

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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July 22, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Principals dealing with unprecedented stress

A recent survey found 85% of school principals are experiencing job-related stress and 48% are dealing with burnout. Principals say it's important that schools provide tailored mental health resources, and some add that they are working to support their own well-being with strategies such as therapy, exercise and time with family.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "Principals Are on the Brink of a Breakdown." *Ed Surge*. July 6, 2022

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-07-06-principals-are-on-the-brink-of-a-breakdown>

Teacher bias determines special education placements

White students are more likely to receive special education for higher-status disabilities than are Black, Latinx, and Asian students, a new study of more than 2,000 Wisconsin public schools shows. Conversely, Black and Indigenous students are more likely to receive special education services for lower-status disabilities compared to white students. Boys are more likely to receive special education than girls, regardless of race. The research shows that these patterns are produced, in part, through how teachers interpret students' academic and behavioral difficulties.

Jade McClain, New York University. "Teacher bias shapes who gets special education." *Futurity*. July 8, 2022

<https://www.futurity.org/special-education-teachers-bias-2763382-2/>

More schools offer personal finance education

A growing number of states require -- or are considering requiring -- HS students to take a course in personal finance; 70% of public HS students had access to a semester-long personal finance course in the 2020-21 school year. Students enrolled in one such course learn about budgeting, careers, debt, investing and saving.

Helen Zhao. "High schools, scrambling to prep Gen Z for the real world, are teaching students to make and manage money." *CNBC*. July 8, 2022

<https://www.cNBC.com/2022/07/08/high-schools-scrambling-to-prep-gen-z-for-the-real-world-are-teaching-students-to-make-and-manage-money.html>

Study seeks to identify 'good' teaching

There is likely to be a trade-off between "good teaching" that is effective and teaching that students find enjoyable, according to an analysis by researchers. The researchers studied students' math test scores and teacher evaluations and found that teachers who were better at raising scores received lower evaluations and vice versa.

Jill Barshay. "The paradox of 'good' teaching." *Hechinger Report*. July 11, 2022

<https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-the-paradox-of-good-teaching/>

Research examines challenges of "summer slide"

Summer learning loss was a problem before the coronavirus pandemic, but now educators recognize that summer learning recovery programs should extend beyond academics to focus on the needs of the whole child, according to a study from the Education Development Center. EDC also reports how the pandemic has affected summer learning programs, with most of the 38 school districts in 30 states they examined unable to offer summer programs in 2020.

Sarah D. Sparks. "5 Things to Know About How the Pandemic Has Deepened Summer Learning Loss." *Education Week*. July 12, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/5-things-to-know-about-how-the-pandemic-has-deepened-summer-learning-loss/2022/07>

Ideas for schools on prioritizing mindfulness

Ohio elementary-school counselor Sarah Kellett suggests ways schools add mindfulness practices to their routines, as schools relax their COVID-19-related constraints. She offers ideas for weekly and monthly practices that focus on student and staff welfare and can contribute to a positive and optimistic school environment. Providing opportunities for students and staff to participate in wellness practices can start with one dedicated day each week, she says.

Sarah Kellett. "Establishing a Culture of Mindfulness in Elementary School." *Edutopia*. July 12, 2022

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/establishing-culture-mindfulness-elementary-school>

Air pollution harms developing brains

A new study adds to the evidence that prenatal and postnatal exposure to air pollution can harm kids beyond their lungs. A recent study found that air pollution can influence childhood behavioral problems and even IQ. The study, published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, found that children whose mothers experienced higher nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) exposure during pregnancy are more likely to have behavioral problems. Plus, higher exposures to small-particle air pollution (PM_{2.5}) by toddlers was associated with poorer behavioral functioning and cognitive

performance. Researchers gathered data from 1,967 mothers recruited during pregnancy from six cities, one of which was Rochester, NY. The first few years of life are a critical time of ongoing brain development as the number of neural connections explodes and the brain reaches 90% of its adult size. Exposure to PM_{2.5} pollution is associated with more behavioral problems in girls than in boys, while the adverse effect of PM_{2.5} exposure in the second trimester on IQ was stronger in boys. Researchers hope that this study will contribute to informed policymaking. Jake Ellison, University of Washington, et alia. "Air pollution can harm kids' brains." *Futurity*. July 14, 2022 <https://www.futurity.org/air-pollution-kids-health-brains-babies-2766832/>

Teachers concerned about effects of social media on students

Some educators say they are concerned about the effects of social media on students and want to know more about what companies such as Meta are doing to protect students from online bullying and other behaviors. There is a lack of trust between teachers and social media companies, with teachers worried about the negative effects of social media on students' mental health and their data privacy.

