

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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July 24, 2020 Education News Update

In July and August, the education news update is published every two weeks. The next edition will appear on August 7.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Bolstering student emotional support

The nonprofit Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning has released guidance to help schools meet social and emotional needs of students returning to school after prolonged closures. The guidance includes strategies to build relationships with families, support teachers and students, and make curriculum decisions. Samantha Smylie. "Schools must address emotional needs of students in the fall, education leaders say." *Chalkbeat/Chicago*. July 9, 2020 <https://chicago.chalkbeat.org/2020/7/9/21318777/schools-must-address-emotional-needs-of-students-in-the-fall-education-leaders-say>

School districts grappling with busing needs

There are questions, such as: Is social distancing possible on a school bus? Will parents drive their kids to school instead? Are masks and gloves enough to protect bus passengers and drivers from COVID-19?

Jesse Coburn. "Districts, bus companies must figure out how to safely get kids to, from school." *Newsday*. July 11, 2020 https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/school-buses-fall-reopening-1.46597937?user=5c8795827e553f56154105c0&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning-Update

PPE items needed for school opening are expensive

School administrators are trying to figure out how they'll afford all the Personal Protective Equipment they'll need for students and staff heading back to school amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Daarel Burnette II. "Here's What Districts' PPE Shopping Lists Look Like This Fall. It's Not Cheap." *Education Week*. July 10, 2020 http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/District_Dossier/2020/07/here_s_what_districts_ppe_shopping_lists_look_like_this_fall_it_s_notCheap_ID%25%25&U=%25%25CF_ICNACCOUNTNUMBER%25%25&UID=%25%25MDS_EMAIL%25%25

Staffing bus driver positions

School transportation officials seek creative ways to keep their fleets staffed up while economics and health concerns make recruitment more challenging.

Evie Blad. "Staffing Hard-to-Fill Bus-Driver Positions in a Pandemic." *Education Week*. July 8, 2020 https://www.edweek.org/articles/2020/07/08/staffing-hard-to-fill-bus-driver-positions-in-a-pandemic.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=%25%25MESSAGE_ID%25%25&U=%25%25CF_ICNACCOUNTNUMBER%25%25&UID=%25%25MDS_EMAIL%25%25

Transporting students with special needs

Districts don't get a pass on providing some means of transportation for students in special education. Here's how some are planning to make it happen this fall.

Corey Mitchell. "Getting Students With Disabilities Back to Class." *Education Week*. July 8, 2020 https://www.edweek.org/articles/2020/07/08/getting-students-with-disabilities-back-to-class.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=%25%25MESSAGE_ID%25%25&U=%25%25CF_ICNACCOUNTNUMBER%25%25&UID=%25%25MDS_EMAIL%25%25

Tracking students attendance remotely is messy

Tracking student attendance under remote learning this spring was complicated and oftentimes ad hoc, a messy process that could continue to be a big problem during the 2020-21 school year.

Penelope Blackwell, Claire Fox, Jenna Gyimesi, Kara Grant, Carter Johnson, and Kyra Senese. "Tracking student attendance under remote learning is a complicated mess." *Education Week*. July 13, 2020 <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/07/14/tracking-student-attendance-under-remote-learning-is.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59616392&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Schools would benefit from equivalent of teaching hospitals for teacher training

The national outcry for reform of racist systems includes the sharp inequity in K12 education. Evidence indicates that schools in low-income neighborhoods are [disproportionately staffed](#) by teachers who are not certified and who have less experience. The authors recommend that 'teaching hospital' situations be established in school districts to provide teaching candidates with the skills and support they need to succeed.

Suzanne Donovan and Bruce Alberts. Opinion: Public schools need the equivalent of teaching hospitals." *Education Week*. July 13, 2020 <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/07/13/public-schools-need-the-equivalent-of-teaching.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59616392&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

The Walden Project: Option for immune compromised students?

