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From: "Corey Murray" <corey.murray@k12insight.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 06:02:54 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [Guide] How to reduce bullying and improve school safety
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

To view this email as a web page, click here



Hi Lavern,

Yesterday, thousands of students walked out of class to support Parkland–and to shine a light on the problem of gun violence in our schools.

As the conversations continue, schools are revisiting safety policies. Physical safety is critical–so is social-emotional safety. To be safe, students need to feel safe.

As you evaluate your safety policies, our Definitive Guide on Bullying Prevention was created to help you think about how to create a safer school environment.

In it, you'll learn how to:

1. Assess safety and bullying
2. Create a safer school climate
3. Give students a voice in reporting problems

Get my guide

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Thanks–and let's keep the conversation on school safety going.



Corey Murray
Sr. Director Strategy & Engagement
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From: "NMLA ALA Councilor" <alacouncilor@nmla.org>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 13:13:24 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [NMLA] Fwd: ALA and AASL Release Joint Statement on Florida Senate Bill 7026
To: <nmlamembership@mailman.nmsu.edu>

Attachments:image002.jpg (49.35k) image001.png (17.34k) image003.png (16.28k)

Stephanie Wilson
ALA Councilor
New Mexico Library Association
alacouncilor@nmla.org

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Don Wood" <dwood@ala.org>
Date: Mar 9, 2018 8:40 AM
Subject: [alacro-l] ALA and AASL Release Joint Statement on Florida Senate Bill 7026
To: "alacro-l@lists.ala.org" <alacro-l@lists.ala.org>
Cc:

> American Library Association (ALA) President Jim Neal and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President Steven Yates released a joint statement on March 8 in response to Florida Senate Bill 7026, which would permit librarians, counselors, and coaches to carry firearms in Florida Public Schools.
>
> “ALA and AASL support the efforts of Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) and Florida Library Association to provide safe and accessible learning spaces for students and learners of all ages,” stated Neal and Yates.
>
> “School librarians work with classroom teachers to provide instruction integral to the curriculum and offer additional informal learning opportunities for students. School librarians are invaluable teachers who offer an enriching learning environment for students and colleagues throughout the school. Firearms in our school libraries, as in any other classroom, will undermine the sense of security that is critical to students and divert school librarian attention away from the core focus of student learning.
>
> “While we are all too aware of the gun violence that affects the communities that we serve, including our schools, we do not believe that allowing the arming of school librarians with guns is the answer to preventing violence and mass shootings. Schools need more resources, including the expertise of a certified school librarian for teaching and learning.
>
> “We strongly encourage Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida state legislature to honor the recommendations of FAME and other statewide teaching organizations regarding SB 7026.”
>
> For information regarding how to support Florida library media specialists’ advocacy efforts, please visit floridamediaed.org.
>
> ALA and AASL Release Joint Statement on Florida Senate Bill 7026 (AL Magazine)
>
> Don

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Don Wood
Program Officer
Chapter Relations Office
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
dwood@ala.org
1-800-545-2433, ext. 2429; 312-280-2429
312-280-4392 (fax)

Find Your Answers about ALA Chapters

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”—Walter Cronkite

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.”—Albert Schweitzer

“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen, can change the world.”—Malala Yousafzai

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”—Anne Frank



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From: "NMLA ALA Councilor" <alacouncilor@nmla.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 08:31:06 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [NMLA] Fwd: Intellectual Freedom News 3/15/2018
To: <nmlamembership@mailman.nmsu.edu>

Attachments:image001.gif (4.81k)

From ALA.

Stephanie Wilson
ALA Councilor
New Mexico Library Association
alacouncilor@nmla.org

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Martin Garnar" <mgarnar@uccs.edu>
Date: Mar 16, 2018 1:15 PM
Subject: [alacoun] FW: Intellectual Freedom News 3/15/2018
To: "alacoun@lists.ala.org" <alacoun@lists.ala.org>
Cc:

Hello Council. Here's the latest edition of the Intellectual Freedom News. Have a great weekend!

Martin Garnar

IFRT Councilor

Martin Garnar

Dean, Kraemer Family Library

1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80918

P 719-255-3115 | **F** 719-528-5227 | **E** mgarnar@uccs.edu | *he / his / him* | uccs.edu/library

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From: Kristin Pekoll <kpekoll@ala.org>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:11 AM
To: Martin Garnar <mgarnar@uccs.edu>
Subject: Intellectual Freedom News 3/15/2018

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March 16, 2018 - Collated by OIF Staff and News Editors

Intellectual Freedom Highlights

- A Practical Guide to Privacy Audits | Join Erin Berman and Julie Oborny of the San José Public Library for a free webinar on Monday, April 16 at 1:30 pm Eastern that outlines the first steps libraries can take to implement up-to-date privacy policies and procedures.

Censorship READ MORE

- Parents appeal decision that keeps 'To Kill a Mockingbird' in Monona Grove curriculum | Wisconsin State Journal
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  - Resources for libraries on HTTPS & Let's Encrypt
- GDPR: European rules (and big fines) for American colleges | Inside Higher Ed
- An American University Is Spying On Students to Predict Dropouts. Here's What That Says About Big Data in the U.S. | Fortune

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- Oconomowoc schools impose limits on 'privilege' discussions after parents complain | Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
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- Yes, 'The Little House on the Prairie' is racially insensitive, but we should still read it | The Washington Post
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- Intellectual Freedom needs content, curriculum and librarians | OIF Blog

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  - China's move to end Xi term limits blanketed in censorship | The Washington Post
- Banning social media won't stop hate speech | The New York Times (Sri Lanka)
- Columbia cartoonist sued over political pig | CBLDF
- People in less democratic countries are more likely to say China and Russia respect personal freedoms | Pew Research Center Fact Tank

OIF News

- Intellectual freedom breakfast at ALA Annual conference welcomes New Orleans journalist
- Robert P. Doyle receives 2018 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award for banned books resource guide
- ALA Essentials for Library Workers: Intellectual Freedom: In this 50-minute session, the director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom James LaRue teaches you how you can support your library's mission to provide information and enlightenment to your community.