Alyson Klein. "Teachers Demand Answers From Social Media Companies: 'What's It Going to Do to Our Kids?'" *Education Week*. July 14, 2022 <https://www.edweek.org/technology/teachers-demand-answers-from-social-media-companies-whats-it-going-to-do-to-our-kids/2022/07>

Three superintendents share how they support personalized learning and SEL

Three school district superintendents describe how they are using personalized learning to support students' social emotional learning as well as their academic needs. They describe how emotional learning is provided in innovative ways, from crocheting to farming to "fab labs" where youngsters learn coding. One superintendent has teachers sharing their own hobbies and interests to help students see teachers from a new perspective.

Matt Zalaznick. "3 superintendents to watch: Taking care of each and every student." *District Administration*. July 15, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/3-superintendents-to-watch-taking-care-of-each-and-every-student/>

How well students recovering from pandemic learning losses

An analysis of how well kids are catching up in school after pandemic learning losses was published by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) on July 19. The report analyzed the progress of eight million students during the 2021-22 school year. NWEA researchers found that the pace of learning during the 2021-22 was more like a typical year. Children's math and reading abilities generally improved as they had before the pandemic with one major exception – MS students continued to deteriorate in math. The report found that ES students rebounded faster than MS students and low-poverty schools rebounded faster than high-poverty ones. The time frame to catch up is expected to take three to five years and federal funding is available for only two more years. The report recommends more help for MS students but did not address which interventions are more effective.

Jill Barshay. "Pace of learning back to normal during the 2021-22 pandemic school year but student achievement lags far behind, data shows." *Hechinger Report*. July 19, 2022 https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-pace-of-learning-back-to-normal-during-the-2021-22-pandemic-school-year-but-student-achievement-lags-far-behind-data-shows/?utm_source=The+Hechinger+Report&utm_campaign=84cf5c4464-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_07_14_05_46&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3eedc3e04-84cf5c4464-322606321

Full report accessible here: [Student achievement in 2021-22: Cause for hope and continued urgency.](https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-pace-of-learning-back-to-normal-during-the-2021-22-pandemic-school-year-but-student-achievement-lags-far-behind-data-shows/?utm_source=The+Hechinger+Report&utm_campaign=84cf5c4464-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_07_14_05_46&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3eedc3e04-84cf5c4464-322606321)

Annie Ma. "Study: Student gains last year narrowed COVID learning gap." *Associated Press*. July 19, 2022 <https://apnews.com/article/covid-technology-health-education-1d2f79e2c242d2212ff47983050e5330>

Commentary: Restorative justice in the classroom

An educator writes that when restorative justice is implemented on a schoolwide level, it can transform relationships between teachers and students. Restorative justice strategies can help educators build relationships and better address issues with students. The article includes examples of restorative justice applied at the author's MS to quell conflicts among students and between a student and a teacher.

Matt Homrich-Kneiling. "Restorative Justice to Transform School Culture." *Edutopia*. July 20, 2022 <https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-restorative-justice-transform-school-culture>

SEL needed for ELLs

SEL could be key to giving ELLs greater confidence in their academic abilities. When students test out of an English-learner program, or are reclassified as proficient in English, they report a higher sense of self and a greater belief in their ability to complete challenging academic tasks, a new study finds.

Ileana Najarro. "Want to Support English-Learners? Prioritize SEL, New Study Finds." *Education Week*. July 21, 2022 https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/want-to-support-english-learners-prioritize-sel-new-study-finds/2022/07?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=471d845&UIID=dcf379af08119fa8d853dc6f688bfca

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Student feedback important in ed tech purchase decisions

Seeking student input when selecting classroom tech can boost engagement and ownership, says the Logitech design head, and can also address considerations that school leadership may overlook. Gathering feedback can be as simple as conducting a poll, or can take a more organized approach through the formation of a committee or focus group.

Grace Lee. "Choosing new ed-tech? Try asking students what they want." *District Administration*. July 20, 2022 <https://districtadministration.com/choosing-new-ed-tech-try-asking-students-what-they-want/>

Backlash & hostility faced by district equity officers

The inherently tough job of chief equity officer is harder in the anti-Critical Race Theory Era. Three equity officers share how they have faced scrutiny, criticism, and personal threats.

Eesha Pendharkar. "Backlash, Hostility, and Safety Fears: What It's Like to Be a Chief Equity Officer in the Anti-CRT Era." *Education Week*. July 19, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/leadership/backlash-hostility-and-safety-fears-what-its-like-to-be-a-chief-equity-officer-in-the-anti-crt-era/2022/07?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4696786&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Tutoring initiative to support learning recovery

A new U.S.E.D. effort focuses on recruitment of volunteers and use of COVID aid money. The Biden administration is positioning its new initiative to bring 250,000 tutors and mentors to American schools over the next three years as a way to help propel students to academic recovery in the wake of pandemic schooling disruptions.