The Walden Project is an outdoor independent learning program that is a possible alternative for immune-compromised students or others who can't or don't want to return to a traditional classroom. The Project is a one-year, independent HS learning program that takes place mostly outdoors and in groups of 15 or fewer students and is based at RMSC's Cumming Nature Center in Naples. Students spend time in the woods studying traditional subjects like English, math, and social studies plus the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau. Cumming also offers a "forest school" for students between the ages 4-12. That program is expanding this fall to four days a week. The Walden Project is considered a "year away" program for HS students or a gap year alternative for HS graduates.

Beth Adams. "Forest schools: An alternative to in-classroom or remote learning." *WXXI News*. July 15, 2020
https://www.wxixnews.org/post/forest-schools-alternative-classroom-or-remote-learning?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily

Scientists urge in-person school for ES due to equity concerns

The nation's scientists urge in-person school for elementary grades, citing equity concerns. School leaders who gloss over equity issues when planning to reopen schools this fall risk exacerbating losses caused by this spring's coronavirus closures and worsening the pandemic's effect in hard-hit communities, they say.

Sarah D. Sparks. "School Reopening Plans Could Worsen Inequities. That's Why This Panel Prioritizes Some In-Person Classes." *Education Week*. July 15, 2020
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2020/07/national_academies_of_science_pandemic_school_reopening_guidance.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&M=59618057&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Virtual school leader shares tips

The HS director for California Virtual Academies shares three strategies to help other schools become successful online, including offering virtual training for teachers and a support system for families.

Angie Covil. "3 ways to make your school district pandemic-proof." *eSchool News*. July 15, 2020
<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2020/07/15/3-ways-to-make-your-school-district-pandemic-proof/>

Safer to have classrooms of younger children meet outdoors: 3 articles

Schools beat plagues in the early 20th century by holding classes outdoors. The subsequent winter was cold, but children stayed warm in wearable blankets and heated soap stones at their feet. The experiment was a success — none of the children got sick. Within two years there were 65 open-air schools around the country. In NYC, one school conducted classes on the roof, and another on an abandoned ferry.

Gina Bellafante. "Schools beat earlier plagues with outdoor classes. We should, too." *NY Times*. July 16, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/17/nyregion/coronavirus-nyc-schools-reopening-outdoors.html>

Three NYC teachers argue that it would be safer to have younger children meet outside while older students meet online. Outdoor learning works for early childhood. There are all-day outdoor kindergartens in wintery states, in which children dress for the weather and learn outside nearly every day. Reggio-Emilia programs emphasize outdoor exploration. Outdoor learning offers children stimulating experiences that foster skills like creative problem solving, independence, flexibility and resiliency, as well as a connection to nature. Outdoor learning will require support from schools, parks, neighborhood institutions and families to plan for site-specific challenges.

Liat Olenick, Darcy Whittmore, & Heather Costanza. "Teachers' plea for outdoor learning." *NY Daily News*. July 14, 2020
<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-teachers-plea-for-outdoor-learning-20200714-53dhhpkbcnanhc74kgfaj35ze4-story.html>

A NYC public school parent recommends open air learning. Schoolyards and athletic fields, of which there are hundreds, as well as public spaces, could be repurposed. Tents like those used for special events with sides that roll down for bad weather, could hold furniture and a whiteboard. The bonus is that air circulation would be much better than indoor classrooms, a major concern for teachers and parents alike.

Josh Bell. "Can we have class outside this year? A better answer to coronavirus schooling." *NY Daily News*. July 13, 2020
<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-coronavirus-schooling-outdoors-20200713-bd7llbkk3fbbzj7w63pagbadka-story.html>

What does 'falling behind' mean?

A retired classroom teacher writes that we shouldn't be so concerned that children are "falling behind." Behind what, he asks? Who drew the line? Who made the rules? He asks what's real and what's a social construct? Which social constructs matter? Why?

