

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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August 19, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Commentary: Helping parents understand the importance of SEL

Educators who share the skills learned and benefits achieved through social and emotional learning have a better chance of increasing parents' understanding of SEL and reducing their objections, K12 Learning editorial board members write. Managing stress, for example, is a long-term life and job skill that SEL addresses, they note.

Carl Hooker, et alia. "How to talk about SEL with families." *Smart Brief/Education*. August 4, 2022
https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/08/talk-about-sel-with-families?utm_source=brief

Twice exceptional students often miss out on gifted ed

Students with disabilities who are gifted may not receive the services or supports they need when their skills go unrecognized or when schools aren't appropriately equipped to accommodate them. Experts say federal funding and teacher training is lacking for gifted education, which also has been under scrutiny over bias and discrimination against students from underrepresented groups

Jo Napolitano. "Students with Disabilities Often Overlooked in Gifted Programming." *The 74*. August 5, 2022
<https://www.the74million.org/article/students-with-disabilities-often-overlooked-in-gifted-programming/>

Experts: Play-based learning is best for young children

Research indicates that young children should play to learn and learn to play. And, the play should not always be led by teachers, but teachers should be 'guides on the sides.' Research also shows play-based learning can be more effective than direct instruction at improving outcomes for early learners—particularly in the development of mathematical and spatial skills. Children learn valuable skills through play that contribute to pre-reading and math development, play advocates said.

Kara Arundel. "Unstructured, longer play time called key to early learning." *K-12 Dive*. August 5, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/unstructured-longer-play-time-is-essential-to-learning/628946/>

Andrew Boryga. For Young Kids, The Power of Play-Based Learning of mathematical and spatial skills." *Edutopia*. August 5, 2022
https://www.edutopia.org/article/young-kids-power-play-based-learning?utm_content=linkpost1&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-08-10

Helping students deal with anxiety

School psychologists in recent years have received more student referrals for anxiety, says Peter Faustino, a school psychologist and board member of the New York Association of School Psychologists. This article highlights several ways to support students, including preventive measures, acknowledging student reaction to fears, teaching coping skills, and modeling positive coping techniques such as gratitude journaling.

Kara Arundel. "5 ways schools can respond to student anxiety." *K-12 Dive*. August 8, 2022
<https://www.k12dive.com/news/5-ways-schools-can-respond-to-student-anxiety/629068/>

Psychological theory may help boost student engagement

A psychological theory developed in the 1970s and 1980s—self-determination theory—may hold the answer to engaging students in learning. Research supports the theory as a teaching strategy focused on autonomy, competence, and relatedness.

Gail Cornwall. "How to Keep Kids Motivated and Engaged at School." *U.S. News & World Report*. August 5, 2022
<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/how-to-keep-kids-motivated-and-engaged-at-school>

Negative effects of stress, harassment, censorship on educators

A national survey of teachers and principals has confirmed that political debates about policies for dealing with COVID and for teaching about racism have been a big source of stress for educators. Survey authors recommend training and resources to help educators communicate and manage conflict about contentious topics, creation of systems to promote understanding among all stakeholders, engagement of families in decision making, clarification of the purpose of classroom conversations about racism; and provision of content-specific guidance.

Madeline Will. "Stress, Harassment, Censorship: What Educators Face as Politics Roils Schools." *Education Week*. August 10, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/stress-harassment-censorship-what-educators-face-as-politics-roils-schools/2022/08?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eu&M=4841279&UUID=def379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Full report: Ashley Woo, et alia. "Walking a Fine Line—Educators' Views on Politicized Topics in Schooling." *Rand*. 2022
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1108-5.html

Researcher: School discipline needs improvement

Disciplinary referrals declined in 2020-21 in a study of one district, yet the number of Black students receiving "exclusionary discipline" was disproportionately high, according to NYU researcher Richard Welsh. Welsh suggests e proposes that schools provide more support at every level—for students, teachers, principals—both mentally and professionally. And, districts need to think about how trauma impacts Black students differently from their peers, and how it might affect their behavior. While the pandemic—coupled with a widespread push for racial equity after the 2020 murder of George Floyd—once presented an opportunity to think differently about school discipline the outcomes trending in the wrong direction with expanded racial inequities.

