

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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June 19, 2020 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

How inequity harms student outcomes

Inequity in schools affects more than academic success, as it also touches social justice issues such as incarceration rates. For example, black students have higher arrest rates in schools, higher rates of suspension and often attend schools that receive less funding than districts that enroll higher numbers of white students, research finds.

Jeffrey Pierre. "4 Ways Racial Inequity Harms American Schoolchildren." *National Public Radio*. June 11, 2020

<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/11/875023672/4-ways-racial-inequity-harms-american-school-children>

Summer school likely no panacea for lost instruction time

Disappointing results for in-person summer school programs hint that short virtual programs may not be successful. Where it occurs, summer school this year will be almost entirely virtual. Only one large, well-designed [study](#), published in 2016, tested how much kids actually learn in summer school. It was targeted at low-income children in five cities, including Rochester. The summer school programs drew upon expert opinions and academic theories, were five or more full-day weeks long, and run by certified teachers. After two consecutive years of high-quality summer school, those who attended didn't do any better than those who didn't. The problem was attendance: 20% of the kids never showed up and those who did only attended 75% of the time despite the fact that free food and transportation were provided; and only half the kids came back for the second summer. For those who faithfully attended summer school summers following third and fourth grades, reading and math scores were significantly higher in the spring of fifth grade. Evidence indicates that attendance in virtual summer school will be even worse than in the in-person experiment. One expert encourages school systems to try new things this summer and track the results so we can all learn from them. New methods might include aspects of [home-based educational models](#), in which some form of teacher instruction or feedback can be combined with reading materials at home.

Jill Barshay. "Research evidence for summer learning." *Hechinger Report*. June 15, 2020

<https://hechingerreport.org/research-evidence-for-summer-learning/>

Teachers hone tech skills

Teachers adapted quickly to using technology in teaching this past spring. The big question is whether educators will be more likely to turn to technology in the classroom when students are back in school buildings.

Sarah Schwartz. "It Was a Bumpy Ride, But Virtual Schooling During the Coronavirus Boosted Teachers' Tech Skills." *Education Week*. June 2, 2020

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/06/03/it-was-a-bumpy-ride-but-virtual.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59595509&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

In-person teaching more effective

As virtual classrooms and online learning proliferate, researchers are working to quantify what works and what doesn't. Two reviews of nearly 300 studies comparing remote and in-person learning found that students generally learn more when a teacher is physically present, matching anecdotal narratives surrounding forced remote learning during the coronavirus pandemic. However, students who have access to an instructor during remote learning perform at the same level or higher.

Benedict Carey. "What We're Learning About Online Learning." *NY Times*. June 13, 2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/13/health/school-learning-online-education.html>

Women and minorities wait longer to be appointed principals

Despite often having more experience than men, women assistant principals had to wait nearly a year longer to get the big promotion. Black APs not only had to wait longer, they were also nearly 18% less likely to get the nod.

Stephan Sawchuk. "For Black Candidates and Women, It Takes Longer to Be Promoted to Principal." *Education Week*. June 15, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/District_Dossier/2020/06/black_candidates_women_held_back_from_principalship.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59597154&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Study: Only 20% of schools provided 'rigorous' remote learning

Only 20% of schools offered rigorous, technology-based remote instruction while school buildings were shut down this spring, according to a new report, and K-12 districts with a majority of high-poverty or low-achieving students were less likely to receive rigorous instruction at a distance. The report found that only 12% of high-poverty districts' remote learning plans included content from an online learning platform and requirements for participation.

Mark Lieberman. "Only One in Five Schools Offered 'Rigorous' Remote Learning, Study Says." *Education Week*. June 15, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2020/06/remote_learning_achievement_gap.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=59597990&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Pandemic worsens 'homework gap'

The country's "homework gap" has expanded into a "full-fledged learning gap" during this period of remote instruction, a trend that Common Sense Media's CEO Jim Steyer calls "a national disgrace." Data shows students of color, in particular, are affected by the digital divide, with Pew Research reporting that 25% of teenagers who are black were unable to complete homework because of limited internet access.

