

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 30, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Teaching students about unhealthy relationships

Eighth-grade students at one Indiana MS participated in The Clothesline Project, creating designs on paper T-shirts that honored a victim of domestic violence while learning about signs that indicate a relationship is abusive. The effort is designed to indicate for students that relationships should not hurt.

Carlos Diaz. "Greenwood students having serious discussions about domestic violence in new classes." *WTHR-TV (Indianapolis)*. September 22, 2022
<https://www.wthr.com/article/news/local/greenwood-middle-school-students-domestic-violence-discussions-the-clothesline-project/531-88df2989-c694-419e-b1d7-6eedee7d9999>

Virtual reality can make complex math easier to grasp

Virtual reality can help MS and HS students better understand more complex aspects of math using the quadratic equation to design a city's greenspace or linear equations to avoid collisions as a flight instructor. "The top indicators of success in STEM are your ability to reason spatially and your ability to create abstract models of real-world situations...VR is uniquely positioned to develop these competencies", according to one commentator.

Rick Hess. "Virtual Reality Looks Cool, But Can It Actually Help Schools Teach Math?" *Education Week*. September 22, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/technology/opinion-virtual-reality-looks-cool-but-can-it-actually-help-schools-teach-math/2022/09>

How learning by doing can translate to other classes

Students engage better in choir and other extracurricular courses where they can put their learning into practice, say education researchers. They assert that this level of enthusiasm can work across subjects as students learn "how to put in careful work and attend to the parts that aren't good yet."

Koby Levin. "With a joyful song, these Detroit students are re-engaging with school." *Chalkbeat/Detroit*. September 20, 2022
<https://detroit.chalkbeat.org/2022/9/20/23356430/detroit-dsa-choir-pandemic-learning-mehta-fine>

Dungeons & Dragons offering educational game kits to schools

Dungeons & Dragons is offering free education edition game kits and resources that can be used in classrooms, libraries and other programs to help teach various school subjects, and letting students learn as they play. In partnership with the International Literacy Association, Wizards of the Coast and Hasbro are also offering webinars to dispel myths about the popular game and how to use it to boost literacy, creativity and imagination, such as by scaffolding writing.

Geoff Borgonia. "Dungeons & Dragons comes to the classroom." *Xfire*. September 20, 2022
<https://www.xfire.com/dungeons-and-dragons-dnd-classroom-kits/>

We all have accents and that's good

Standard English is a myth...we all have accents. For Emergent Bilingual students learning English, it's critical that this be reflected in their education so that they see their native language as an asset rather than a barrier. Teachers who adopt culturally sustaining pedagogy can show Emergent Bilinguals how valuable their heritages are and help all students overcome accent bias.

Maya Goodall. "Standard English Is a Myth: Bringing an Asset-Based Approach to Accents." *Smart Brief/Education*. September 2022.
https://www.w2.smartbrief.com/hosted/2022/09/web3372/Standard-English-Is-a-Myth-Bringing-an-Asset-Based-Approach-to-Accents.pdf?utm_campaign=3E572E12-3FBC-11D5-AD13-000244141872&utm_content=00A9E1D8-A8A1-4B2F-B570-SA50801E0265&utm_source=brief

Excessive heat can affect student learning

Higher temperatures are linked to worse test scores, according to research that also identified worse outcomes among lower-income students and Black and Hispanic students. A report from Pennsylvania State University's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy Analysis found that students learn best in reading and math if the classroom is between 68 and 74 degrees.

Madeline Will. "The School Year Is Getting Hotter. How Does Heat Affect Student Learning and Well-Being?" *Education Week*. September 26, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-school-year-is-getting-hotter-how-does-heat-affect-student-learning-and-well-being/2022/09>

Fewer students participate in school sports

While athletic skills haven't drawn as much attention as math and reading performance, new data suggests students' sports engagement also took a hit during the pandemic. In the 2021-22 school year, 7.6 million high-school students in the US were on school sports teams -- a 4% dip since the 2018-19 school year, according to a new survey.

Educators say students have experienced "learning loss" in sports over the past few years, with some -- particularly disadvantaged youth -- coming to tryouts less skilled.

Sarah D. Sparks. "School Sports Participation Drops, Raising Concern About 'Physical Learning Loss'." *Education Week*. September 28, 2022 <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-sports-participation-drops-raising-concern-about-physical-learning-loss/2022/09>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

SpaceX to bring internet to school buses

SpaceX plans to work with school districts to give mobile broadband internet access to students on bus rides, according to an FCC letter. SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet constellation will provide the connection to students on school buses so they can use the time for education and recreational purposes. In July, SpaceX received FCC approval to use Starlink on vehicles in motion.

Lucas Manfredi. "SpaceX looking to expand Starlink to school buses." *Fox Business*. September 22, 2022 <https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/spacex-looking-expand-starlink-school-buses>

"Tumultuous" labor relations in education

Strikes by teachers in districts across the US, including in Ohio and Washington, have drawn public attention to issues facing educators, including work conditions and pay. Jon Shelton, an associate professor and chair of democracy and justice studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, says teachers are also advocating for the well-being of students, and notes that labor relations for the profession may be "tumultuous for some time."