Nadia Tamez-Robledo. "There's Still Time to Do School Discipline Differently, Researcher Says." *Ed Surge*. August 11, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-08-11-there-s-still-time-to-do-school-discipline-differently-researcher-says>

Students heading to college "academically malnourished"

Incoming college freshmen have spent more than half of their HS years dealing with effects of the pandemic, including closures, online learning and other disruptions. This has left many students "academically malnourished", unprepared for college-level work and at risk of dropping out or taking more than four years to graduate.

Collin Binkley. "I didn't really learn anything": COVID grads face college." *Associated Press*. August 9, 2022
<https://apnews.com/article/covid-science-health-race-and-ethnicity-milwaukee-5ab5394b2513e7136b9b854355770a1a>

HS computer science can spark STEM interest

Students with learning disabilities are more confident in their ability to succeed in a STEM field when they receive a computer science education as part of a HS career and technical education program, results from a recent study indicate. However, these boosts do not always translate to the students pursuing careers in STEM at the college level, which researchers say is connected to a lack of representation and support in the field.

Jay Stratte Plasman & Shaun M. Dougherty. "Computer science benefits students with learning disabilities – but not always for the long term." *The Conversation*. August 15, 2022
<https://theconversation.com/computer-science-benefits-students-with-learning-disabilities-but-not-always-for-the-long-term-185096>

Student well-being remains troubling issue for schools

While this year's back-to-school season will restore a degree of pre-pandemic normalcy, many of the pandemic's longer-lasting impacts, like the harmful effects of isolation and remote learning on children's emotional well-being, remain a troubling reality for schools.

Jocelyn Gecker & Dylan Lovan. "Youth mental health is in crisis. Are schools doing enough?" *Associated Press*. August 17, 2022
https://apnews.com/article/mental-health-crisis-schools-768fed6a4e71d694ec0694c627d8fdea?utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=54499d8b9f&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c7d1_54499d8b9f34743040&mc_cid=54499d8b9f&mc_eid=bc2625d4e3

Lead exposure & segregation combine to lower test scores

Black children with a history of lead exposure have lower test scores than their peers, and living in a racially segregated neighborhood exacerbates this effect, research finds. The researchers linked birth data, blood lead levels, and fourth grade end-of-grade test scores for more than 25,000 children living in North Carolina to investigate how childhood lead exposure and neighborhood racial residential segregation affect early childhood educational outcomes. Understanding how structural racism and environmental contamination, such as lead exposure, can combine to affect children's health and development can help researchers, community stakeholders, and public health departments identify and target the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

Duke University. "Lead exposure, racial segregation combine to lower test scores." *Futurity*. August 16, 2022
<https://www.futurity.org/lead-exposure-segregation-test-scores-2783342-2/>

Positive calls to student homes worthwhile

Making time for positive calls conveys a powerful message to families that a teacher is committed to "partnering with them in their children's education." And it lets students know that "I will stop everything, any time, any place, to call home and celebrate you, because it's that important." As students get older, communication with families tends to drop off, often limited to when problems arise. Yet research shows that when teachers raise the ratio of praise to reprimands, it can dramatically improve on-task behavior and decrease disruptions in the classroom.

Paige Tutt. "Why a Positive Call Home is Worth the Effort." *Edutopia*. August 10, 2022
https://www.edutopia.org/article/why-positive-call-home-worth-effort?utm_content=linkpos9&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-08-18

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Teacher shortage not as large as reported

A labor economist at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) agrees that teacher attrition is up but it does not represent a mass exodus and is in line with historical patterns. The U.S.E.D. released a national survey of more than 800 schools on August 4, 2022 which found that each school, on average, had about three unfilled teaching openings in June 2022. That's a time of active hiring and those positions could still be filled before the 2022-23 school year starts. Actually, schools have been hiring additional teachers and over-staffing may be the new problem; 77% of

schools went on a hiring spree in 2021-22 as \$190 billion in federal pandemic funds started flowing, thus creating unfilled open positions. Compared to pre-pandemic, there are more people employed at schools. Shortages do exist primarily in low-income schools and certain specialties. One analyst worries that when pandemic funds run out after 2024 and school budgets are further squeezed from falling birth rates, schools are likely to lay off many educators. Jill Barshay. "Researchers say cries of teacher shortages are overblown." *Hechinger Report*. August 8, 2022
https://hechingerreport.org/prof-points-researchers-say-cries-of-teacher-shortages-are-overblown/?utm_source=The-Hechinger-Report&utm_campaign=e1e0f438b6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_05_03_57&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3eedc3e04-e1e0f438b6-322606321

