

# 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](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net)

## June 24, 2022 Education News Update

Here we are at the end of another school year. For the summer hiatus, we will revert to our bi-weekly schedule of publishing, so the next issue of *Education News Update* will come your way on July 8.

### TEACHING & LEARNING

#### Advice to district leaders for aligning with their school boards and communities

Aligning with school board views and goals, as well as developing relationships with local chambers of commerce, agencies and legislative groups, can make superintendents' jobs easier and potentially more long-lasting, according to several superintendents and Dan Domenech, executive director of AASA (School Superintendents Association). Providing transparency into district data and its needs helps foster partnerships for advocacy and action.

Matt Zalaznick. "How effective superintendents expand their influence in these divisive times." *District Administration*. June 16, 2022

<https://districtadministration.com/superintendents-expand-political-influence-divisive-school-boards/>

#### Schools need to plan for students with long COVID

As school officials begin planning for next year, a big challenge looms: supporting their students who will struggle daily with long COVID. The need for accommodating these students is likely to rise, say experts.

Catherine Gewertz. "Thousands of Students Will Face Long COVID. Schools Need to Plan Now." *Education Week*. June 20, 2022

[https://www.edweek.org/leadership/thousands-of-students-will-face-long-covid-schools-need-to-plan-now/2022/06?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_medium=eml&utm\\_campaign=eu&M=4510003&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/thousands-of-students-will-face-long-covid-schools-need-to-plan-now/2022/06?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4510003&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

#### How to build equitable schools

School leaders can help develop equitable schools, writes Shaun Nelms, superintendent of East Upper and Lower Schools of RCSD. He shares six key insights to strengthen equity, including beginning by taking a big-picture analysis and focusing on the school's moral purpose.

Shaun Nelms. "6 Tips for Education Leaders Working Toward Equitable Schools." *T.H.E. Journal*. June 17, 2022

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2022/06/17/6-tips-for-leaders-working-toward-equitable-learning-in-your-schools.aspx>

#### Paraprofessionals, classroom backbones, get low pay & little support

Paraprofessionals often find better pay and benefits in other fields. Paraprofessionals are known as the backbones of the classroom for their work supporting student learning and well-being. But they report feeling underpaid and overworked, a perennial issue that's getting worse as inflation soars and schools struggle to fully staff classrooms.

Madeline Wil. "Paraprofessionals: As the 'Backbones' of the Classroom, They Get Low Pay, Little Support." *Education Week*. June 15, 2022

[https://www.edweek.org/leadership/paraprofessionals-as-the-backbones-of-the-classroom-they-get-low-pay-little-support/2022/06?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_medium=eml&utm\\_campaign=eu&M=4517725&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/paraprofessionals-as-the-backbones-of-the-classroom-they-get-low-pay-little-support/2022/06?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4517725&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

#### Looping supports learning

A new study finds the practice of looping translates to academic and behavioral benefits. Repeat student-teacher matches -- called looping -- improve academic and behavior outcomes for students, according to a study of a decade of data from Tennessee by the Annenberg Institute at Brown University. Researchers found that across all grade levels, looping resulted in slight increases in math and English-language arts scores, plus modest declines in absences and suspensions.

Madeline Will. "Looping: Here's What Happens When Students Have the Same Teacher More Than Once." *Education Week*. June 21, 2022

[https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/looping-heres-what-happens-when-students-have-the-same-teacher-more-than-once/2022/06?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_medium=eml&utm\\_campaign=eu&M=4517725&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/looping-heres-what-happens-when-students-have-the-same-teacher-more-than-once/2022/06?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4517725&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

Repeat student-teacher matches -- called looping -- improve academic and behavior outcomes for students, according to a study of a decade of data from Tennessee by the Annenberg Institute at Brown University.

Researchers found that across all grade levels, looping resulted in slight increases in math and English-language arts scores, plus modest declines in absences and suspensions.

Caroline Selness. "Why We Need to Save Handwriting." *ASCD.org*. June 17, 2022

<https://www.ascd.org/blogs/why-we-need-to-save-handwriting>

#### Impact of remote learning

Research has found that students learned less in remote environments during the start of the pandemic than in person, but those discrepancies varied based on factors such as location and economic considerations. However, graduation rates were not heavily affected, notes researcher Douglas Harris of Tulane University, and school leaders are implementing programs and initiatives to make up for missed learning and to improve education in the future.