ALA News

- New eCourse—Sign Language for Children in Storytime or in the Classroom: A Practical Guide



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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2018 18:11:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [principals] About School Response to School Shooting
To: "principals@lists.ucla.edu" <principals@lists.ucla.edu>

Our Center at UCLA received the following request this week from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA)

" Tuesday April 3, 2018, is National Healthy Schools Day. AASA is spearheading a couple of activities, including a Blog Tour, to help promote and spread more dialogue on healthy schools and positive SEL. Your work contributes much to the discussions on school safety and student wellâ€being and I am writing to ask if you would write a blog to be posted on April 3rd that responds to one or both of these questions:

1. Considering the continued threat of gun violence in our schools, what does a healthy school look like to you today? Have school shootings altered your view of what it means to be a healthy school?
2. How can school system leaders help children in their district feel safe, as well as have their physical and socialâ€emotional needs met in a healthy school environment?"

To alert everyone to next Tuesday's activity and to share our response, we are sending what we wrote to you now (see below) and will post it on our website and Facebook page on Tuesday. Send any comments about what we have written to Ltaylor@ucla.edu .

Healthy schools don't wait to react to tragic events. They are proactive in working with their surrounding community to improve schools in ways that promote healthy social-emotional development and prevent problems, as well as having a comprehensive system in place to handle problems.

So, it is essential that folks understand that developing a healthy and positive school climate involves more than enhancing school safety. School climate is an emergent quality. That is, it emerges as school improvement efforts fully reflect our society's commitment to equity, fairness, and justice. And, if the commitment to ensuring equity, fairness, and justice is to be meaningful, it cannot be approached simplistically. (It was said of the legendary coach Vince Lombardi that he was always fair because he treated all his players the same -- *like dogs!*)

Schools (and society at large) certainly must enhance safety and do more to address mental health concerns. However, schools must embed all such efforts into comprehensive school improvements that effectively close the wide-spread opportunity and achievement gaps. Such improvements start with designing instruction in ways that account for a wide range of individual differences and circumstances. But, the work can't stop there if we are to make schools healthier places and assure all students an equal opportunity to succeed at school (and beyond). In particular, school improvement policy and planning needs to face up to transforming the way schools address the many barriers to learning and teaching that are encountered each day. This requires immediately moving on from current student/learning support practices and reactive and limited special initiatives.

For too long, comprehensive efforts to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students have been marginalized in school improvement policy. While gun violence is on everyone's mind, let's not pretend that the route to improving school climate and health is through cameras, metal detectors, locks, more police on campus, armed teachers, and the like. As student protestors across the country are declaring: *WE DESERVE BETTER!*

Current events and the shift to more local control established by the Every Student Succeeds Act provide the opportunity for moving forward to develop a unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of student/learning supports at every school. Such a transformation won't be easy. This is core challenge for all leaders pursuing school improvement as they heed the call for healthier and safer schools. Fortunately, they can build on pioneering efforts to transform student/learning supports that are underway across the country (see the *National Initiative for Transforming Student and Learning Supports* – http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/newinitiative.html). Such efforts recognize that: *Equity of opportunity is fundamental to enabling civil rights and that transforming student and learning supports is fundamental to enabling equity of opportunity, promoting whole child development, and enhancing school climate.*

And we remember Cesar Chavez's words about accomplishing what we dream of:

> *To make a great dream come true, the first requirement is a great capacity to dream;*
> *the second is persistence.*

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Howard Adelman, Ph.D.
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Center Co-director

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From: "Corey Murray" <corey.murray@k12insight.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 07:01:42 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [Whitepaper] How to stop declining enrollment
To: <therese.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

To view this email as a web page, click here



Hi Therese,

Charter and private school enrollment is on the rise. But the competition comes at a steep cost to public schools.

When families pull students from their home district, K-12 schools risk losing the per-pupil funding that follows them. Those losses add up fast—sometimes reaching millions of dollars per year in state support.

In this special report, How to stop K-12 enrollment declines: 5 strategies to compete in the age of school choice and competition, you'll get help with:

- Retaining students
- Reversing dangerous enrollment declines
- Keeping your budget coffers from running dry

Are you ready to level the playing field? Read on.

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Corey Murray
Sr. Director Strategy & Engagement
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From: "Corey Murray" <corey.murray@k12insight.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 07:00:21 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [Whitepaper] How to stop declining enrollment
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Hi Lavern,

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From: "Corey Murray" <corey.murray@k12insight.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 07:01:42 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [Whitepaper] How to stop declining enrollment
To: <don.owen@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "SP&M Weekly Update" <SchoolPlanning&Mgmt@1105direct.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2018 08:00:39 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 187,000 Students Scarred by School Shootings
To: <don.owen@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

This email can be viewed as a web page.

SCHOOL Planning & Management Weekly Update

A 5-Minute Insight into pK-12 Education 3/29/2018

From the Industry

Secretary DeVos Forms School Safety Commission

Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), Launches Say Something Anonymous Reporting System for Schools Nationwide

New Survey from IPEMA and the Voice of Play Finds U.S. Teachers Place High Value on Recess

Afterschool Suppers Reduce Childhood Hunger and Promote Healthy Growth and Development



In the News

Scarred by School Shootings

John Woodrow Cox and Steven Rich – The Washington Post – March 21, 2018

More than 187,000 students have been exposed to gun violence at school since Columbine. What those figures fail to capture, though, is the collateral damage of this uniquely American crisis.

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Denver-Area School District Moving to Four-Day School Week in the Fall

Kurt Sevits – WCPO – March 20, 2018

Denver – Starting with the next academic year, students in a Colorado school district will attend classes for four days each week instead of five. Students will attend classes Tuesday through Friday. Rather than extending the school year to meet state requirements for instruction time, students will be in class longer each day.

Your Opinion Counts

Do you think school starting times for middle school and high school students should be adjusted to allow them more sleep?

Yes No Not sure.

Vote Now and view the results.

Also of Interest

The 20-Acre Classroom

Rodney Wiford and Stephan Howick

Science teachers at Northwood Local School District expressed a desire for a different kind of learning space, one where students of all ages could study nature through hands-on activities. The school chose to access a 20-acre parcel of land that they owned.

When Can You Search a Student's Phone?

Ariel Fox Jonson – THE Journal – March 12, 2018

In general, teachers and administrators can seize a disruptive device, and district policies can provide explicitly for that. But whether educators can search a device is far less clear, dependent on the situation and in some cases the state.