Proposed Title IX regs would support pregnant teens

Public schools may soon have to provide lactation rooms for students and make other modifications to support students who get pregnant before earning their HS diploma. In [new proposed regulations](#) for Title IX, pregnant students and employees would be specifically protected. "The proposed regulations would strengthen requirements that schools provide reasonable modifications for pregnant students, reasonable break time for pregnant employees, and lactation space", and would apply at all public schools, but only at private schools that accept federal funding. Kathleen Moore. "Pregnant students to be protected in proposed Title IX rules." *Albany Times Union*. August 14, 2022
https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Pregnant-students-to-be-protected-in-proposed-17369779.php?utm_campaign=CMS%20Sharing%20Tools%20

CDC eases COVID-19 guidance for schools

The CDC has released new coronavirus guidance that represents a shift in common mitigation practices for schools. The CDC no longer recommends test-to-stay policies and has eased its quarantine recommendations for schools. Schools can end quarantines and regular screening tests for COVID, but students and staff should keep masks on in areas with high levels of COVID spread. The [new, more limited recommendations](#) in many cases reflect decisions to ease up on COVID precautions that schools have already made. Kalyn Belsha & Jessica Blake. New CDC guidance: No quarantines, less testing." *Chalkbeat*. August 11, 2022
<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2022/8/11/23301933/cdc-guidance-schools-quarantines-testing>

50 years of student progress in the U.S.

The first comprehensive analysis of test results found broad gains in scores, with larger gains for students of color than for white students. M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham) and Paul E. Peterson (Harvard University) used data from tests consistently administered in the U.S. over the past 50 years, and found that average student achievement has been increasing for half a century. Across 7 million tests taken by U.S. students born between 1954 and 2007, math scores grew by nearly four years' worth of learning. Reading scores have grown by nearly one year's worth of learning. The authors' findings by student race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status challenge longstanding assumptions about educational inequality. M. Danish Shakeel & Paul E Peterson, "A Half Century of Student Progress Nationwide." *Education Next*. August 9, 2022
<https://www.educationnext.org/half-century-of-student-progress-nationwide-first-comprehensive-analysis-finds-gains-test-scores/>

Report: Cyber attacks of education related groups on the increase

The education sector has seen an increase in cyberattacks of 114% over the past two years, with schools, parents and students listed as prime targets for hackers, according to a report from Check Point Research. The report states that the global education sector saw more than two times the industry average of cyberattacks in July. Julian Owen. "Education sector most at risk of cyber attack." *Education Technology* (UK). August 11, 2022
<https://edtechnology.co.uk/cybersecurity/education-sector-most-at-risk-of-cyber-attack/>

Americans rejecting college in record numbers

Officials have noted a dramatic and continuing slide in the number of Americans willing to invest the money and time it takes to go to college, and worry that the trend will diminish people's quality of life and the country's economic competitiveness. Many observers have suggested three principal explanations: the pandemic, fewer students, and a strong labor market luring young people straight into the workforce. But while the pandemic made things worse, the enrollment downturn took hold well before it started. Many focus groups and opinion surveys point to other reasons, including widespread and fast-growing skepticism about the value of a degree, impatience with the time it takes to get one and costs that have exceeded many people's ability or willingness to pay. Jon Marcus. "How higher education lost its shine." *Hechinger Report*. August 10, 2022
https://hechingerreport.org/how-higher-education-lost-its-shine/?utm_source=The-Hechinger-Report&utm_campaign=17e4073492-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_16_04_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3eedc3e04-17e4073492-322606321

One district to use biometric scanners & weapons detection dogs for security

A Michigan school district has proposed a three-year plan to improve school safety and security, mental health, wellness and retention. As part of that effort, one HS plans to install biometric scanning kiosks at three entrances and employ a weapons detection dog on campus. Jennifer Chambers. "Biometric scanning kiosks added to Oxford High entrances, district says." *Detroit News*. August 15, 2022
<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2022/08/15/oxford-high-biometric-scanning-kiosks-entrances/10331355002/>