Cory Turner. "6 things we've learned about how the pandemic disrupted learning." *National Public Radio/All Things Considered*. June 22, 2022

<https://www.npr.org/2022/06/22/1105970186/pandemic-learning-loss-findings>

## STEM careers are top choice for Gen Z

STEM fields are the leading career choice for US HS and college students, according to a survey of 11,000 students conducted by the National Society of High School Scholars. Findings also show 25% of students plan to remain in their first full-time job for a year or less, and 82% intend to have an internship before they land their first job.

Kristal Kuykendall. "STEM Fields are Top Choice for Gen Z Students, New NSHSS Survey Shows." *T.H.E. Journal*. June 21, 2022  
<https://thejournal.com/articles/2022/06/21/stem-fields-are-top-choice-for-students-according-to-new-nshss-survey.aspx>

## School districts want evidence when considering ed tech

There are roughly 9,000 education technology products on the market, but there is often little evidence available for schools to determine whether the products are effective. Edtech companies can earn certification under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to demonstrate "rationale," but officials say relatively few do.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "Schools Are Looking for Evidence From Their Edtech. Are Companies Ready to Provide It?" *Ed Surge*. June 23, 2022  
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-06-23-schools-are-looking-for-evidence-from-their-edtech-are-companies-ready-to-provide-it>

## FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

### Commentary: Charter schools should be held accountable like public schools

The writers support the Biden administration proposals to reform the federal Charter Schools Program, noting that every taxpayer expenditure requires reasonable oversight to enhance the quality of programs provided. They state that *This is the goal of the Biden administration's proposed modest changes to the federal Charter Schools Program*. The administration's fiscal 2023 budget proposes a \$440 million investment in the federal grant program for charter schools and the authors support more oversight of this expenditure. *As with all federal funding, there are rules to ensure proper use of the money...The charter lobby is chafing at one provision in particular—the requirement for applicants for Charter Schools Program startup funds to provide a community-impact statement. The intent is to ensure that the applicant has engaged with residents in planning for the school, that there is a need for a new charter school in the community, and that the school won't promote racial segregation... Schools that aspire to serve our children and communities should embrace their accountability to the public.*

*Jitu Brown is a civil rights leader and director of Journey for Justice; Randi Weingarten is president of the American Federation of Teachers*  
"Jitu Brown and Randi Weingarten: Charter schools should be accountable, like public schools." *Diane Ravitch's blog*. June 20, 2022  
<https://dianeravitch.net/2022/06/20/jitu-brown-and-randi-weingarten-charter-schools-should-be-accountable-like-public-schools/>

### Supreme Court: States must fund religious schools if they fund other private schools

The Supreme Court on June 20 ruled in favor of support for religious schools, ruling that parents who send their children to such institutions have a right to tuition aid if the state provides it to other similar private schools. The 6-3 decision in the Carson vs. Makin case from Maine could open the door to religious schools among the charter schools that are privately run but publicly financed. Until now, the SCOTUS had said that giving public funds to church schools violated the 1st Amendment ban on "establishment of religion." But the current court has ruled it is unconstitutional discrimination to deny public funds to church schools simply because they are religious.

David G. Savage. "Supreme Court rules for parents seeking state aid for religious schools." *Los Angeles Times*. June 21, 2022  
<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2022-06-21/supreme-court-rules-for-parents-seeking-state-aid-for-religious-schools>

Maine's program provides tuition for students in remote areas to attend private nonsectarian schools in areas that lack public schools, but not religious ones. The SCOTUS ruled that religious schools can't be excluded.

Jess Bravin. "Supreme Court Rules Maine Must Include Religious Schools in Tuition Program." *Wall Street Journal*. June 21, 2022  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-rules-maine-must-include-religious-schools-in-tuition-program-11655822468>

### Homegrown conservative parent group attacking school districts in Florida

From school board races to textbook reviews, the conservative parental empowerment movement, Power to the Parents, is on the rise in Florida.

Tristan Wood. "Power to the Parents: The Homegrown Conservative Movement Going After School Board Seats Across Florida." *Route Fifty*. June 21, 2022  
<https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2022/06/parental-rights-conservative-movement-florida-school-board-election-ron-desantis-covid-crt/368426/>