

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Books still the best medium to support reading

Many assessments worldwide have documented a decline in reading achievement. One leading hypothesis is that children and teens are too distracted by their devices to read. An analysis by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Does the digital world open up an increasing divide in access to print books?*, has found intriguing relationships between books in the home, a preference for reading on paper and reading achievement. Students who had more books at home reported that they enjoyed reading more. Teens who primarily read paper books outperformed teens who primarily read digital books and teens who rarely or never read books. Even after adjusting for students' socioeconomic status, the advantage for paper reading remained pronounced. However, all reading is good—teens who read on digital devices also outperform teens who rarely read. Jill Barshay. "Paper books linked to stronger readers in an international study." *Hechinger Report*. July 25, 2022 <https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-paper-books-linked-to-stronger-readers-in-an-international-study/>

Concern grows over teacher shortages

Local and regional nuances mean that there is no apparent one-size-fits-all solution to widespread teacher shortages, with officials saying that school and district needs differ. Shannon Holston, chief of policy and programs at the National Council on Teacher Quality, adds that programs in Kentucky and Pennsylvania to grow more diverse teacher workforces are promising. Roger Riddell. "As states tackle teacher shortages, which plans show the most promise?" *K-12 Dive*. July 22, 2022 <https://www.k12dive.com/news/as-states-tackle-teacher-shortages-which-plans-show-the-most-promise/627920/>

School club helps support grieving students

The coronavirus pandemic is estimated to have left more than 200,000 children in the US grieving the loss of a parent or primary grandparent caregiver. At one school in Florida, students have found support through an on-campus grief club.

Rhitu Chatterjee. "Losing a parent can derail teens' lives. A high school grief club aims to help." *National Public Radio*. July 24, 2022 <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/07/24/1110916298/losing-a-parent-can-derail-teens-lives-a-high-school-grief-club-aims-to-help>

Teacher: How to adapt tech to students' needs

A structure known as TPACK (technology, pedagogic and content knowledge) can help teachers integrate technology in lessons, writes a 7th-grade pre-algebra teacher. He writes that a TPACK lesson on living organisms could include a video ad about students' findings, which they share with the class or post on a classroom blog. Brianne Waste. "TPACK: Incorporate technology into lessons." *Smart Brief/Education*. July 26, 2022 https://corp.smartbrief.com/original/2022/07/tpack-incorporate-technology?utm_source=brief

What new teachers need to know about classroom management

All teachers start from the same place, so take classroom challenges in stride. This link contains three great tips for new teachers that can make or break a school year.

Esteban Bachelet. "What New Teachers Really Need to Know About Classroom Management." *ASCD*. July 13, 2022 <https://www.ascd.org/blogs/what-new-teachers-really-need-to-know-about-classroom-management>

Pandemic led to ongoing behavior challenges for schools

New NCES data indicate that leaders are seeing big upticks in challenging student behavior -- and they need more support to address it. This link shares key takeaways from the report.

Noble Ingram. "Pandemic-Related Behavior Issues Pose Ongoing Challenge for Schools." *ASCD*. July 18, 2022 <https://www.ascd.org/blogs/pandemic-related-behavior-issues-pose-ongoing-challenge-for-schools>

Are schools prepared to help if more teens become pregnant post-Roe?

Schools often discriminate against parenting students, and services for them have dwindled. New abortion restrictions could force more young people to drop out.

Kavitha Cardoza. "If more students become pregnant post-Roe, are we prepared to support them?" *Hechinger Report*. July 24, 2022 https://hechingerreport.org/if-more-students-become-pregnant-post-roe-are-we-prepared-to-support-them/?utm_source=The+Hechinger+Report&utm_campaign=f10c8cc7ec EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_07_26_06_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d3eed3e04-f10c8cc7ec-322606321

Teachers identify barriers to addressing learning gaps

Teachers identified several barriers to addressing learning gaps among students -- primarily student behavioral issues, student mental health challenges and demands on teachers' time -- in a survey conducted by YouGov for the Khan Academy. Of those surveyed, 84% of teachers said competency-based education (mastery learning) could help improve learning loss resulting from the pandemic, and more than 50% of teachers responding said they are using mastery learning in their classrooms. An additional 35% of respondents said they would like to use mastery learning. Unlike in traditional classrooms, a student in mastery-learning or competency-based classrooms are not pushed ahead to the next subject or lesson until the student demonstrates knowledge or “mastery” of the current lesson. Kristal Kuykendall. “Teachers Favor Mastery Learning Methods in Pandemic Recovery Efforts, Survey Shows.” *T.H.E. Journal*. July 26, 2022 <https://thejournal.com/articles/2022/07/26teachers-favor-mastery-learning-methods-in-pandemic-recovery-efforts-survey-shows.aspx>