School Planning & Management is a solution-oriented magazine for professionals serving the K-12 education market. Editorial features practitioner-based articles, topical supplements and special reports that focus on Facilities, Safety & Security, Technology, Business, Finance and the Learning Environment.

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From: "Joe Guillen" <jguillen@nmsba.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 15:40:55 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 2018 NMSBA Final Legislative Report
To: "School Board Members & Superintendents " <jguillen@nmsba.org>

Attachments:HB 98 Local Election Act Briefing Sheet.pdf (178.54k) 2018 Final Legislative Report.pdf (205.81k)

School Board Members and Superintendents
Attached please find our final report for the 2018 Legislative Session. The report has been updated to include all action by the Governor on education related bills and memorials passed by the Legislature. I have also included a listing of a few bills that did not make it through the process for your information.

Also attached is a detailed briefing sheet for House Bill 98, Local Election Act, which the Governor signed into law. As you are aware, this legislation combines all non-partisan elections on the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years; requires special bond elections to be conducted by mailed ballot; extends school board term eight months from February to November and adds new circumstances creating school board vacancies.

I will be providing a more detailed update on the final legislative report and on HB98 at all spring region meetings. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Joe Guillen
Executive Director
New Mexico School Boards Association
(505) 983-5041 office
(505) 470-3967 cell
jguillen@nmsba.org

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Subject: 2018 NMSBA Final Legislative Report
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From: "Ama Yawson" <ama@milestales.com>
Sent Date: Sun, 11 Feb 2018 11:10:15 -0700 (MST)
Subject: ADV: Do you let your students use bad words?
To: <Eric.Spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Thanks for being such a dedicated educator and reading this newsletter.

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Gun Violence

Police Brutality

Sexual Assault

Environmental Degradation

Economic Inequality

Injustice

Inadequate Healthcare

Above, are just some of the very pressing issues that our country is facing. But despite the pressing nature of many of our issues, only about 60% of eligible voters actually vote.

It seems very challenging to get citizens to become civically and politically engaged.

How do we raise students who actually care about their communities and their countries enough to let their voices be heard by writing to government leaders, becoming civically active, or at the very least, voting?

I think that educators in Quaker Schools generally do a good job of promoting civic engagement, and Eve Nealy, Head of Westbury Friends School, is certainly an

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example of such an educator.

Under Ms. Nealy's leadership, Westbury Friends continues in its tradition of providing a nurturing learning place that caters to the whole child and promotes values of social justice.

Students are not allowed to kill bugs.

Bugs are simply placed outside.

During playtime, students are reminded that there are no “bad guys”, just people who make bad choices.

Students are not allowed to play with toy guns or mimic gun-play.

My children attended this school and when they heard about gun violence in this country, they had the emotional confidence and conviction to act.

My then six-year-old son wrote a letter to President Barack Obama.

Here is a video of him reading the letter that he wrote.

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Jojo reading his letter to President Obama in 2016.



Jojo receives a response from President Obama.

I'm happy that Westbury Friends is a client for whom I've done both student programs and professional development for educators.

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The message of *Sunne's Gift* deeply resonates with Westbury Friends' values of respect for all, kindness, and sharing one's unique qualities.

Have you read *Sunne's Gift*?

Read an excerpt by clicking below.

Read an Excerpt

Thanks,

Ama



What is the most important lesson to teach our children?

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Ama Yawson earned a BA cum laude in Social Studies from Harvard University, an MBA from the Wharton School, and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Her articles have been published in MSNBC's*The Grio*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications. Ms. Yawson has also appeared on *The Today Show*, Al Jazeera's *The Stream*, *The Nate Berkus Show* and Fox Business. On a weekly basis, Ms. Yawson can be heard on WBAI in New York 99.5 FM Pacifica Radio on her morning talk show entitled *How to Make it in the City*.

In 2013, a painful experience in which a barber called her son a racial pejorative term and said that his hair was not pretty and should be shaved off inspired Ms. Yawson to venture into writing her first self-esteem building book, *Sunne's Gift*.

Ms. Yawson was so personally moved by the story of *Sunne's Gift,* that she quit her high-paying job as a securities lawyer for Citibank in

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order to become a full-time author and educator through her company **Milestales**. She currently performs *Sunne's Gift* and her other books during her empowering training programs focused on leadership, bullying prevention, social and emotional learning, cultural sensitivity, and other topics. Additionally, she partners with other thought leaders to provide schools, libraries, universities, churches, institutes, corporations, prisons, and other organizations with expanded training and development services.

Ms. Yawson lives in New York with her husband and two sons.

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Sent Date: Sun, 11 Feb 2018 11:15:18 -0700 (MST)
Subject: ADV: Do you let your students use bad words?
To: <Tamara.Faulk@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:28:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton April 4, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

ABC World News Tonight (4/3, story 8, 0:15, Llamas) reported there is "no end in sight for the teacher protests in Oklahoma. Hundreds of teachers at the state capital...again today meeting with legislators, asking for more funding for their schools. Many schools across the state have canceled classes again [Wednesday], the third day of the action." The CBS Evening News (4/3, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill Tuesday "giving teacher support staff, like teacher aides and janitors, a $1,250 raise. Last week, she signed a measure giving teachers $6,000 pay raise, but added only added an additional $50 million to school funding. Teachers were asking for $200 million more." On NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 6, 2:05, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez said, "The governor says that the legislature has already passed an average 16 percent increase for teachers, and the state can only do what its budget allows."

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In a separate article, the AP (4/3) reports that the protests come "on the heels of a pay raise for teachers signed by Republican Gov. Mary Fallin last week, which increased teachers' pay by 15 to 18 percent. But protesting

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educators and school employees said they need more from the state after years of struggling with outdated textbooks, broken desks and shorter school weeks in the absence of desperately needed funding." Also reporting are the Tulsa (OK) World (4/3), PBS NewsHour (4/3), Fox Business (4/3), the Huffington Post (4/3, Jamieson), TIME (4/3), and the Washington Examiner (4/3, Higgins).