Madeline Will. "Why Teachers Are Going on Strike This Fall—and What Could Come Next." *Education Week*. September 19, 2022 <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/why-teachers-are-going-on-strike-this-fall-and-what-could-come-next/2022/09>

More than 1,600 books banned during past school year

A new PEN America report finds that targeted campaigns by advocacy groups are behind the increasing book bans. Between July 2021 and June 2022, the report—*Banned in the USA: The Growing Movement to Censor Books in Schools*—found 2,532 instances of individual bans of 1,648 books. The bans took place in 138 school districts across 32 states; in total, those school districts enroll nearly 4 million students.

Ella Feldman. "Over 1,600 Books Were Banned During the Past School Year." *Smithsonian*. September 23, 2022 https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/whos-behind-the-push-to-ban-books-in-schools-180980818/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220923daily-responsive&spMailID=47410690&spUserID=MTE1NDM2MjA3NTA1NzU2&spJobID=2322453085&spReportId=MjMvMjQ1MzA4NQ02

U.S.E.D.: Don't use state test results 'punitively'

The U.S.E.D. underscores how complicated accountability can be. As states begin to release results from their 2022 assessments, the U.S. Department of Education has emphasized that the scores must be used for accountability—but also that states should be cautious in how they interpret the results.

Sarah Schwartz. "Don't Use State Tests 'Punitively,' Ed. Secretary Cardona Warns." *Education Week*. September 23, 2022 https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/dont-use-state-tests-punitively-ed-secretary-cardona-warns/2022/09?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eu&M=5159336&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfa&T=6992863

Commentary: How billionaires use philanthropy to serve themselves

The author expresses concern about the growing power of the very wealthy to turn their philanthropy into tools of power and control. Vast sums are donated with great frequency; the list of gifts of more than \$1 million in 2022, as reported by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, is approaching 400. These gifts are too often another way for wealthy people to inappropriately exert social and political influence with little or no public oversight, or with any public accountability for the effectiveness of their gifts or for the harm they may do. Such donors put their solutions into action with little need to ensure that those whose lives they will be impacting agree with their solutions. They act with a belief that because they are wealthy, they have no need to be accountable to those without wealth.

Marty Levine wrote for the *Nonprofit Quarterly* for many years, where he distinguished himself as a skeptic of billionaires buying good press. Marty Levine. "The Corrosive Nature of Mega Philanthropy." *Change Counts blog*. September 25, 2022

<https://www.changecounts.net/2022/09/21/the-corrosive-nature-of-mega-philanthropy/>

School security measures can lower test scores and college chances

Heightened security can send the message that students aren't safe at schools. Students at HSs with prominent security measures have lower math scores, are less likely to attend college, and are suspended more compared to students in schools with less surveillance, according to a new study. The drop in average test scores and college enrollment persists even for students who haven't been suspended, suggesting the consequences of surveillance intended for students perceived as troublesome spills over into the educational experience of all students. The findings, in one of the first studies to measure the effects of school surveillance on educational outcomes, suggests negative implications as school systems nationwide further bulk up security.

Jill Rosen, Johns Hopkins University. "School security can affect test scores and college changes." *Futurity*. September 22, 2022 <https://www.futurity.org/schools-surveillance-students-suspension-2803812/>

US battles national school counselor shortage

There were 415 students for every school counselor in the 2020-21 school year -- the lowest national ratio nationally in 32 years, but higher than the ratio of 1:250 recommended by the American School Counselor Association. There is value in having more counselors so advocates hope that the positions can continue long term.

Emily Tate Sullivan. "Schools Are Adding Counselors. But Can They Make the Gains Permanent?" *Ed Surge*. September 23, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-09-23-schools-are-adding-counselors-but-can-they-make-the-gains-permanent>

Darling-Hammond: Marshall Plan for education

The author writes that the current teacher shortage offers an opportunity to break with the past and reimagine the profession. She outlines a type of Marshall Plan for education similar to the plan that helped to rebuild Europe after World War II. High-achieving nations like Canada, Finland, and Singapore make substantial investments in a well-prepared, well-supported profession of education. Supports for teaching take the form of universal high-quality teacher education; mentoring for all beginners from expert teachers; ongoing professional learning; participation in decision making on school improvements; leadership opportunities; and equitable, competitive salaries, comparable to those of other similarly educated professionals. To develop a strong education profession in the U.S., we should build on these lessons as well as on those from states and districts here that have made deep commitments to professionalizing teaching. The U.S. should initiate a Marshall Plan for Teaching that would include federally supported recruitment, improved teacher preparation, high-quality mentoring for all beginning teachers, strengthened PD for all educators, a grants program focused on redesigning schools, and a new approach to education improvement in a revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA).

Linda Darling-Hammond is the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Teaching and Teacher Education at Stanford University, and director of the Stanford University Center for Opportunity Policy in Education. She was founding director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. She focuses her research, teaching, and policy work on issues of school restructuring, teacher quality and educational equity. Linda Darling-Hammond. "Breaking the Legacy of Teacher Shortages." *Educational Leadership*. October 2022.