Restorative justice for transforming school culture

When restorative justice is implemented on a schoolwide level, it can transform relationships between teachers and students. Restorative justice is often framed as a behavior and classroom management technique, which can lead to frustration among teachers. But restorative practices are strategies to help build real relationships and address harm. These strategies include restorative circles, adjusting power dynamics between students and teachers, and root-cause analysis of issues that arise. Restorative justice is messy and complicated, but our students and our teachers and staff deserve the dignity, the connection, and the healing that it offers.

Matt Homrich-Knieling. “Using Restorative Justice to Transform School Culture.” *Edutopia*. July 20, 2022

https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-restorative-justice-transform-school-culture?utm_content=link_pos1&utm_source=edu-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-2022-07-27

Texas district sees success with longer school year

The Aldine Independent School District in Texas has expanded a successful program to lengthen the school year from two schools to four. The district’s 210-day school year, rather than 180, led to higher achievement in reading and math, as well as improved family engagement and whole-child supports.

Kara Arundel. “How a Texas district extended the school year to improve achievement.” *K-12 Dive*. July 27, 2022

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-a-texas-district-added-more-days-to-the-school-year-during-the-pandemic/628216/>

Survey: Teachers reflect on effects of COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has worsened the education landscape, according to a survey of 122 teachers in 37 states by *The 74*. Teachers report chronic absenteeism, bad behavior and lagging skills among the challenges, with teachers citing examples of ES students unable to use scissors and pencils and MS pupils struggling with math concepts. Also noted were students’ struggles with raising hands, forming sentences, tying shoes, and outbursts

Marianna McMurdock, Jasmine De Leon & Meghan. “122 Teachers Speak: Surviving Student Learning Loss, Behavior Challenges.” *The 74*. August 1, 2022

<https://www.the74million.org/article/122-teachers-speak-surviving-student-learning-loss-behavior-challenges/>

Opinion: Discussions of race do not make white students feel guilty

Students want reasons for the world they have inherited. It is not teaching about racism that endangers our students, but the gag rules that seek to perpetuate their miseducation. Such rules ignore the fact that the race question is being brought before Black and white children daily outside of school. Early in their encounters with the history of systemic oppression, white students sometimes express denial, disbelief, anger and guilt. But those feelings are only the beginning of the story. These students’ initial reactions are named, understood and analyzed — and often transformed. In our experience, for many white students, learning about systemic racism is in fact not harmful, but generative. When students understand that there is a struggle to define the past, they are less likely to deny history and more likely to investigate with curiosity why they know what they know and how they came to know it. Not only can this create a healthy separation between the actions of our ancestors and ourselves, but it also invites us to look for models of white people throughout history who acted for justice. These examples help students imagine and build an identity untethered from the perpetuation of racism.

Christie Nold has been teaching in Vermont public schools for eight years. Before that she taught in a village school in Nedryhailiv, Ukraine.

Ursula Wolfe-Rocca taught HS in a suburb of Portland, Oregon for 20 years.

Christie Nold & Ursula Wolfe-Rocca. “OPINION: Why the narrative that critical race theory ‘makes white kids feel guilty’ is a lie.” *Hechinger Report*. August 2, 2022

<https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-why-the-narrative-that-critical-race-theory-makes-white-kids-feel-guilty-is-a-lie/>

NASA resources to help teach STEM with Webb telescope

NASA is offering a variety of free tools, aligned with educational standards, to help teachers use the James Webb Space Telescope to teach STEM lessons. This blog post highlights six tools, including a STEM toolkit, an interactive virtual platform and webinars for educators.