Peter Greene. "Everything's Made Up (And Nobody Is Behind)." *Curmudgucation blog*. July 17, 2020
<http://curmudgucation.blogspot.com/2020/07/everythings-made-up-and-nobody-is-behind.html>

PreK book giveaway programs work

An [analysis](#) of 44 studies of book giveaway programs concludes that giving free books to low-income families with pre-schoolers does work. The programs worked when measured by how much parents read to children and by how much kids' early literacy skills improved. But programs that involved healthcare professionals giving the books and personally telling parents to read them achieved the largest literacy gains. This study supports the theory that an age-appropriate book or two laying around the house can be an effective nudge for the parent to read. The authors of the book giveaway meta-analysis characterized the literacy benefits of simply giving away books as "impressive."

Jill Barshay. "The literacy secret that Dolly Parton knows: Free books work." *Hechinger Report*. July 20, 2020
https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-the-literacy-secret-that-dolly-parton-knows-free-books-work/?utm_source=The-Hechinger-Report&utm_campaign=b3ec6942de-PP-2020_07_20_03_34&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3e4c3e04-b3ec6942de-322606321

How universal design for learning (UDL) can support remote instruction

The Universal Design for Learning framework can support all students -- not only those with special needs -- during remote instruction, asserts Kavita Rao, a professor in the special education department at the University of Hawaii.

"The guidelines focus on ways to intentionally and proactively design learning environments and instruction, building in flexibility, supports and scaffolding that can help all learners succeed," Rao says.

Paul Darvasi. "How Designing Accessible Curriculum For All Can Help Make Online Learning More Equitable." *KQED/San Francisco*. July 21, 2020
<https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/56205/how-designing-accessible-curriculum-for-all-can-help-make-online-learning-more-equitable>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

President lacks power to cut off school aid

Due to federal education law and other factors, President Donald Trump's repeated warnings that he could cut off funding to schools that don't restart in-person classes might go nowhere.

Andrew Ujifusa. "Fact Check: Trump Lacks Clear Power to Deliver on Threats to 'Cut Off' School Aid." *Education Week*. July 10, 2020 <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/fact-check-trump-power-school-aid-cut-off-threats.html?cmp=soceml-twfdtbltz-ewnow>

President's campaign to open schools provokes backlash

The president has been threatening public schools and colleges into reopening classrooms, but even Republican-aligned organizations oppose the rush to reopen. An overwhelming alignment of local, state and even Republican-aligned organizations oppose the rush to reopen schools and colleges.

Michael Stratford, Nicole Guadiano, & Juan Perez, Jr. "Trump's campaign to open schools provokes mounting backlash even from GOP." *Politico*. July 10, 2020 <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/10/trump-schools-backlash-coronavirus-356721>

Senator Schumer news conference on increased pandemic aid for schools

Senator Charles Schumer held a news conference at Victor CSD to discuss legislation he supports that would provide K-12 schools with an additional \$175 billion in federal aid to deal with the pandemic. Monroe County school districts would share in hundreds of millions of dollars to meet COVID-related needs. The \$175 billion for K-12 schools is part of the proposed Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA) that would inject \$430 billion nationwide. Schools would have flexibility in how the funds are spent for health and education.

Julie Sherwood, Messenger Post Media. Schumer promotes increased pandemic aid for schools. *Democrat & Chronicle*. July 13, 2020 <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2020/07/13/schumer-promotes-increased-covid-aid-schools/5431144002/>

Schools have yet to receive corona virus relief money

The demands for Congress to provide added relief to schools for reopening is growing louder. A Government Accountability Office report published last month found that by the end of May, states had expended less than 1% percent of the money available to them under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, so most schools have yet to receive any federal aid.

Andrew Ujifusa. "Schools Haven't Spent Much Coronavirus Relief Money From Congress. Here's Why." *Education Week*. July 13, 2020 <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/schools-coronavirus-relief-aid-spent-congress.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news2&M=59616392&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853dc6f688bfca>

U.S.E.D. delays civil rights data collection

The U.S.E.D. is delaying the federal collection of civil rights data—a biennial survey that's considered a key source of information about the nation's students, teachers, and schools—because of the coronavirus. The data collection influences a variety of important activities. Instead of covering the 2019-20 school year, the Department will move the latest round of the [Civil Rights Data Collection](#) to the upcoming school year. In addition, it raised the possibility of not collecting data from every public school in the country as it has in the past.