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The New York Times (4/3, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports details of the protests in various states, saying "the states in question, whose legislatures are dominated by the Republican Party, have pursued years of tax cuts and cuts to public services. Teachers, parents and students have noticed the impact of budget cuts on the classroom, whether it is a four-day school week in rural Oklahoma or canceled drama classes in Tulsa. When educators saw West Virginia teachers win a raise last month after a daring strike, they realized more radical tactics might work in their states, too." The Washington Post (4/3, Strauss) reports walkouts and protests are happening "in states that have seen the country's deepest funding cuts for public education by Republican legislators, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona."

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POLITICS & POLICY

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Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply To Take Part In ESSA Testing Pilot.

Education Week (4/3) reports ED has announced that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico "have officially submitted applications for the Every Student Succeeds Act's Innovative Assessment pilot." The piece reports that several states, "including biggies like New York," originally expressed interest in applying for the program, which "allows states to try out new forms of testing in a handful of districts, with the goal of eventually taking them statewide." However, most "ended up deciding against it." The piece surmises that many states backed out because the program "has clear rules that don't make participation easy." Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Louisiana announced this week "that it had submitted a proposal" which "would allow five local systems to try out a 'streamlined English and social studies assessment.'"

ED, Interior At Odds Over $1.6 Million In Funding For BIE Schools.

Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "are clashing over $1.6 million in federal funds meant to help administer Bureau of Indian Education schools." Zinke, in a letter to DeVos, "charges that the Education Department appears to be acting 'not in the best interests of our students' by withholding the funds" and "questions the Education Department's legal authority for holding back the money. The Title I administrative funding was withheld by Education when the bureau did not meet an Oct. 2 deadline to appoint members to a negotiated rulemaking committee, according to a letter from Jason Botel, an Education official, also obtained by POLITICO."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.

The Payson (AZ) Roundup (4/3) reports that an estimated 2,500 teachers and their supporters rallied outside the Arizona state Capitol last week to demand a 20 percent pay increase "and a restoration to the inflation-adjusted, per-student funding levels in 2008, prior to the recession." In an attempt "to head off the issue," state lawmakers passed and Gov. Doug Ducey "swiftly signed" into law a measure "extend a half-cent sales tax surcharge set to expire in 2020." Previously, state voters approved "the half a penny per $1 spent, which generates $600 million for education." Ducey has "said the state can't afford a 20 percent raise for teachers," but his budget calls for a one percent pay raise for the upcoming fiscal year.

The White Mountain (AZ) Independent (4/3) also reports on the rally and notes that Ducey has also "promised to eventually restore funds that the state has failed to pay schools for things like books, computers and school buses, a move he said should free local districts to use more of their existing funds for pay hikes." Nonetheless, "that is proving too little for members of the newly formed Arizona Educators United who say that there is no reason teacher pay here should be at or near the bottom of the nation." The Independent says because the group is currently "trying to gauge support, both among teachers and the community at large," it is unclear "how quickly teachers expect action – and what they will do if they are ignored." The dispute "comes as the most recent data from the National Education Association put average pay in Arizona at $47,218, a figure the association said ranked 43rd in the

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country."

Florida Education Association Warns Teachers To Eschew Illegal Walkouts.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (4/3) reports some teachers in Florida are wondering whether they should follow the example of teachers "in other states...walkout out over low pay this week." However, the Florida Education Association is warning that such an action in Florida "is against the law." The Times quotes a statement from the group saying, "the activist options for teachers and education staff professionals are somewhat limited. Walking off the job or reporting to work late is not an appropriate action and it comes with harsh consequences. It is important for all FEA members to follow the law."

Walkout Unlikely In Tennessee.

The Tennessean (4/3) reports that a teacher walkout in Tennessee is "unlikely, but not out of the realm of possibility. That's because there are numerous issues at play that make a Tennessee teacher strike doubtful." The piece cites Gov. Bill Haslam's approval of significant teacher raises, an ample teacher retirement fund, and laws against strikes in the state.

New York City Program Seeks To Diversify Teacher Workforce.

Diverse Education (4/3, Pennamon) profiles NYC Men Teach, a teacher recruitment and retention program launched by the Young Men's Initiative (YMI) "in January 2015 and backed by a $16-million pledge from Mayor Bill de Blasio" that "is actively working to diversify the teacher workforce to reflect the city's diverse student population." The program "is in its third and final year of a strategic plan to recruit, support and retain 1,000 more Black, Hispanic and Asian male teachers in the city's classrooms." Currently, men of color account for only 8.3 percent of the city's teacher workforce, "a stark contrast to the majority of students that come from various cultural backgrounds." Boston University Peter Paul Assistant Professor Dr. Travis Bristol, the program's primary researcher, said men of color often face challenges in the teacher pipeline that "include coming from 'historically marginalized and disenfranchised schools,'" hiring practice biases, school placement, and disproportionate teacher state-certification exam passage rates.

Audit Finds Detroit District Has Outdated Curriculum Inconsistent With State Standards.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (4/3, Einhorn) reports an audit conducted last fall of Detroit's main school district has "found that students here have been set up to fail" by virtue of the district's outdated curriculum, which often does not align with the state's learning standards. And while the "district plans to spend between $1 million and $3 million in the coming year to" update its materials, "curriculum experts" say the situation is not unique to Detroit. In fact, "hundreds – possibly thousands – of districts across the country...are using textbooks and educational materials that are not aligned to state standards," and because "most districts don't do curriculum audits," many are unaware that their materials may be lacking.

A Primer On Visible Trends, Initiatives In K-12 Education.

In a perspective piece for the "On Parenting" feature of the Washington Post's (4/3) Lifestyle section, freelance writer and illustrator James Paterson writes "a primer about some of the most visible initiatives and trends in K-12 education." These include: prioritizing "a trauma-informed approach" to helping students recover from "bullying and violent incidents," adopting "restorative justice practices for disciplinary infractions," shifting toward "learner-centered and personalized approaches" to teaching, implementing "new methods of assessing students," introducing project-based learning, "reversing lecture and homework time," adopting flexible seating techniques, and

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overworked school counselors teaching new problem-solving skills to students.

Bogue Chitto Robotics Team Raising Money For FIRST Tech Challenge.

The Brookhaven (MS) Daily Leader (4/3, Campbell) reports the Bogue Chitto Technocats, Bogue Chitto High School's robotics team, are trying "to raise more than $5,000 in two weeks to get to the FIRST Tech Challenge world championship," a four-day, invitation-only event held in Houston that sees "the best of the best in robotics competing against each other."

