state you're in." *District Administration*. June 2, 2022
<https://districtadministration.com/how-many-teachers-want-to-quit-depends-what-state-shortages/>

Providing a support for teachers

Support and professional development tend to be top of mind for many teachers, so school leaders need to take steps to demonstrate their commitment to both, says an assistant HS principal. To help keep teachers on board and avoid burnout, he recommends leaders have backup plans to reduce uncertainty and provide resources that will save time. Matt Zalaznick. "How to save teachers' time—and 5 other ways to block burnout." *District Administration*. June 1, 2022
<https://districtadministration.com/save-teachers-time-5-ways-block-burnout-turnover/>

75% of gifted black students never identified

Most (75%) Black students who could be tapped as academically gifted attend schools where they are either likely to be overlooked or have no access to getting identified at all, a study in the journal *Urban Education* finds.

Sarah D. Sparks. 3 Out of 4 Gifted Black Students Never Get Identified. Here's How to Find Them." *Education Week*. June 03, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/3-out-of-4-gifted-black-students-never-get-identified-heres-how-to-find-them/2022/06?utm_source=nltutm_medium=enl&utm_campaign=eu&M=3412679&LID=dcf379a08119f8a853cd6f688bfca

Student preferences regarding learning options vary

While around two-thirds of teens say they prefer in-person learning to other options, preferences vary by demographic, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey. Hispanic and Black students prefer hybrid learning and worry more about the lost learning of the pandemic than white peers, for example.

Matt Zalaznick. "Online inquiry: How and where your students say they are learning best." *District Administration*. June 7, 2022
<https://districtadministration.com/where-students-learn-best-in-person-online-remote-virtual-instruction/>

How administrator can boost teachers' mental health

School districts should tap federal funding and local support to implement mental health initiatives for teachers, writes the executive director of the Minnesota Rural Education Association. Protecting teachers' time and seeking flexible, helpful PD opportunities are also keys to mental health improvements for educators, he states.

Bob Indihar. "Administrators need to give teachers real mental health support now." *Smart Brief/Education*. June 7, 2022
https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/06/give-teachers-real-mental-health-support?utm_source=brief

Teacher colleges pressed to improve future teacher tech skills

The U.S.E.D. and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), a leading ed-tech nonprofit, are pressing colleges of education to publicly commit to better preparing future teachers and administrators to be good consumers of technology. The goal of the effort, called the Digital Equity and Transformation Pledge, is to

encourage these programs to help new teachers “gain the digital skills needed to support learning in today’s classrooms.” Most teachers, principals, and administrators say their teacher college programs fell short in preparing them to vet vendors and integrate new digital tools, according to a recent nationally representative survey.

Emma Kate Fittes. “Teacher Colleges Pressed to Commit to Improving Future Educators’ Tech Skills.” *Education Week Market Brief*. June 7, 2022
https://marketbrief.edweek.org/market-place-k-12/teachers-colleges-pressed-commit-improving-future-educators-tech-skills/?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4437151&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Colleges reconsider student engagement practices

Residential colleges are reviewing their online learning practices as the engagement of students falls in online and hybrid courses. Some schools are looking to their online counterparts to see how they structure support services to create a sense of community and accountability for remote students. Professors report that fewer students are showing up to class and turning work in on time (or at all). Some of this perceived disengagement undoubtedly is a symptom of the ongoing health crisis, but declining student participation may also stem from the challenges inherent to remote and hybrid learning. Experts say that online classes that are self-paced, asynchronous or technically possible to tune into from a shared space full of distractions often require students to exhibit more self-control, more intrinsic motivation and better time management. This can be a real challenge for many students, so institutions that specialize in online higher ed have designed systems, strategies and tools to better hold the attention of their students, many of whom are working adults. That’s a sharp contrast to how most residential colleges operate.

Rebecca Koenig. “As Student Engagement Falls, Colleges Wonder: ‘Are We Part of the Problem?’.” *Ed Surge*. June 8, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-06-08-as-student-engagement-falls-colleges-wonder-are-we-part-of-the-problem>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Free lunch program about to expire

The free lunch program that has fed most school children in NYS for two years is about to expire, and dozens of local officials are urging Congress to renew it. During the pandemic, Congress authorized USDA to allow free lunches to all students, so school districts did not have to check for household eligibility and track the students to ensure ineligible children paid for their lunch. This was helpful during school shutdowns, when schools distributed food in bulk via school buses and other methods that did not allow easy verification of the identity of each student. USDA was also allowed to waive eligibility requirements for summer meals. Those waivers expire on June 30.