Emily Tate. "COVID-19 Has Widened the 'Homework Gap' Into a Full-Fledged Learning Gap." *Ed Surge*. June 16, 2020
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-06-16-covid-19-has-widened-the-homework-gap-into-a-full-fledged-learning-gap>

Principal suggests anti-racist strategies

Teachers can take several steps to be anti-racist, writes the first black principal of a San Francisco HS who shares how anti-racist educators support black students by creating a curriculum with them in mind and "view the success of black students as central to the success of their own teaching."

Pirette McKamey. "What Anti-racist Teachers Do Differently." *The Atlantic*. June 17, 2020
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2020/06/how-be-anti-racist-teacher/613138/>

Remote learning keeps bullies at bay

Students who experienced bullying and other social issues found online classes a welcome reprieve, and some are even thriving in this new milieu. Cyberbullying hasn't gone away, but reports indicate it has not increased since schools shut down since many instances of cyberbullying stem from in-school conflicts.

Lisa Selin Davis. "With online learning, class bullies fade to the background." *CNN*. June 15, 2020
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/15/health/online-class-bullies-fade-wellness/>

Lessons learned from remote instruction

The rapid transition to remote instruction has offered some lessons that could be useful as educators consider possible instructional models for the fall. Among them are additional support for parent-assisted learning, programs targeted to keep teens on track and online systems to assess, remediate and individualize learning.

Anya Kamenetz. "5 Radical Schooling Ideas For An Uncertain Fall And Beyond." *National Public Radio*. June 17, 2020
<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/17/878205853/5-radical-schooling-ideas-for-an-uncertain-fall-and-beyond>

How district leaders can build racial equity

Education Week spoke to chief equity officers and superintendents for ideas on promoting more equitable education practices in school districts. Here's what they shared.

Christina A. Samuels. "6 Ways District Leaders Can Build Racial Equity." *Education Week*. June 18, 2020

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/06/18/6-ways-district-leaders-can-build-racial.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-en-news1&M=59599684&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Scholars: Four steps to enable schools to weather the global pandemic

Due to the pandemic, public schools will likely experience great revenue losses. Safely reopening schools in the fall of 2020 will itself be costly: smaller class sizes, more personnel, more classroom space, perhaps staggered schedules, more instructional hours for teachers, more staff hours spent sanitizing, more complicated bus routes, better medical services, and major investments in broadband and portable computers. The costs associated with reopening schools will be significantly greater in high-poverty districts. The authors argue that federal and state leaders should minimize the damage done to high-poverty schools via four initiatives: a federal aid package; increased taxation; equitable distribution of state aid (more reliance on income than property taxes); and elimination of aid programs that favor affluent districts (hold-harmless provisions, tax relief provisions, other aid programs).

Bruce D. Baker, Mark Weber, and Drew Atchison. "Weathering the storm: School funding in the COVID-19 era." *Phi Delta KAPPAN*. June 1, 2020
<https://kappanonline.org/school-funding-covid-19-baker-weber-atchison/>

Conditions for U.S. children very widely

Well-being varies widely among children nationwide, with children in some parts of the US facing food insecurity and other disadvantages similar to rates seen in countries such as Iraq and Cambodia. According to a report from Save the Children, 40% of children in one Louisiana parish are food insecure – like those in Peru and Egypt.

Jackie Mader. "When it comes to keeping kids safe and fed, some American counties rank alongside Iraq, Bangladesh." *Hechinger Report*. June 11, 2020
<https://hechingerreport.org/when-it-comes-to-keeping-kids-safe-and-fed-some-american-counties-ranks-alongside-iraq-bangladesh/>

Educators seek more funding to reopen schools safely

Schools will need considerably more funding in the fall for supplies to protect students and staff from the coronavirus, including masks, hand-washing stations, cleaning supplies and potentially additional staff and buses. The HEROES Act, approved by House Democrats last month, called for \$90 billion in school funding, and the AFT is seeking almost twice that much, but the Republican-controlled Senate has not responded favorably.