Indiana Looking For High School Students To Join Governor's "STEM Team."

The AP (4/3) reports, "The state of Indiana is accepting nominations for high school students to be named to Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2018 'STEM Team,'" which "recognizes four high school students for accomplishments in science, technology, engineering and math." Winners, which will be announced in May, "receive a $1,000 college scholarships and a commemorative letterman jacket."

Michigan Prepares To Host FIRST Championship In April.

The Detroit News (4/2, Chambers) reports on preparations in Michigan for the FIRST Championship, which will take place from April 25-29 and will see "tens of thousands of students from across the world descend on Detroit" to "battle robots on a playing field." The article focuses mainly on the state's robotics teams, of which there are 508 comprised of 15,240 students.

Minnesota's ESSA Plan To Designate Opt-Out Students As "Not Proficient."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/3) reports Minnesota's "new plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will count every student who misses the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments as 'not proficient,' except in rare cases of a medical exemption." In past years, thousands of Minnesota students have opted out of the standardized math and reading assessments. Therefore, the change "could mean a small number of schools will be targeted for state support – at the expense of truly low-performing schools – simply because parents and students refused the test." As such, the move "is drawing criticism from both detractors and supporters of standardized testing." State Education Department spokesman Josh Collins, however, "said Minnesota had no choice but to measure proficiency this way." The Pioneer Press adds that "because the state's new school accountability uses multiple factors to identify struggling schools," it is unlikely that a high opt-out school will get "much state attention."

OPERATIONS

Philadelphia School District To Invest $20 Million In Classroom Renovations.

Philly (PA) (4/3) reports that to prepare "for a return to local control," Philadelphia School District is planning to "spend $20 million on updating primary grade classrooms in 11 city schools next school year." The proposed cash infusion "would improve its budget picture considerably, bringing the district's long-term spending plan into structural balance." PSD superintendent William R. Hite, Jr. has said he intends "to invest in areas he thinks will move the district forward," like early literacy – his "signature focus." Hite said Tuesday that allocating funds to classroom modernization advances that goal. Philly notes that Hite's comments "came at a time when Mayor Kenney has proposed nearly $1 billion in new money for the district over five years, a sum that would require a property tax increase – a hard sell with some on City Council."

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West Virginia Governor Appoints New State School Building Authority Head.

The AP (4/3) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice "appointed former schools superintendent David L. Roach as executive director of the West Virginia School Building Authority." He will replace Frank "Bucky" Blackwell, who "submitted his resignation recently but hadn't previously made it public." According to the AP, the WVSBA "uses state general revenue, bond proceeds and lottery money to fund school construction and renovation projects."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.

The Baltimore Sun (4/3, Bowie) reports the Baltimore County school board on Tuesday "approved a $140 million technology contract...that would expand its four-year-old technology initiative into its high schools." The county currently "provide[s] every student with a free laptop to use at school and for the older students to take home." The contract would, in its first year, replace teachers' four-year-old laptops with new ones and "expand the laptops to every high schooler."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Senate Leadership Says Education Funding Bill Will Not Proceed Before Vote On Constitutional Amendment.

The AP (4/3, Hanna) reports that "two top Republicans" in the Kansas state legislature, Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, "brought action on education funding to a halt" with their demand that the state first curtail the power of courts to issue rulings on what does and does not constitute adequate funding for schools. Wagle and Denning's demand comes "after significant progress had been made" on education funding, the state House having passed a funding bill providing "roughly a $520 million increase in education funding over five years," and the Senate having moved forward "a bill that would phase in a $274 million increase over five years."

The AP (4/3) reports in another story that "a coalition of Kansas business and agricultural groups is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature sole authority to decide education funding levels, as the Legislature struggles to satisfy a state Supreme Court order to spend more on schools." The Kansas Coalition for Fair Funding has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that "would remove the state courts' role in deciding what constitutes suitable education funding."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing

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teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

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School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of "a variety of school safety measures" under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that "would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers." State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, "said he's optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday."

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is "already in effect" due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is "now a misdemeanor" if it "disrupts school activities" and is "a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Segment Considers Canada's System For Integrating Immigrant Children To Public Schools.

In a video segment for PBS NewsHour's (4/3) weekly series "Making the Grade," special correspondent Kavitha Cardoza of Education Week discusses the public school integration process for children of new immigrants to Canada. These children generally "do as well as native-born children within three years of arriving," due to a combination of language and academic support, celebration of their home cultures, "strong social services and healthy education funding."

Vancouver Public Schools Launches Pilot Coding Program For Special Ed Students.

The Clark County (WA) Columbian (4/2, Gillespie) reports on the "pilot computer science program" Vancouver Public Schools has launched "for students in structured communication programs and structured learning centers," or, in other words, students who "demonstrate developmental delays in social awareness, communication skills and appropriate social behavior." Last year, the district "received a $5,000 grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction" and "a matching $5,000" donation from the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools, which together helped "to pay for training for teachers, purchase iPads for kindergarten through second-grade classrooms, and buy robots the students can program to move around their classrooms."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **Amazon To Invest $50 Million Into CS Education.**
- **Study: Large For-Profit Charter Chain Boosts Student Achievement In Michigan.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**

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Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:28:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero April 4, 2018

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A Primer On Visible Trends, Initiatives In K-12 Education.

In a perspective piece for the "On Parenting" feature of the Washington Post's (4/3) Lifestyle section, freelance writer and illustrator James Paterson writes "a primer about some of the most visible initiatives and trends in K-12 education." These include: prioritizing "a trauma-informed approach" to helping students recover from "bullying and violent incidents," adopting "restorative justice practices for disciplinary infractions," shifting toward "learner-centered and personalized approaches" to teaching, implementing "new methods of assessing students," introducing project-based learning, "reversing lecture and homework time," adopting flexible seating techniques, and

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overworked school counselors teaching new problem-solving skills to students.

Bogue Chitto Robotics Team Raising Money For FIRST Tech Challenge.

The Brookhaven (MS) Daily Leader (4/3, Campbell) reports the Bogue Chitto Technocats, Bogue Chitto High School's robotics team, are trying "to raise more than $5,000 in two weeks to get to the FIRST Tech Challenge world championship," a four-day, invitation-only event held in Houston that sees "the best of the best in robotics competing against each other."