Erik Ofgang. “NASA’s 6 Top Tools for Teaching About the James Webb Space Telescope.” *Tech & Learning*. August 1, 2022

<https://www.techlearning.com/how-to/nasas-6-top-tools-for-teaching-about-the-james-webb-space-telescope>

Teacher shortage at crisis levels nationwide

The teacher shortage in America has hit crisis levels – and school officials everywhere are scrambling to ensure that schools have adults to work with students. Dan Domenech, executive director of the School Superintendents Association, said that staffing is the number-one issue concerning school districts. No national database precisely

tracks staffing issues. But state- and district-level reports have emerged detailing staffing gaps that stretch from the hundreds to the thousands. Experts point to factors including pandemic-induced teacher exhaustion, low pay and some educators' sense that politicians and parents and local school board members have little respect for their profession amid an educational culture war that has seen many districts and states pass policies and laws restricting what teachers can say. Stopgap solutions for lack of staff run the gamut, from offering teachers better pay to increasing the pool of people who qualify as educators to bumping up class sizes to shortening the school week. But many of these temporary fixes are likely to harm students by diminishing their ability to learn.

Hannah Natanson. "‘Never seen it this bad’: America faces catastrophic teacher shortage." *Washington Post*. August 4, 2022
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/08/03/school-teachers-shortage/?utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=0609844782-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_08_04_10_43&utm_medium=email&mc_cid=0609844782&mc_eid=bc26254e3

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Outlook bad for school hiring this fall

A survey shows most schools aren't getting enough job candidates. District leaders have felt the staffing crisis for more than a year, and a new school year is only reinforcing their fears about the challenges of recruiting educators and those who support them. Most schools are seeing fewer job candidates for crucial positions than during the same period last year, an EdWeek Research Center survey shows—and an even greater percentage of those polled are seeing fewer candidates than they need to keep their schools running optimally, new survey data show. Hiring bus drivers appears particularly difficult; 86% of respondents said they don't have enough bus driver candidates.

Mark Lieberman. "The Outlook Is Bad for School Hiring This Fall." *Education Week*. July 28, 2022

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-outlook-is-bad-for-school-hiring-this-fall/2022/07?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4762884&UID=dcf379af08119fa84853cdc6f688bfca

U.S.E.D. announces guidance on students with disabilities

The U.S.E.D. has issued guidance and resources to help support the needs of students with disabilities and to address their disproportionately high rate of expulsions and suspensions. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has introduced four resources related to students with disabilities, including updated guidance that states educators must determine whether a student's behavior is related to their disability before engaging in disciplinary measures.

Libby Sanford. "New Discipline Guidance Focuses on Discrimination Against Students With Disabilities." *Education Week*. July 19, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/new-discipline-guidance-focuses-on-discrimination-against-students-with-disabilities/2022/07>

Commentary: Voters not swayed by attacks on their public schools

The authors report that voters in school board elections are not swayed by attacks on their public schools and teachers, or by hate and fear issues raised by some political candidates. Such negative candidates have fared quite poorly in school board elections, often by wide margins. Their failure is the result of Americans having direct experiences that contradict anti-public-school rhetoric.

Jennifer C. Berkshire & Jack Schneider. "The GOP's school board takeover strategy is falling flat." *The Hill*. July 25, 2022

BY JENNIFER C. BERKSHIRE AND JACK SCHNEIDER, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS - 07/25/22

<https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3572821-the-gops-school-board-takeover-strategy-is-falling-flat/>

More \$\$ would keep teachers, but there's more to it

An EdWeek Research Center survey asked which financial incentives would keep teachers in their jobs? The poll found that, given a choice of different ways to increase compensation, teachers say the prospect of salary increases that keep up with inflation are more likely to keep them in the classroom than other financial perks—including more generous family leave policies.

Stephen Sawchuk. "Better pay would keep teachers from quitting. But there's more to it." *Education Week*. July 27, 2022

https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/better-pay-would-keep-teachers-from-quitting-but-theres-more-to-it/2022/07?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=4752251&UID=dcf379af08119fa84853cdc6f688bfca

How to limit teacher attrition

Nearly half of teachers say they are considering leaving the profession in the next two years, a recent study suggests. The study found that higher levels of "teacher voice" (teacher influence over classrooms and schools) are associated with less attrition, even after accounting for other factors such as salary. This finding supports a 2013 study that warned that reform policies like scripted and narrowed curriculum could de-professionalize teaching. The study also found that a supportive working environment provided by administrators helps reduce attrition, as do higher rates of teacher morale. These findings are especially relevant now that the federal COVID relief funding is about to dry up while districts are losing enrollment. Increasing teachers' influence over their classrooms and schools can potentially be accomplished with little or no additional funding, as can the degree to which teachers feel supported. Teacher attrition is costly, in terms of its impact on students and schools and in terms of the resources required to hire replacements; a 2007 study quoted by the article estimates this latter price tag as \$7.3 billion per year.