Katie Lobosco. "Educators call for billions more in federal aid for K-12 schools." *CNN*. June 11, 2020
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/10/politics/federal-aid-schools-covid/>

School resource officers' views differ based on students' race

Interviews with more than 70 school resource officers showed striking differences in how they perceived their jobs, with officers in a more affluent district seeing themselves as protectors and their counterparts in a more diverse district viewing students as threatening.

Christina Samuels. "Where's the Threat? School Resource Officers' Views Differ Based on District Racial Makeup." *Education Week*. June 12, 2020 http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2020/06/school_resource_officers_and_student_threat.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59595509&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc

Supreme Court: Job discrimination law protects transgender workers

The Supreme Court's 6-3 ruling protecting transgender worker rights has implications for school districts as employers as well as continuing legal battles over the rights of transgender students. The ruling focused on employment discrimination, but legal scholars say its language could force expanded civil rights protections in education, health care, housing and other areas of daily life.

Margot Sanger-Katz and Erica L. Green. "Supreme Court Expansion of Transgender Rights Undercuts Trump Restrictions." *NY Times*. June 15, 2020 https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/15/shot/transgender-rights-trump.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20200616&instance_id=19421&nl=todaysheadlines®i_id=18877907&segment_id=31004&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc

Mark Walsh. "Supreme Court Rules Job Discrimination Law Shields LGBTQ Workers." *Education Week*. June 15, 2020

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/06/15/supreme-court-rules-job-discrimination-law-shields.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59597154&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc>

More colleges dropping achievement tests for admissions

FairTest lists colleges not requiring ACT/SAT results:

- Frequently updated directory of test-optional, 4-year schools is available at

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional> -(sort geographically by clicking on "State");

- A current chronology of schools dropping ACT/SAT requirements is at

<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Growth-Chronology.pdf>;

- List of test-optional schools ranked in the top tiers by *U.S. News & World Report* is posted at

<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Schools-in-U.S.News-Top-Tiers.pdf>.

Wealthier students receiving financial aid

A large share of strapped school budgets is going to "merit aid" for wealthy kids, as part of a bidding war to enroll high-income students. In recent decades, many institutions of higher education have increasingly been awarding money to students who do not need that aid to afford college. More than 50% of the 339 public universities sampled in a recent report at least doubled the amount they spent on so-called merit aid from 2001 to 2017; more than 25% quadrupled the amount. About 40% of the institutional aid provided by these schools went to students the government deemed able to afford college without need-based aid. The schools do it because well-to-do families, overall, bring the institutions more tuition dollars than their lower income peers.

The authors are higher education researchers.

Martin Kurzweil & Josh Wyner "Opinion: Rich Kids Are Eating Up the Financial Aid Pot." *NY Times*. June 16, 2020

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/opinion/coronavirus-college-rich-kids.html?campaign_id=2&emc=edit_th_20200617&instance_id=19422&nl=todaysheadlines®i_id=18877907&segment_id=31104&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfc

U.S.E.D. planning to give funds for start-ups to existing charters

Existing charters are getting permission from the U.S.E.D. to tap into funds for start ups and use it to pay off coronavirus expenses. This is a direct refutation of the purpose of the law. No such help exists for public schools. Matt Barnum. "In a sign of slow charter growth, feds may let states shift startup funds to help existing schools." *Chalkbeat*. June 15, 2020

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/6/11/21288600/charter-schools-waiver-department-education-covid>

AFT asks schools to deal with safety and security without police

A resolution adopted by the American Federation of Teachers states that the "necessary function of school safety should be separated from policing and police forces."

Andrew Ujifusa. "AFT Calls on Schools to Handle Security and Safety Without Police." *Education Week*. June 17, 2020

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/06/AFT-calls-on-schools-safety-without-police.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnw>

U.S. Supreme Court blocks move to end DACA

The Supreme Court has rejected the Administration bid to end protections for young immigrants. In a case with implications in education, the justices ruled 5-4 to reject arguments that the 8-year-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program is illegal and that courts have no role to play in reviewing the decision to end DACA.