Indiana Looking For High School Students To Join Governor's "STEM Team."

The AP (4/3) reports, "The state of Indiana is accepting nominations for high school students to be named to Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2018 'STEM Team,'" which "recognizes four high school students for accomplishments in science, technology, engineering and math." Winners, which will be announced in May, "receive a $1,000 college scholarships and a commemorative letterman jacket."

Michigan Prepares To Host FIRST Championship In April.

The Detroit News (4/2, Chambers) reports on preparations in Michigan for the FIRST Championship, which will take place from April 25-29 and will see "tens of thousands of students from across the world descend on Detroit" to "battle robots on a playing field." The article focuses mainly on the state's robotics teams, of which there are 508 comprised of 15,240 students.

Minnesota's ESSA Plan To Designate Opt-Out Students As "Not Proficient."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/3) reports Minnesota's "new plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will count every student who misses the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments as 'not proficient,' except in rare cases of a medical exemption." In past years, thousands of Minnesota students have opted out of the standardized math and reading assessments. Therefore, the change "could mean a small number of schools will be targeted for state support – at the expense of truly low-performing schools – simply because parents and students refused the test." As such, the move "is drawing criticism from both detractors and supporters of standardized testing." State Education Department spokesman Josh Collins, however, "said Minnesota had no choice but to measure proficiency this way." The Pioneer Press adds that "because the state's new school accountability uses multiple factors to identify struggling schools," it is unlikely that a high opt-out school will get "much state attention."

OPERATIONS

Philadelphia School District To Invest $20 Million In Classroom Renovations.

Philly (PA) (4/3) reports that to prepare "for a return to local control," Philadelphia School District is planning to "spend $20 million on updating primary grade classrooms in 11 city schools next school year." The proposed cash infusion "would improve its budget picture considerably, bringing the district's long-term spending plan into structural balance." PSD superintendent William R. Hite, Jr. has said he intends "to invest in areas he thinks will move the district forward," like early literacy – his "signature focus." Hite said Tuesday that allocating funds to classroom modernization advances that goal. Philly notes that Hite's comments "came at a time when Mayor Kenney has proposed nearly $1 billion in new money for the district over five years, a sum that would require a property tax increase – a hard sell with some on City Council."

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West Virginia Governor Appoints New State School Building Authority Head.

The AP (4/3) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice "appointed former schools superintendent David L. Roach as executive director of the West Virginia School Building Authority." He will replace Frank "Bucky" Blackwell, who "submitted his resignation recently but hadn't previously made it public." According to the AP, the WVSBA "uses state general revenue, bond proceeds and lottery money to fund school construction and renovation projects."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.

The Baltimore Sun (4/3, Bowie) reports the Baltimore County school board on Tuesday "approved a $140 million technology contract...that would expand its four-year-old technology initiative into its high schools." The county currently "provide[s] every student with a free laptop to use at school and for the older students to take home." The contract would, in its first year, replace teachers' four-year-old laptops with new ones and "expand the laptops to every high schooler."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Senate Leadership Says Education Funding Bill Will Not Proceed Before Vote On Constitutional Amendment.

The AP (4/3, Hanna) reports that "two top Republicans" in the Kansas state legislature, Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, "brought action on education funding to a halt" with their demand that the state first curtail the power of courts to issue rulings on what does and does not constitute adequate funding for schools. Wagle and Denning's demand comes "after significant progress had been made" on education funding, the state House having passed a funding bill providing "roughly a $520 million increase in education funding over five years," and the Senate having moved forward "a bill that would phase in a $274 million increase over five years."

The AP (4/3) reports in another story that "a coalition of Kansas business and agricultural groups is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature sole authority to decide education funding levels, as the Legislature struggles to satisfy a state Supreme Court order to spend more on schools." The Kansas Coalition for Fair Funding has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that "would remove the state courts' role in deciding what constitutes suitable education funding."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing

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teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

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School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of "a variety of school safety measures" under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that "would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers." State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, "said he's optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday."

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is "already in effect" due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is "now a misdemeanor" if it "disrupts school activities" and is "a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Segment Considers Canada's System For Integrating Immigrant Children To Public Schools.

In a video segment for PBS NewsHour's (4/3) weekly series "Making the Grade," special correspondent Kavitha Cardoza of Education Week discusses the public school integration process for children of new immigrants to Canada. These children generally "do as well as native-born children within three years of arriving," due to a combination of language and academic support, celebration of their home cultures, "strong social services and healthy education funding."

Vancouver Public Schools Launches Pilot Coding Program For Special Ed Students.

The Clark County (WA) Columbian (4/2, Gillespie) reports on the "pilot computer science program" Vancouver Public Schools has launched "for students in structured communication programs and structured learning centers," or, in other words, students who "demonstrate developmental delays in social awareness, communication skills and appropriate social behavior." Last year, the district "received a $5,000 grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction" and "a matching $5,000" donation from the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools, which together helped "to pay for training for teachers, purchase iPads for kindergarten through second-grade classrooms, and buy robots the students can program to move around their classrooms."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **Amazon To Invest $50 Million Into CS Education.**
- **Study: Large For-Profit Charter Chain Boosts Student Achievement In Michigan.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:28:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view



Good morning David Shoup April 4, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

ABC World News Tonight (4/3, story 8, 0:15, Llamas) reported there is "no end in sight for the teacher protests in Oklahoma. Hundreds of teachers at the state capital...again today meeting with legislators, asking for more funding for their schools. Many schools across the state have canceled classes again [Wednesday], the third day of the action." The CBS Evening News (4/3, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill Tuesday "giving teacher support staff, like teacher aides and janitors, a $1,250 raise. Last week, she signed a measure giving teachers $6,000 pay raise, but added only added an additional $50 million to school funding. Teachers were asking for $200 million more." On NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 6, 2:05, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez said, "The governor says that the legislature has already passed an average 16 percent increase for teachers, and the state can only do what its budget allows."

USA Today (4/3, White, Jansen, Network) reports that teachers in Oklahoma City "continued to rally Tuesday, shuttering many schools for a second day to demand higher pay and education funding, in an effort that also recently engulfed West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona." The piece reports that Oklahoma City Public Schools said classes will also be canceled on Wednesday, quoting a district statement saying, "We are hopeful that our legislators will continue working this afternoon toward a solution, but we wanted to make this decision as early as possible to give our families adequate time to plan."