"The Secret Weapon for Fighting Teacher Attrition." *National Educational Policy Center Newsletter*. July 28, 2022

https://nepc.colorado.edu/libraries/pdf.js/web/viewer.html?file=https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Newsletter%20Attrition_0.pdf

Report reveals career "exposure gap" among students

Many students have the aptitude for in-demand jobs, but lack interest -- revealing a stark "exposure gap" -- according to The State of The Future US Workforce: Student Ability Report released by YouScience. The report found, for example, that high-schoolers' aptitude for advanced manufacturing is more than three times higher than their interest in the field.

Kristal Kuykendall. "Gap Between Students' Aptitudes and Their Career Interests Focus of New Report." *T.H.E. Journal*. July 27, 2022
<https://thejournal.com/articles/2022/07/27/gap-between-students-aptitudes-and-students-career-interests-focus-of-new-report.aspx>

Student data at risk

While education technology firms are stockpiling sensitive information on millions of school children, safeguards for student data have broken down. The software that many school districts use to track students' progress can record extremely confidential information on children. Now these systems are coming under heightened scrutiny after a recent cyberattack on Illuminate Education, a leading provider of student-tracking software, which affected the personal information of more than a million current and former students across dozens of districts. The breaches have increased calls for federal action and greater accountability for edtech companies.

Natasha Singer. "A Cyberattack Illuminates the Shaky State of Student Privacy." *NY Times*. July 31, 2022
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/31/business/student-privacy-illuminate-hack.html>

U.S.E.D. grants aimed at mental health support

The US Department of Education has announced almost \$300 million in new grants to address students' mental health challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, including funding to recruit and train a diverse corps of mental health professionals for schools. A letter from the Biden administration to governors encouraged investment in school-based health services and offered guidance on how states can help provide mental health support for students.

Micah Ward. "DOE: K-12 students will have better access to mental health services." *District Administration*. August 1, 2022
<https://districtadministration.com/doe-k-12-students-will-have-better-access-to-mental-health-services/>

NEW YORK STATE

NYS graduation requirements to be re-considered

As educators consider revamping graduation requirements, they are considering where do Regents exams fit in. Starting in the fall, a "blue-ribbon" commission will review the state's complex graduation requirements and recommend changes.

John Hildebrand. "Regents exams in spotlight as educators consider other paths toward graduation." *Newsday*. July 22, 2022
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/regents-exams-high-school-graduation-requirements-sockdnf2?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Top-Stories&ctm=7180daed0f117e08169c7036e559bbf4b9c7b92a72e79686b9188cc63f596d4&utm_term=non

Regents test question that led to 2022 cancellation could appear on a future exam

SED officials said that the U.S. History Regents exam question that led to the test's cancellation in May out of concern that it could "compound student trauma" after the mass shooting in Buffalo could show up on a future exam. The *Times Union's* freedom of information request, and an appeal, for the question have been denied because the question could appear on a future test, officials said

Kathleen Moore. "In May, the Regents exam question was possibly traumatic. Next year? It could be on the test." *Albany Times Union*. July 30, 2022
https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/In-May-the-Regents-exam-question-was-possibly-17338338.php?IPID=Times-Union-Capital-Region-spotlight&utm_source=First+Read+Newsletters&utm_campaign=ea017ce9d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_07_30_11_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_252d27e7d1-ea017ce9d-34743040&mc_cid=ea017ce9d&mc_cid=bc2625d4e3

Governor Hochul: Masks for students unlikely this fall

Governor Hochul has affirmed that its very unlikely that students returning to school this year will be required to wear masks, noting that the plans that were in place at the end of the school year earlier this summer will remain in effect. She added that the state anticipates providing coronavirus testing kits for students and staff returning in the fall, and that if there was a change in available information, the state reserves the right to institute a mask mandate.

Joshua Solomon. "Hochul does not anticipate need for masks in schools this fall." *Albany Times Union*. August 3, 2022
https://www.timesunion.com/state/article/Hochul-says-no-masks-required-in-schools-17348448.php?IPID=Times-Union-HP-state-pscknq&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=tu_capitolconfidential&sid=5931844424c17c09a31115af