

EDUCATION NEWS UPDATE

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September 9, 2022 Education News Update

TEACHING & LEARNING

Educational TV can help students develop complex reading skills

A study of first-graders who watched a program on PBS called "Molly of Denali" has revealed that such educational programs help young people learn more complex literacy skills. The study, conducted by researchers from SRI Education and the Education Development Center, reveals students who watched the programming were better able to answer questions and solve problems.

Sarah Schwartz. "Can a TV Show Really Help Kids Develop Reading Skills? What a New Study Says." *Education Week*. August 30, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/can-a-tv-show-really-help-kids-develop-reading-skills-what-a-new-study-says/2022/08>

Commentary: Elementary school students can do service learning

All students benefit from service learning and volunteering by engaging with the community and learning about civic responsibility, writes an ES principal and veteran educator. Among the suggestions offered by the author are adding public-service days to calendars for events involving the entire school as well as asking students for ideas.

Jasmine Brann. "Schoolwide Community Service and Volunteering in the Elementary Grades." *Edutopia*. August 30, 2022
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/schoolwide-community-service-and-volunteering-elementary-grades>

Do we overestimate students' digital know-how?

K-12 students are often referred to as "digital natives," but because they grew up using technology does not mean they are skilled at using digital academic tools, experts say. Young people are more familiar with digital culture and online communication than they are with the type of digital skills needed to succeed in higher education.

Lilah Burke. "Teaching 'Digital Native' College Students Who Understand TikTok — But Not Microsoft Excel." *EdSurge*. September 6, 2022
<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-09-06-teaching-digital-native-college-students-who-understand-tiktok-but-not-microsoft-excel>

Teachers' mental health getting attention of districts

School districts nationwide are using federal coronavirus relief funding to help support the mental health of teachers, many of whom report being stressed and burned out. As districts struggle to fill teaching vacancies in schools, more attention is being directed at various programs designed to support the mental health of educators to retain them and attract others to join the profession.

Michael Casey. "School districts move to ease teacher stress, burnout." *Associated Press*. August 27, 2022
<https://apnews.com/article/teacher-stress-burnout-f7fa2b061a25849565148a39074722f2>

Teachers aim to strengthen students' media literacy

Teenagers are spending more time online, which means more exposure to misinformation, prompting some educators and experts to push for greater focus on media literacy instruction in schools. At one Colorado HS, 11th-grade students learn such lessons as part of history and US government classes, including defenses against disinformation. The students spend up to two weeks each fall exploring how falsehoods, prejudices and opinions can lurk in the many places they get information. They learn to trace the origins of documents, to validate a website by leaving it to consult other sources and to train a critical eye on TikTok influencers and YouTube videos. Alarmed by the surge of misinformation online, several educational groups representing more than 350,000 teachers in math, social studies and other disciplines created an alliance to better support those trying to teach media literacy. Federal and state legislators have tried in recent years to support media literacy in public schools. Without a mandate from lawmakers, some schools struggle to integrate media literacy into their curriculum.

Tiffany Hsu. "When Teens Find Misinformation, These Teachers Are Ready." *NY Times*. September 8, 2022
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/08/technology/misinformation-students-media-literacy.html>

Educators: Teach digital citizenship early

Digital citizenship lessons should begin early, educators say. Darshell Silva, a librarian and technology integration specialist in Providence, R.I., says when children receive early guidance, they "are knowledgeable of dangers that are out there" by middle school and are less likely to engage in bullying.

Alyson Klein. "Want Kids to Be More Responsible Online? Start Early." *Education Week*. September 07, 2022
<https://www.edweek.org/technology/want-kids-to-be-more-responsible-online-start-early/2022/09>

FEDERAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Midwest & Northeast have most segregated schools

School segregation remains a persistent concern, a recent federal Government Accountability Office found: in the 2020-21 school year, more than a third of K-12 students attended schools where 75% or more of students were of the same race or ethnicity; 15% of students went to schools where 90% or more of the students were of a single race or ethnicity. The Midwest and the Northeast had the highest percentages of schools at which most students were of the same race or ethnicity. Much of segregation can be linked to housing, school district secession and a history of discriminatory practices. Integration has been associated with a reduction in dropout rates and a narrowing of achievement gaps, the GAO said. Attempts to integrate schools have been controversial. Some school districts bus children to integrate them. Other districts phased out busing after court challenges.

Tiffany Cusaac-Smith. "Despite diversity, segregation endures." *USA TODAY/Democrat & Chronicle*. September 5, 2022

<https://rochesterdemocrat-nv.newsmemory.com?selDate=20220905&goTo=A01&artid=2>

Cybersecurity Grants Are Coming. Here's what to keep in mind.

Getting the best cybersecurity means leveraging various tools for hardening networks, detecting malicious activity, and practicing good cyber hygiene. Federal grants managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, worth \$1 billion, could position state and local governments to harden their networks and protect them from cyber threats. The federal funding, provided by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, will also help states and localities make more meaningful progress in developing and implementing their cybersecurity plans. Those plans should better position state and local government entities to manage, monitor and track information systems, applications & user accounts as well as enhance their preparation, response, and resiliency against threats and implement continuous vulnerability assessments. The first round of funding, scheduled to be released in 2022, will provide \$200 million in cybersecurity grants. Additional funding will flow through fiscal year 2025, with the potential to focus more on target-rich and resource-poor governments. State and local governments can proactively position themselves to take advantage of it by coordinating IT efforts at state and local levels, engaging local governments to assess and prioritize needs, and being vigilant by proactively monitoring for threats.

Stacy O'Mara. "Cybersecurity Grants Are Coming. Are You Ready?" *Route Fifty*. September 6, 2022

<https://www.route-fifty.com/tech-data/2022/09/cybersecurity-grants-are-coming-are-you-ready/376775/>

Few Maine religious schools sign onto tuition program

Only one eligible religious HS in Maine has signed onto a program that offers state funding for private school tuition -- despite a US Supreme Court victory that allowed the state program's use for parochial schools. At issue, is that state funding comes with a mandate to comply with laws that prohibit discrimination, including those that apply to LGBTQ students and faculty.

David Sharp. "Religious schools shun state funding despite Maine victory." *Associated Press*. August 30, 2022

<https://apnews.com/article/us-supreme-court-religion-education-discrimination-maine-9e9df3e08a28f63da37f72344b923f9c>

Federal judge backs district's LGBTQ+ policy

A federal judge has ruled against a group of parents who sued a Maryland school district over its guidelines that support students who are transgender, gender-nonconforming or nonbinary. In his decision -- believed to be a first in the nation -- he called the district's policy "necessary and flexible."

Eesha Pendharkar. "Guidelines Supporting Trans Students Don't Violate Parents' Rights, A Federal Judge Rules." *Education Week*. August 31, 2022

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/guidelines-supporting-trans-students-dont-violate-parents-rights-a-federal-judge-rules/2022/08>