Reuters (4/3) reports Oklahoma teachers staged "boisterous rallies in front of lawmakers and clos[ed] hundreds of public schools across the state as they demanded higher pay and more money for education in the latest U.S. labor action by educators. ... Teachers, parents and students staged sympathy rallies around the state and some 70 public school districts were forced to suspend classes on Tuesday."

The AP (4/3) reports that "rowdy teachers" in Oklahoma City were part of "a rebellion of educators in Republican-led states across the country," saying that "rowdy teachers booed lawmakers when the Oklahoma House adjourned. House officials initially called on state troopers to clear the gallery of protesting teachers but later backed off. Education advocates filled the Capitol to capacity, and troopers limited access to the building."

In a separate article, the AP (4/3) reports that the protests come "on the heels of a pay raise for teachers signed by Republican Gov. Mary Fallin last week, which increased teachers' pay by 15 to 18 percent. But protesting

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educators and school employees said they need more from the state after years of struggling with outdated textbooks, broken desks and shorter school weeks in the absence of desperately needed funding." Also reporting are the Tulsa (OK) World (4/3), PBS NewsHour (4/3), Fox Business (4/3), the Huffington Post (4/3, Jamieson), TIME (4/3), and the Washington Examiner (4/3, Higgins).

Analyses: Teacher Activism Seen As Opposition To GOP Austerity. The AP (4/3) reports that the ongoing "teacher rebellions" in GOP-led states "has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes." The piece reports Republicans in Oklahoma last week "broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent." The piece reports that while the movement first came to prominence in West Virginia, Oklahoma has become "the epicenter of the revolt."

The Christian Science Monitor (4/3) reports the "teacher walkouts in Republican-run states...has cast a national spotlight on their tax-and-spend priorities amid growing public disquiet over funding for education and other public services." The piece reports teacher "activism in red states is challenging the tenets of Republican governance in which austerity for public employees is bracketed with tax breaks for private business."

The New York Times (4/3, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports details of the protests in various states, saying "the states in question, whose legislatures are dominated by the Republican Party, have pursued years of tax cuts and cuts to public services. Teachers, parents and students have noticed the impact of budget cuts on the classroom, whether it is a four-day school week in rural Oklahoma or canceled drama classes in Tulsa. When educators saw West Virginia teachers win a raise last month after a daring strike, they realized more radical tactics might work in their states, too." The Washington Post (4/3, Strauss) reports walkouts and protests are happening "in states that have seen the country's deepest funding cuts for public education by Republican legislators, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona."

Oklahoma Legislator Vows To Vote Against Funding Measures Inspired By Walkouts. The Hill (4/3, Thomsen) reports Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin McDugle (R) "is vowing to vote against any measures that fund public education in response to the state's days-long teachers strike." McDugle "said that he had voted in favor of education funding measures last year, but that he didn't believe the striking teachers were acting as good role models for their students."

The Tulsa (OK) World (4/3) reports McDugle "took to Facebook Live with his frustrations on Tuesday. He has since deleted the post." The piece quotes him saying, "I'm not voting for another stinking measure when they're acting the way they're acting. ... You're losing support of people who supported you all year long. Now you're going to come here and act like this after you got a raise?"

Advertisement



POLITICS & POLICY

Education Week Package Explores States' Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.

Education Week (4/4) runs a package of stories titled "ESSA on the Runway" which "analyzes the state of ESSA implementation on the eve of the law's operational debut, from teaching and testing to the political pain points that

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The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing

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teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

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School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of "a variety of school safety measures" under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that "would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers." State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, "said he's optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday."

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is "already in effect" due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is "now a misdemeanor" if it "disrupts school activities" and is "a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Segment Considers Canada's System For Integrating Immigrant Children To Public Schools.

In a video segment for PBS NewsHour's (4/3) weekly series "Making the Grade," special correspondent Kavitha Cardoza of Education Week discusses the public school integration process for children of new immigrants to Canada. These children generally "do as well as native-born children within three years of arriving," due to a combination of language and academic support, celebration of their home cultures, "strong social services and healthy education funding."

Vancouver Public Schools Launches Pilot Coding Program For Special Ed Students.

The Clark County (WA) Columbian (4/2, Gillespie) reports on the "pilot computer science program" Vancouver Public Schools has launched "for students in structured communication programs and structured learning centers," or, in other words, students who "demonstrate developmental delays in social awareness, communication skills and appropriate social behavior." Last year, the district "received a $5,000 grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction" and "a matching $5,000" donation from the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools, which together helped "to pay for training for teachers, purchase iPads for kindergarten through second-grade classrooms, and buy robots the students can program to move around their classrooms."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **Amazon To Invest $50 Million Into CS Education.**
- **Study: Large For-Profit Charter Chain Boosts Student Achievement In Michigan.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:28:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view



Good morning Greg Rodriguez April 4, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

ABC World News Tonight (4/3, story 8, 0:15, Llamas) reported there is "no end in sight for the teacher protests in Oklahoma. Hundreds of teachers at the state capital...again today meeting with legislators, asking for more funding for their schools. Many schools across the state have canceled classes again [Wednesday], the third day of the action." The CBS Evening News (4/3, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill Tuesday "giving teacher support staff, like teacher aides and janitors, a $1,250 raise. Last week, she signed a measure giving teachers $6,000 pay raise, but added only added an additional $50 million to school funding. Teachers were asking for $200 million more." On NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 6, 2:05, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez said, "The governor says that the legislature has already passed an average 16 percent increase for teachers, and the state can only do what its budget allows."

USA Today (4/3, White, Jansen, Network) reports that teachers in Oklahoma City "continued to rally Tuesday, shuttering many schools for a second day to demand higher pay and education funding, in an effort that also recently engulfed West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona." The piece reports that Oklahoma City Public Schools said classes will also be canceled on Wednesday, quoting a district statement saying, "We are hopeful that our legislators will continue working this afternoon toward a solution, but we wanted to make this decision as early as possible to give our families adequate time to plan."