Andrew Ujifusa. "Education Department Delays Civil Rights Data Collection, Citing COVID-19." *Education Week*. July 14, 2020 <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/education-department-civil-rights-data-delay-COVID.html?cmp=soceml-twfdtbltz-ewnow-Education-Department-Delays-Civil-Rights-Data-Collection-Citing-COVID.html>

Average school district needs \$1.8 million more to reopen as states consider cutting aid

School districts face extra costs to safely bring back students after the pandemic shut them down. At the same time, the outbreak is pressuring state and local government budgets. It will cost the average school district an additional \$1.8 million to reopen schools, according to estimates from the Association of School Business Officials and AASA, The School Superintendents Association. The higher costs come as states are having to slash budgets.

Route Fifty states its purpose as connecting state and local government leaders.

Bill Lucia. "Budget Stress Presents Added Obstacle for School Reopening." *Route Fifty*. July 13, 2020 <https://www.routefifty.com/finance/2020/07/state-local-budget-stress-school-reopening/166854/>

NY joins lawsuit over rule narrowing student loan protections

In the suit, 23 states allege DeVos' rule is too onerous for borrowers trying to seek relief by proving schools defrauded or misled them.

Carol Polsky. "NY, other states sue over rule narrowing student loan protections." *Newsday*. July 15, 2020 https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/student-protections-lawsuit-1.46912533?user=5c8795827e553156154105c0&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Morning-Update

Special education lawsuit filed

School districts nationwide have abandoned special-education students, failing to provide legally mandated services to kids who suffer from mental and physical deficits, amid the coronavirus crisis, according to a class action Manhattan federal lawsuit filed July 17. The case names Mayor Bill de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza and districts across the country as defendants.

Selim Algar. "Lawsuit rips schools for abandoning special needs kids amid COVID-19 pandemic." *NY Post*. July 16, 2020 https://nypost.com/2020/07/16/lawsuit-rips-schools-for-abandoning-special-needs-kids-amid-covid-19/?mc_cid=cc7ac511f1&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

How political leaders have failed educators during the pandemic

Principals and superintendents are caught between politicians' demands, an anxious public, and experts' contrary advice about the path forward during the pandemic. The unspoken message: You're on your own.

Andrew Ujifusa. "How America's Leaders Have Failed Educators on COVID-19." *Education Week*. July 16, 2020

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/07/16/how-americas-leaders-have-failed-educators-on.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news1&M=59618843&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

How states could stave off K12 budget cuts so schools can reopen

With deficits looming because of the recession, state fiscal leaders will have to balance strategies to put off cuts now against the prospect of deeper cuts down the road.

Daarel Burnette II. "Four Ways States Could Stave Off K-12 Budget Cuts So Schools Can Reopen." *Education Week*. July 16, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/four_ways_states_could_stave_off.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news2&M=59618843&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Supreme Court overturning *Brown v. Board of Education*

In a case decided on the grounds of religious freedom, the US Supreme Court took another big step on June 30 in supporting religious discrimination in publicly financed schooling and, more broadly, in overturning *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 landmark opinion that promised the end of racial segregation in public education.

The Court ruled in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue* that the US Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom prohibits a state from excluding religious schools when it finances attendance in private schools.

Steve Suitts is a civil rights lawyer who has worked for the Southern Education Foundation for many years. His recent book Overturning Brown documents the segregationist history of the school choice movement.

Steve Suitts. "The Supreme Court Is Overturning *Brown v. Board of Education*." *Southern Spaces blog*. July 8, 2020

<https://southernspaces.org/2020/supreme-court-overturning-brown-v-board-education/>

NYC joins lawsuit against federal plan to reallocate coronavirus relief away from schools

An effort by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to reallocate coronavirus relief funds would result in a \$100 million loss for more than 250 NYC schools, so the City has joined a lawsuit challenging the policy.