Libby Sanford. "Biden's Tutoring Initiative: What Will It Mean for Learning Recovery?" *Education Week*. July 08, 2022

https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/bidens-tutoring-initiative-what-will-it-mean-for-learning-recovery/2022/07?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4634269&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Virtual meetings stymie creative teamwork

Evidence indicates that many Americans will continue to work from home, relying on videoconferences to team up. A study has found that in-person teams generated more ideas than remote teams working on the same problem. The researchers say the reason is that online meetings generate fewer good ideas. When people focus on the narrow field of vision of a screen, their thinking becomes narrower as well. People who meet in person get creative stimulation by visually wandering around the space they're in, which makes them more likely to cognitively wander as well.

Edmund L. Andrews, Stanford University. "Virtual meetings stymie creative teamwork." *Futurity*. July 7, 2022

<https://www.futurity.org/virtual-meetings-creative-collaboration-2762692/>

Leaders call for expanded computer science instruction

Five hundred top business, nonprofit and education leaders -- including representatives from Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet, the American Federation of Teachers and the Khan Academy -- have written to leaders nationwide calling for greater access to computer science education in K-12 schools. They write that only 5% of HS students currently study computer science, and only about 51% of HSs offer computer science classes.

Alyson Klein. "Major American Companies to Schools: Expand Access to Computer Science." *Education Week*. July 12, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/technology/major-american-companies-to-schools-expand-access-to-computer-science/2022/07>

Pandemic upset gains among Latino students

Latino students have made significant academic improvements over the past several decades -- improving test scores and on-time graduation -- yet, those gains are threatened by setbacks faced during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report. The report finds that between 2019 and 2021, reading and math assessments among Latino students declined more than those of their peers

Suzanne Gamboa. "The pandemic set back big Latino gains in education. How to get them back on track?" *NBC News*. July 11, 2022

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/pandemic-set-back-big-latino-gains-education-get-back-track-rcna37683>

Study: Overcoming inequality built into school funding

A new study demonstrates the inequality built into school funding that works against low-income communities, despite long-standing evidence that equitable funding is critical to learning. The reliance on local property taxes based on property values prevents poorer districts from increasing or equalizing school revenue. The authors note that the U.S. has been unable to improve school funding inequity and injustice. They seek a federal framework to establish minimum standards for equitable learning, including well-trained and certified educators, timely curriculum and texts, up-to-date facilities, and wrap-around services to support learners (health, nutrition, housing, and family wellness). The authors argue for complete and differentiated levels of service for every student and funding to provide those services.

Julian Vasquez Heilig, Ph.D. is Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Education; David G. Martinez is an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina.

Davíd G. Martínez and Julian Vasquez Heilig. "An Opportunity to Learn: Engaging in the Praxis of School Finance Policy and Civil Rights." *Minnesota Journal of Law & Inequality*. Volume 40, Issue 2. 2022
<https://lawandinequality.org/article/an-opportunity-to-learn/>

NEW YORK STATE

NYS incumbent school board members and those avoiding controversy won elections

Incumbent school board members, candidates who were endorsed by teachers' unions and those who avoided "hot-button" issues like curriculum content, diversity and COVID-19 policies saw the most success in this year's school board races around NYS, according to an analysis by the New York State School Boards Association. The analysis came after local school board races nationwide after more candidates and parents' groups organized around concerns that ranged from masking rules and school closures to challenging curricula. But the analysis of 1,453 candidates

conducted by NYSSBA found voters in many of these races instead supported incumbents. Candidates endorsed by teachers' unions also saw the most success, with 88% of those endorsed by labor groups winning re-election. Nick Reisman. "In New York school board races, incumbents and union nods carried weight." *Spectrum Albany*. July 12, 2022
<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/ny-state-of-politics/2022/07/12/in-new-york-school-board-races--incumbents-and-union-nods-carried-weight>

Governor: No mask requirement in schools this fall

On July 20, Governor Hochul said children will not be required to wear masks in school when classes resume in the fall, but that could change depending on virus numbers.

Bart Jones & Craig Schneider. "No school masking requirement for the fall, Hochul says." *Newsday*. July 20, 2022
https://www.newsday.com/news/health/coronavirus/school-masks-covid-hochul-new-york-pk-5u5k7n#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Breaking-News&lcu=7180daea0ff17e08169e7036e559bbf4f9e7b92a72e79686b9188cc63f596bd4&utm_term=non