Chris Sommerfeldt. "'Today is an exciting day': Supreme Court blocks Trump's bid to end DACA immigrant protections." *NY Daily News*. June 18, 2020

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-supreme-court-daca-immigrants-20200618-dm6o2ek3zjcchlrh6lvivw5xwq-story.html>

Charter school double dipping

A May survey of 90,000 small businesses found that almost 40% had not received PPP assistance. The program's failure has hit especially hard on people of color. The Center for Responsible Lending estimates that at least 90% of businesses owned by people of color have been or will likely be shut out. At the same time, charter schools have been applying for and receiving PPP aid even though they're still receiving public education funding just like traditional, neighborhood public schools. In other words, they've been double dipping. So far, parents, activists, and researchers have identified at least \$50 million in PPP loans awarded to charter schools. Journalist Erica Green, [covering the report](#) in the *New York Times*, summed up the story: "Charter schools, including some with

healthy cash balances and billionaire backers like Michael Bloomberg and Bill Gates, have quietly accepted millions of dollars in emergency coronavirus relief from a fund created to help struggling small businesses stay afloat.”

“Are Oakland Charter Schools Double Dipping?” *In The Public Interest*. June 2020

<http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/wp-content/uploads/ITPI-PUPS-PPP-June2020.pdf?emci=0ebba4ff-76b1-ea11-9b05-00155d039e74&emdi=9c686d81-79b1-ea11-9b05-00155d039e74&ceid=6702827>

Challenges facing schools as they reopen

Education leaders face myriad challenges as they consider when and how to reopen schools, including precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, health concerns among parents and educators, and budget cuts in the face of estimates that show the high cost of reopening. Compounding the uncertainty about the next school year is evolving guidance from federal and state officials.

Nicole Gaudiano & Dan Goldberg. “‘It’s just way too much to take on’: School systems struggle with the politics of reopening.” *Politico*. June 17, 2020

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/06/17/reopening-schools-coronavirus-327020>

NEA: K12 education needs more federal support

US schools could face a 20% reduction in the education workforce, according to an analysis by the National Education Association. It is calling on Congress to direct additional funding to education.

Dian Schaffhauser. “NEA Predicts 20 Percent Decline in Education Workforce.” *T.H.E. Journal*. June 17, 2020

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2020/06/17/nea-predicts-20-percent-decline-in-education-workforce.aspx>

NEW YORK STATE

Most NYS school district budgets pass

Nearly all of the school budgets considered by voters were approved on Tuesday, according to a preliminary analysis released by the New York State United Teachers. The union assessed 388 school budgets put to voters by school districts around the state, finding only five proposals were turned down. Schools face an unprecedented level of uncertainty after in-school classes were suspended due to the pandemic and distance learning became the norm.

At the same time, education spending could still face cuts from the state if federal aid is not approved or falls short.

Nick Reisman. “Nearly All NYS School District Budgets Pass.” *Spectrum News*. June 17, 2020

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2020/06/17/nearly-all-school-district-budgets-pass>

Nonprofits depending on state funding face uncertainty

As NYS seeks to recover from the economic turmoil of COVID-19, thousands of nonprofits that receive state funding are facing financial uncertainty, including many serving low-income families, as payments are being delayed and new contracts have been put on hold.

Chris Bragg. “State contract freeze hits thousands of charities.” *Albany Times Union*. June 17, 2020

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Funding-fight-freezes-food-benefits-assistance-15344336.php?mc_cid=9e4441c7f2&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

All MCSBA school district budgets passed

Voters passed school budgets in 17 Monroe County districts on Tuesday.

Matthew Leonard. “No fails: Voters pass school budgets in 17 Monroe County districts.” *Democrat & Chronicle*. June 18, 2020

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/06/18/2020-21-school-votes-voters-ok-budgets-17-monroe-county-districts/3204620001/>

PLUS: According to their websites, budgets also passed in Holley, Kendall, and Victor.