Stephen Rex Brown. "NYC joins lawsuit against Trump administration for threatening to pull COVID relief funds for public schools." *NY Daily News*. July 17, 2020

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-education-department-covid-relief-suit-20200717-uzgrxpvzdz2lxtqbjfxxaa73a-story.html>

Report: K-5 schools should open if at all possible

This fall, public school districts should prioritize full-time, in-person classes for grades K-5 and for students with special needs, according to a new report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The report includes an updated review of the evidence from around the world and a set of recommendations on mitigation strategies for the coronavirus in school settings. It adds to a long reading list of back-to-school guidance that now includes comprehensive recommendations from the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Federation of Teachers and every U.S. state. There's a growing consensus on a few best practices across most of these reports, such as the importance of masking and social distancing.

Anya Kamenetz. "New Report Says Schools Should Try To Reopen In Person For Elementary Students." *National Public Radio*. July 15, 2020

https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/15/891347536/-we-failed-children-says-co-author-of-new-national-back-to-school-report?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20200719&utm_term=.4685701&utm_campaign=ed&utm_id=24074084&orgid=

Biden school reopening plan includes national guidelines, local decisions, and more funding

Schools need more funding and clear federal guidelines to reopen safely in the wake of the COVID-19 shutdowns, former Vice President Joe Biden says.

Evie Blad. "Biden's School Reopening Plan: National Guidelines, Local Decisions, More Funding." *Education Week*. July 18, 2020

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/biden_school_reopening_plan.html?cmp=e-ml-enl-eu-news2&M=59622033&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Civil rights and education organizations sue DeVos

A U.S.E.D. rule issued this month forces districts to use an illegal process to inflate the amount of federal aid they must share with private schools—and that will drastically diminish the resources available to support public school children and underserved student populations during the pandemic, according to a lawsuit filed today by public school parents, districts, and the NAACP which seeks to block the rule. The lawsuit, *NAACP v. DeVos*, explains that the rule imposes illegal and harmful requirements on the emergency relief funds allocated to public school districts under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the rule, school districts must divert more funding for "equitable services" to private school students than the law requires or face onerous restrictions on the use of those funds in their public schools. Several state attorneys general have also filed suit.

Anya Kamenetz. "NAACP Sues Betsy DeVos Over Federal Aid Money For Private Schools." *National Public Radio*. July 22, 2020

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/22/894318170/naACP-sues-betsy-devos-over-federal-aid-money-for-private-schools>

Report: "Homework gap" challenges remote learning

About 17 million school-age children—including one-third of students in Black, Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native households—do not have at-home internet access, and 7.3 million lack access to a computer at home, according to an analysis from the Urban League, UnidosUS, the National Indian Education Association and the Alliance for Excellent Education. The groups are calling for \$6.8 billion from the federal E-rate program to be directed to close the "homework gap."

Andrew Kreighbaum. "Minority Kids' Homework Gap Said to Require \$7 Billion to Close." *Bloomberg Government*. July 22, 2020. <https://about.bgov.com/news/minority-kids-homework-gap-said-to-require-7-billion-to-close/>

Study: No relationship between PISA scores and economic growth

The authors demonstrate that there is no correspondence between PISA scores and national economic growth. They highlight the flaws in the theories that led to unprecedented emphasis on improving standardized test scores worldwide. They also criticize the European Union for involving PISA proponents to write policy recommendations for Europe. "What makes this 'Western consensus' so alarming... is not simply that education and economics are being so tightly coupled or that PISA is being embedded deeply into policymaking goals through these works. It is, instead, that so many leading minds in the West seem unable or unwilling to think differently."

Hikaru Komatsu is Associate Professor at National Taiwan University; Jeremy Rappleye is Associate Professor at Kyoto University, Graduate School of Education.

