

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

September 14, 2018 News Round-up

TEACHING & LEARNING

Schools work to support students in foster care

Some school districts across the country are taking steps to better support students in foster care who have higher rates of absenteeism and lower rates of on-time HS graduation. In Topeka, Kan., intervention teams were formed to track the grades of these students, visit their foster homes and organize their mental health care.

Ray Bendici. "Fostering success in and out of the classroom." *District Administration*. September 9, 2018

<https://www.districtadministration.com/article/fostering-success-in-and-out-of-the-classroom>

Survey considers motivation of math students

The top motivation of 55% of math students ages 13 - 18 is proving to themselves that they can do the work, according to a new survey. The survey also found that almost half of the students said they liked math and 68% said they would like math even more if they could understand how it would affect them in the future.

Rachel Crowell. "Kids' Math Motivation Stems From Proving Something To Themselves." *Forbes*. September 7, 2018

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rachelcrowell/2018/09/07/kids-math-motivation-stems-from-proving-something-to-themselves/#3acc8ac27717>

Teacher diversity and student learning

Research shows that students, especially boys, benefit when teachers share their race or gender. Yet most teachers are white women.

Claire Cain Miller. "Does teacher diversity matter in student learning?" *NY Times*. September 10, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/10/upshot/teacher-diversity-effect-students-learning.html?emc=edit_th_180911&nl=todayshdlines&nid=188779070911

NATIONAL / FEDERAL

No difference between for-profit & non-profit charters

The blogger explains that there is no difference in the effects among different types of charter schools on the public school systems upon which they feed. They all drain resources and the students they want from public schools, undermining them and threatening the future of public education. All charters are privately-operated schools funded with public tax dollars with no accountability. "This is a situation rife with the possibility of fraud. It is a situation where the deck is stacked against the public in every way and in favor of charter school operators."

Steven Singer. "There is Virtually No Difference Between Nonprofit and For-Profit Charter Schools" *Gadfly on the Wall* blog. September 7, 2018

<https://gadflyonthewallblog.com/2018/09/07/there-is-virtually-no-difference-between-nonprofit-and-for-profit-charter-schools/>

Public schools being hijacked by billionaires

A new report, "Hijacked by Billionaires: How the Super Rich Buy Elections to Undermine Public Schools", examines several places where the super-rich have poured in money to buy control of school boards and buy policy, to advance privatization. This carefully documented report names names to show how the rich use their money to steal democracy and local control, using their wealth to take away what belongs to the public.

"Hijacked by Billionaires: How the Super Rich Buy Elections to Undermine Public Schools." Network for Public Education. September 8, 2018

<http://npaction.org/hijackedbybillionaires/>

Teachers as first responders in school shootings

What happens to teachers who are forced to act as first responders?

Jeneen Interlandi. "Teaching in the Age of School Shootings." *NY Times Magazine*. September 5, 2018

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/09/05/magazine/school-shootings-teachers-support-armed.html?emc=edit_th_180909&nl=todayshdlines&nid=188779070909

The 'Destroy Public Education' movement

The blogger describes the 'Destroy Public Education Movement', identifying its leaders and methods. He describes their game plan, which aims to dismantle democratic control of public schools. The idea that America's education system was ever a failure is, and always has been, an illusion.

Tom Ultican is a retired teacher of physics and advanced mathematics in California.

Tom Ultican. "A Layman's Guide to the 'Destroy Public Education' Movement." *Tultican* blog. September 9, 2018

<https://tultican.com/2018/09/09/a-laymans-guide-to-the-destroy-public-education-movement/>

Should the SAT replace regular assessments?

The U.S.E.D. has requested that Connecticut, one of nine states seeking to replace HS assessments with the SAT, provide "substantial" additional evidence showing that the SAT is a suitable HS achievement test. At issue is whether the SAT corresponds with the state's academic standards and whether it provides adequate accommodations for students with disabilities and English-language learners.

Catherine Gewertz. "SAT Stumbles in Getting Federal Approval as High School Achievement Test." *Education Week*. September 7, 2018
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/high_school_and_beyond/2018/09/sat_stumbles_in_getting_federal_approval_as_high_school_achievement_test.html

College Board sued over recycled SAT questions

Some SAT questions are recycled from one test date to another -- and some people keep cheating. But the College Board keeps recycling them.