<https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/breaking-the-legacy-of-teacher-shortages>

SEL under attack in many states

Social and emotional learning has become a talking point of some people who have expanded their criticism of public schools to include the teaching approach that has been around for decades without controversy. According to an analysis by National Public Radio, there have been disputes about SEL in no less than 25 states.

Meg Anderson. "How social-emotional learning became a frontline in the battle against CRT." *National Public Radio*. September 26, 2022
<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/26/1124082878/how-social-emotional-learning-became-a-frontline-in-the-battle-against-crt>

Are schools asking the right questions about tech?

Educators and experts share seven questions that district and school leaders should consider when determining new technology tools to bring on. Questions include whether the technology is accessible to all students and whether the tools are in compliance with privacy laws.

Alyson Klein. "Does Your School Really Need That Technology? 7 Questions to Ask." *Education Week*. September 27, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/technology/does-your-school-really-need-that-technology-7-questions-to-ask/2022/09>

Federal COVID aid is helping children

New research looks at how local governments are using the money to address the fallout the pandemic has had for children in areas like education and mental health. As the pandemic has taken a toll on children's mental health and education, local officials have allocated more than \$2 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funds to address these harmful effects, according to a recent report from the National League of Cities.

Molly Bolan. "How Much Federal Covid Aid are Cities Spending to Help Kids?" *Route Fifty*. September 28, 2022
<https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2022/09/how-much-federal-covid-aid-are-cities-spending-help-kids/377800/>

School nurses being harassed & threatened

The past few years have been tough for school nurses. Nearly half of school nurses say they have felt bullied, threatened, or harassed since the beginning of the pandemic. And just as many say they have recently experienced adverse mental health symptoms.

Arianna Prothero. "Half of School Nurses Report Being Harassed, Threatened." *Education Week*. September 28, 2022
https://www.edweek.org/leadership/half-of-school-nurses-report-being-harassed-threatened/2022/09?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=5191794&LUID=dcf379a08119fa84853cd6f688bfca&T=7035302

NEW YORK STATE

Corporal punishment in NYS public schools

More than 1,600 corporal punishment cases substantiated in New York public schools in recent years. Students were spanked, slapped, choked, dragged and intimidated with a belt, records show. In recent years, the SED has documented nearly 18,000 complaints of corporal punishment in public and charter schools across NYS, although corporal punishment is generally banned. Investigators and school officials substantiated more than 1,600 of those complaints from 2016 through 2021, according to SED records. Records collected by the *Times Union* did

not point to systemic or regular use of corporal punishment in any particular public schools. But the records show that isolated incidents of corporal punishment take place across the state in many public schools every year. The *TU* also found school officials have underreported cases of corporal punishment to the federal government.

Emilie Munson, Joshua Solomon, Matt Rocheleau. "Hundreds of corporal punishment cases per year in NY public schools." *Albany Times Union*. September 24, 2022 <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/corporal-punishment-new-york-schools-17459890.php>

NYS Senate considers safety features for social media

A bill aiming to protect kids online has been introduced in the state Senate, and it could force social media companies to implement a host of safety features – including bans on advertising to youngsters and on mining their data. Big tech firms are expected to push back.

Gabrielle Fonrouge. "NY's sweeping child privacy bill would force online security measures — but Big Tech battle brews." *NY Post*. September 25, 2022 https://nypost.com/2022/09/25/ny-introduces-sweeping-child-privacy-bill-to-make-kids-safer-online/?oref=csny_firstread_nj

Scarsdale HS adopts adopts tiered cellphone policy

Scarsdale HS has adopted a tiered approach to student cellphone use, "Off and Away for the Day", that varies based on what students are doing. At Level 1, for example, phones are turned off and put away while students are in class, but at Level III students can engage in "mindful" cellphone use during a free period. The policy has received positive feedback so far from staff, parents, and students.

Kara Arundel. "How a New York high school is trying to limit student cellphone use." *K-12 Dive*. September 26, 2022 <https://www.k12dive.com/news/how-a-new-york-high-school-is-trying-to-limit-student-cellphone-use/632618/>

State lawmakers react to report on corporal punishment of students

State lawmakers are saying that they had no idea hundreds of incidents of corporal punishment have occurred every year in NYS public and charter schools and vowed to consider changing the state law to stop future cases. State Sen. Shelley Mayer, chair of the Senate Education Committee, said recent news reports uncovering corporal punishment cases shows "there are issues we need to examine and review, and that's what we propose we will do." Governor Hochul has condemned corporal punishment as "abhorrent" and not appropriate in any circumstances. The SED plans to issue new guidance on corporal punishment to schools in a few months, saying that corporal punishment is child abuse, including in educational settings, and is banned by state law.

Emilie Munson. "Shocking! corporal punishment cases make legislators consider changing law." *Albany Times Union*. September 28, 2022 <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Shocking-corporal-punishment-cases-in-public-17470131.php>