Hikaru Komatsu and Jeremy Rappleye. "TINA comes to European Education? The European Commission, PISA, PIAAC, and American-Style Knowledge Capital Theory. *Network for International Policies & Cooperation in Education & Training (NORRAG)*. July 22, 2020

<https://www.norrags.org/tina-comes-to-european-education-the-european-commission-pisa-piaac-and-american-style-knowledge-capital-theory-by-hikaru-komatsu-and-jeremy-rappleye/>

CDC reverses guidance on universal symptom screening

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new guidance for schools on July 23 covered issues like masks, symptom screenings, and how to prepare for reopening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now does not recommend K-12 schools screen all students for coronavirus symptoms. That guidance comes well after many states and districts had already developed policies to ask students about symptoms like cough and fatigue before they board a school bus or enter a school building. And it seems to contradict previous guidance from the agency that recommended schools conduct daily health checks if feasible, checking for fevers or symptoms

Evie Blad. "In New Guidance for Schools, CDC Warns Against Universal Symptom Screenings." *Education Week*. July 23, 2020

<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/07/cdc-school-guidance-screening-masks.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnw>

NEW YORK STATE

Governor lists safety guidelines for school reopening

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on July 13 announced new, data-driven guidance for reopening schools in NYS. Schools in a region of Phase IV reopening can reopen if its daily infection rate remains below 5% using a 14-day average since unPAUSE was lifted. Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9%, using a 7-day average, after August 1. NYS will make the formula determination during the week of August 1-7. The finalized guidance and guiding principles for reopening schools are available [here](#).

"Governor Cuomo Announces New Data-Driven Guidance for Reopening Schools." *Governor's Press Office*. July 13, 2020

https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-data-driven-guidance-reopening-schools?fbclid=IwAR2zK0E4CiERA_YO1J81LuLIF-vcctKIH6n15wH0Cp6ldNMuA0dl54JDx0

SED presents guidance framework for reopening NYS schools

At the July 13 Regents meeting, the NYSED presented a guidance framework to help schools and school districts plan to reopen. Guidance includes information on the following topics: **Health and Safety, Nutrition, Social-Emotional Well-Being, Facilities, Transportation, Budget and Fiscal, Chronic Absenteeism, School Schedules, Teaching and Learning-Requirements, Teaching and Learning-Flexibility, Technology and Connectivity, Special Education: Mandatory Requirements, Special Education: Recommended Elements, Bilingual Education and World Languages: Considerations and Best Practices, Staffing and Human Resources, and Reopening Plan Timeline**. By July 31, all districts must create and submit Reopening Plans at the school level post them on their public website. NYSED's School Reopening Guidance Document. *NYS Education Department*. July 13, 2020

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-presents-framework-guidance-reopen-new-york-state-schools>

The NYSED released guidance on preparations schools should take on just about everything for reopening this fall...from opening windows to limiting visitors to turning all desks in the same direction, etc., etc.

Bethany Bump. "State releases school reopening guidance." *Albany Times Union*. July 17, 2020

https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/State-releases-school-reopening-guidance-15414080.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=tu_capitolconfidential

Property tax cap set at 1.56% increase in NYS

Property tax increases will be limited to a 1.56% increase for local governments in NYS according to Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, even as localities face limited revenue options amid a pandemic that has slowed the economy. The cap limits property tax levy increases to 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. There are narrow exemptions for some growth and local governments can override it. Local governments are facing limited revenue options during a pandemic that has ground the economy to a virtual halt, freezing sales tax revenue and potentially slashing state aid by up to 20%. Some county governments receive most of their annual budget revenue from sales taxes, keeping pressure off property owners. However, that source of income has largely evaporated. The lack of revenue could lead to service cuts, reductions in overall spending or tax hikes in order to make ends.

Nick Reisman. "New York's Tax Cap Below 2 Percent." *State of Politics/NY*. July 14, 2020

<https://nystateofpolitics.com/state-of-politics/new-york/ny-state-of-politics/2020/07/14/new-york-s-tax-cap-below-2-percent->