Valerie Strauss. "College Board sued over allegedly recycled SAT test questions." *Washington Post/Answer Sheet* blog. September 6, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/09/06/college-board-sued-over-allegedly-recycled-sat-test-questions/?wpisrc=nl_answer&wpm=1&noredirect=on

Data privacy questions

The Future of Privacy Forum outlined seven big privacy questions that parents should ask their children's schools.

Benjamin Herold. "Data-Privacy Questions From Parents That Schools Should Be Ready to Answer." *Education Week*. September 11, 2018
http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2018/09/privacy_questions_parents_schools.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2-rm&M=58607141&U=252955

Tips to protect data privacy when adopting technology

Data privacy literacy, the ability to protect one's data, is a key skill that teachers and students should cultivate. The author shows how users can hone this skill by asking certain questions when vetting digital tools for widespread use.

Kerry Gallagher. "Are you privacy literate?" *Smart Brief/Education*. September 11, 2018
http://smartbrief.com/original/2018/09/are-you-privacy-literate?utm_source=brief

Federal Court Rules against DeVos Plan to Delay Rule to Protect Student Borrowers

Attorneys General from 19 states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit against Betsy DeVos and the U.S.E.D. after she ordered delays for student borrower defense rules slated for July 1, 2017. On Wednesday, the federal court ruled against the Trump administration official.

Andrew Harris and Daniel Flatley / Bloomberg. "After Delaying Obama-Era Protections, Betsy DeVos Loses Student Loan Lawsuit Brought by 19 States." *TIME Magazine*. September 13th, 2018
<http://amp.timeinc.net/time/5394679/betsy-devos-loses-student-loan-lawsuit>

Conference committee agree on education spending

A House - Senate conference committee has agreed to set department spending at nearly \$71.5 billion for the upcoming fiscal year 2019 budget. The deal rejects the administration's fiscal 2019 proposal to slash the U.S.E.D. budget, the elimination of several programs, and the creation of school choice initiatives. The agreement must now be approved by both the full House and Senate before heading to the president. Lawmakers did not resolve a dispute over whether schools can use Every Student Succeeds Act grants to pay for firearms and firearms training.

Andrew Ujifusa. "Lawmakers Strike Deal on Education Spending, Omit Ban on Money for Guns." *Education Week*. September 13, 2018
<http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2018/09/education-spending-deal-lawmakers-omit-guns-ban-money.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnow>

NEW YORK STATE

SED plan to punish students and schools with high opt out rates

The state Board of Regents may soon pass new rules for holding school districts and individual schools accountable if too many families "opt out" of tests. One rule would allow the state education commissioner to direct a district to spend a portion of its federal Title I funds on "activities" to increase student participation on state tests...Schools use Title I funds on staff and programs to help disadvantaged students — targeting everything from math and reading intervention to supports for homeless children. Using that money for a parent-targeted p.r. campaign is wrong.

Gary Stern. "New York Regents should zap opt-out punishments for schools." *Journal News* (Rockland/Westchester). September 7, 2018
<https://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/perspective/2018/09/07/ny-board-regents-opt-out-punishment/1205708002/>

AQE accuses NYS of racism in education aid distribution

The education advocacy group Alliance For Quality Education (AQE) release a report highlighting what it describes as racial inequities in the way the state distributes supplementary school aid. The report analyzes "foundation aid" AQE says is owed to districts that are over 50% black and Latino and ranked as "high-need" by the state, and finds that the debt owed to these districts is significantly greater than sums owed to districts that do not meet these criteria. While two-thirds of the districts in NYS overall are owed foundation aid, 100% of high-needs school districts with majority black and Latino students are owed the aid, according to the report's findings. And 62% of the education money owed under current state law is owed to districts that are majority black and Latino. The governor's office has disputed the report's findings.

Rachel Silberstein. "AQE releases "educational racism" report ahead of primary." *Albany Times Union*. September 11, 2018
<https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/284078/aqe-releases-educational-racism-report-ahead-of-primary/>

UR Warner School launches Center for Learning in the Digital Age

A new center at the Warner School aims to provide resources to help schools and organizations to better capitalize on technology for educational purposes. The Center for Learning in the Digital Age (LiDA) plans to collaborate with various educational partners to leverage digital resources to improve learning in development K-16 as well as across the lifespan in a variety of non-traditional settings. To learn more contact Raffaella Borasi at rborasi@warner.rochester.edu.

Press Release. "US Warner School launches Center for Learning in the Digital Age. UR Warner School September 12, 2018