Kathleen Moore. “Legislators warn of ‘hunger cliff’ if free lunch waivers expire.” *Albany Times Union*. June 3, 2022
https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Legislators-warn-of-hunger-cliff-if-free-lunch-17218072.php?IPID=Times-Union-Capital-Region-spotlight&utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=867070781d EMAIL CAMPAIGN_2022_06_04_11_31&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d07c7

Expansive study of school segregation show’s it’s getting worse

School segregation has increased in the last 30 years, especially in the 100 largest districts that enroll about 40% of the nation’s K-12 population. Most of the increases have come within the nation’s 100 largest districts.

Esha Pendharkar. “An Expansive Look at School Segregation Shows It’s Getting Worse.” *Education Week*. June 3, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/leadership/an-expansive-look-at-school-segregation-shows-its-getting-worse/2022/06?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4412679&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Controversy over offering mental health support in schools

Teens are reporting severe levels of anxiety and depression. But when Connecticut moved to expand mental health services in schools, it ran into fierce opposition in one town. That local Board of Education resisted on the grounds that the services infringed on the rights of parents. After that, dozens of supporters of the clinic filed a complaint with Connecticut’s Board of Education, asking the state to “investigate and take corrective action.” Since then, the school board meetings have become a battleground for competing views on mental health, exposing divisions that are both partisan and generational.

Ellen Barry. “A Mental Health Clinic in School? No, Thanks, Says the School Board.” *NY Times*. June 5, 2022
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/05/us/school-board-mental-health-clinic.html?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4412679&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Commentary: Ed tech needs more science behind it

The \$300 billion global edtech industry is full of promise – but its non-empirical approach has prevented true success. Companies that produce education technology often tout success using client comments and school case studies rather than hard data, with only 7% of edtech companies using randomized controlled trials, according to Edtech Impact. Educators should push for more rigorous testing, much like in health care tech, write Fabio Segura and Simon Sommer of the Jacobs Foundation.

Fabio Segura & Simon Sommer. “Edtech Should Be More Evidence-Driven.” *Ed Surge*. June 3, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-06-03-edtech-should-be-more-evidence-driven>

NEW YORK STATE

Four charter schools file lawsuit against U.S.E.D.

Four NYS charter schools and networks filed a lawsuit against the U.S.E.D. on June 6 alleging that nearly \$1 million in grant money was “stripped” from their classrooms. The promised funds were “swept back” from eight charter schools in the state due to the “bureaucratic issue,” according to the documents filed by just four of the schools or networks in Manhattan federal court. The DOE awarded New York a \$113 million grant a decade ago to help newly authorized charter schools get off the ground or high-performing charter schools add grades or up enrollment. The state was in the process of doling out those funds until fall of 2019, when the schools allege the feds swept back the money, citing an expiration in the grant term, the suit alleges. Reasons for the state’s delayed disbursement were not immediately clear, though Kim said such delays are “customary.” The NYSED, which had requested a grant extension, according to court documents, asked for a waiver to complete the disbursements with a newer bucket of funds for charter schools, but was refused last summer due to a lack of “administrative authority.”

Officials from the SED states that the agency had believed the funds would be available to reimburse the schools.

Cayla Bamberger & Kevin Sheehan. “NY charter networks sue US Department of Education over ‘promised’ funds.” *NY Post*. June 6, 2022
https://nypost.com/2022/06/06/nyc-charter-networks-sue-u-s-doe-over-promised-funds/?utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=f7cf71520e-First+Read_060722&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d07c7d1-f7cf71520e-34743040&mc_cid=f7cf71520e&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

Panic buttons coming?

A proposal to provide a panic button for classrooms or school campuses was given final approval by NYS lawmakers in the closing days of the legislative session as officials reassess school safety measures in the wake of mass shootings around the country. The bill heading to Governor Hochul for her consideration would require schools to consider panic alert systems — silent arms that a teacher or staff member can activate. In Florida, implementation of these alarms is already underway in schools. The measure was named Alyssa’s Law after a student who was killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2019.

Nick Reisman. “How ‘Alyssa’s Law’ could change emergency planning for New York schools.” *NY State of Politics*. June 6, 2022

https://nystateofpolitics.com/state-of-politics/new-york/ny-state-of-politics/2022/06/06/how-alyssa-s-law--could-change-emergency-planning-for-schools/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=tu_capitolconfidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af

Audit says most schools missed 2020-21 mental health training deadline

Most NYS school districts didn’t provide required mental health training for all staff by the September 15 deadline during the 2020-21 school year, according to a new audit from state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli’s office.

Rachel Silberstein. “Audit says most schools missed 2020-21 mental health training deadline.” *Albany Times Union*. June 9, 2022

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/DiNapoli-Most-schools FAILED-to-meet-mental-17228177.php?IPID=Times-Union-HP-CP-spotlight&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=tu_capitolconfidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a3f115af