Electric school buses becoming more common

Electric school buses are more common and they're bringing cleaner air and lower maintenance costs to school districts across the country. Each weekday, more than half of the K-12 students in the U.S. – [over 25 million](#)
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pupils – ride a school bus. Until very recently, nearly all of these 500,000 buses ran on diesel fuel. Nationwide, diesel-powered school buses produce more than 5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions. They also generate air pollutants that are harmful to children’s health – especially fine particulates. Studies show that exposure to diesel tailpipe emissions worsens respiratory conditions, decreases lung function and can lead to increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits. Shifting to cleaner buses is especially important for low-income students. Across the U.S., 60% of low-income students ride the school bus, compared with 45% of other students. Marpillero-Columina. “Electric School Buses are Taking Students Back to School.” *The Conversation*. August 17, 2022 <https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2022/08/electric-school-buses-are-taking-students-back-school/375982/>

NEW YORK STATE

Buffalo looks at paying parents to transport students

With an estimated shortage of about 100 school bus drivers to fulfill roughly 500 bus routes, leaders in Buffalo Public Schools are considering a new route: paying parents for driving their kids to school. Ben Tsujimoto. “With 100 too few bus drivers, Buffalo explores paying parents to drive their kids to school.” *Buffalo News*. August 5, 2022 https://buffalonews.com/news/local-education/with-100-too-few-bus-drivers-buffalo-explores-paying-parents-to-drive-their-kids-to-school/article-3d8f66c1-4e11-11eb-9910-000119000000?utm_source=First-Read-Newsletters&utm_campaign=2cf65685c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_06_11_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c7d1-2cf65685c-34743040&mc_cid=2cf65685c&mc_eid=bc262544e3

Most of 2021 grads got Regents exam exemptions

More than 80% of NYS’s 2021 HS graduates obtained exemptions from one or more Regents exams that normally would have been required, an educational advocacy group reported. John Hildebrand. “More than 80% of 2021 grads got Regents exam exemptions, educational advocacy group says.” *Newsday*. August 9, 2022 https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/regents-exam-exemptions-ven09xdp?utm_source=First-Read-Newsletters&utm_campaign=785885885d-First-Read_081022&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27c7d1-785885885d-34743040&mc_cid=785885885d&mc_eid=bc262544e3

Challenges to local curricula & books largely ineffective

The majority of MC school districts have received complaints over the last two years about the their curriculum and their library books. The *Democrat and Chronicle* asked all local school districts for copies of written complaints about curriculum and library books in the last two years, and 12 districts provided some documents, including comments at public meetings, emailed complaints, and profane and racist messages from mostly non-local people. With few exceptions, districts have not acceded to removal requests, which have targeted books addressing race, sexuality and gender identity. But their responses and internal deliberations show that the pressure has caused trepidation. Documents showed that several districts checked their shelves and curricula for the books that were causing controversy elsewhere, and in some cases removed books that were seen as insufficiently anti-racist. Justin Murphy. “Debate over what to teach remains volatile.” *Democrat & Chronicle/ USA TODAY*. August 14, 2022 <https://rochesterdemocrat-nv.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220814&goTo=A01&artid=3>

Area law enforcement preparing for safe school year

Local law enforcement agencies are hoping for a safe start to the new school year. Over the summer, local police have been working with school districts to fine-tune security measures. Changes to security include a new app to help facilitate communication in the event of an emergency, tabletop drills and more. On the law enforcement side of things, training has been underway all summer. Dr. Casey Kosiorek, President of the MC Council of Superintendents, says that some districts are implementing more school resource officers, bullet-resistant windows, and stricter monitoring social media. Jonathan Payne, Deputy MC Sheriff, says that during the summer, the sheriff’s department maintains training with multiple agencies, administrative staff and principals. He says many districts express a strong desire for more SROs, especially officers who maintain supportive relationships with students. Eriketa Cost. “Rochester law enforcement prepare for safer school year.” *Rochester First (TV8)*. August 17, 2022 https://www.rochesterfirst.com/back-to-school/local-law-enforcement-prep-for-a-safe-school-year?ms_link=big-story_1_title_4&email=5d13d09406fc309325210ec455be4940065cc236&utm_source=Salithru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WROC%20Daily%20News%202022-08-18&utm_term=Daily%20News