Reuters (4/3) reports Oklahoma teachers staged "boisterous rallies in front of lawmakers and clos[ed] hundreds of public schools across the state as they demanded higher pay and more money for education in the latest U.S. labor action by educators. ... Teachers, parents and students staged sympathy rallies around the state and some 70 public school districts were forced to suspend classes on Tuesday."

The AP (4/3) reports that "rowdy teachers" in Oklahoma City were part of "a rebellion of educators in Republican-led states across the country," saying that "rowdy teachers booed lawmakers when the Oklahoma House adjourned. House officials initially called on state troopers to clear the gallery of protesting teachers but later backed off. Education advocates filled the Capitol to capacity, and troopers limited access to the building."

In a separate article, the AP (4/3) reports that the protests come "on the heels of a pay raise for teachers signed by Republican Gov. Mary Fallin last week, which increased teachers' pay by 15 to 18 percent. But protesting

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educators and school employees said they need more from the state after years of struggling with outdated textbooks, broken desks and shorter school weeks in the absence of desperately needed funding." Also reporting are the Tulsa (OK) World (4/3), PBS NewsHour (4/3), Fox Business (4/3), the Huffington Post (4/3, Jamieson), TIME (4/3), and the Washington Examiner (4/3, Higgins).

Analyses: Teacher Activism Seen As Opposition To GOP Austerity. The AP (4/3) reports that the ongoing "teacher rebellions" in GOP-led states "has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes." The piece reports Republicans in Oklahoma last week "broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent." The piece reports that while the movement first came to prominence in West Virginia, Oklahoma has become "the epicenter of the revolt."

The Christian Science Monitor (4/3) reports the "teacher walkouts in Republican-run states...has cast a national spotlight on their tax-and-spend priorities amid growing public disquiet over funding for education and other public services." The piece reports teacher "activism in red states is challenging the tenets of Republican governance in which austerity for public employees is bracketed with tax breaks for private business."

The New York Times (4/3, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports details of the protests in various states, saying "the states in question, whose legislatures are dominated by the Republican Party, have pursued years of tax cuts and cuts to public services. Teachers, parents and students have noticed the impact of budget cuts on the classroom, whether it is a four-day school week in rural Oklahoma or canceled drama classes in Tulsa. When educators saw West Virginia teachers win a raise last month after a daring strike, they realized more radical tactics might work in their states, too." The Washington Post (4/3, Strauss) reports walkouts and protests are happening "in states that have seen the country's deepest funding cuts for public education by Republican legislators, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona."

Oklahoma Legislator Vows To Vote Against Funding Measures Inspired By Walkouts. The Hill (4/3, Thomsen) reports Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin McDugle (R) "is vowing to vote against any measures that fund public education in response to the state's days-long teachers strike." McDugle "said that he had voted in favor of education funding measures last year, but that he didn't believe the striking teachers were acting as good role models for their students."

The Tulsa (OK) World (4/3) reports McDugle "took to Facebook Live with his frustrations on Tuesday. He has since deleted the post." The piece quotes him saying, "I'm not voting for another stinking measure when they're acting the way they're acting. ... You're losing support of people who supported you all year long. Now you're going to come here and act like this after you got a raise?"

Advertisement



POLITICS & POLICY

Education Week Package Explores States' Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.

Education Week (4/4) runs a package of stories titled "ESSA on the Runway" which "analyzes the state of ESSA implementation on the eve of the law's operational debut, from teaching and testing to the political pain points that

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may shape just how successful that rollout proves to be. This report takes a multifaceted look at just how ready those states, districts, and schools are to bringing ESSA's changes in for a successful landing when the law goes into full effect for the 2018-19 school year." Topics include how the law is moving from "policy to practice (4/4)," The difficulty states are facing in meeting the requirement to back up school improvement efforts with research (4/4), new school assessment metrics (4/4), and most states' failure to avail themselves of testing flexibility (4/4) under the law.

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply To Take Part In ESSA Testing Pilot.

Education Week (4/3) reports ED has announced that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico "have officially submitted applications for the Every Student Succeeds Act's Innovative Assessment pilot." The piece reports that several states, "including biggies like New York," originally expressed interest in applying for the program, which "allows states to try out new forms of testing in a handful of districts, with the goal of eventually taking them statewide." However, most "ended up deciding against it." The piece surmises that many states backed out because the program "has clear rules that don't make participation easy." Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Louisiana announced this week "that it had submitted a proposal" which "would allow five local systems to try out a 'streamlined English and social studies assessment.'"

ED, Interior At Odds Over $1.6 Million In Funding For BIE Schools.

Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "are clashing over $1.6 million in federal funds meant to help administer Bureau of Indian Education schools." Zinke, in a letter to DeVos, "charges that the Education Department appears to be acting 'not in the best interests of our students' by withholding the funds" and "questions the Education Department's legal authority for holding back the money. The Title I administrative funding was withheld by Education when the bureau did not meet an Oct. 2 deadline to appoint members to a negotiated rulemaking committee, according to a letter from Jason Botel, an Education official, also obtained by POLITICO."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.

The Payson (AZ) Roundup (4/3) reports that an estimated 2,500 teachers and their supporters rallied outside the Arizona state Capitol last week to demand a 20 percent pay increase "and a restoration to the inflation-adjusted, per-student funding levels in 2008, prior to the recession." In an attempt "to head off the issue," state lawmakers passed and Gov. Doug Ducey "swiftly signed" into law a measure "extend a half-cent sales tax surcharge set to expire in 2020." Previously, state voters approved "the half a penny per $1 spent, which generates $600 million for education." Ducey has "said the state can't afford a 20 percent raise for teachers," but his budget calls for a one percent pay raise for the upcoming fiscal year.

The White Mountain (AZ) Independent (4/3) also reports on the rally and notes that Ducey has also "promised to eventually restore funds that the state has failed to pay schools for things like books, computers and school buses, a move he said should free local districts to use more of their existing funds for pay hikes." Nonetheless, "that is proving too little for members of the newly formed Arizona Educators United who say that there is no reason teacher pay here should be at or near the bottom of the nation." The Independent says because the group is currently "trying to gauge support, both among teachers and the community at large," it is unclear "how quickly teachers expect action – and what they will do if they are ignored." The dispute "comes as the most recent data from the National Education Association put average pay in Arizona at $47,218, a figure the association said ranked 43rd in the

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country."

Florida Education Association Warns Teachers To Eschew Illegal Walkouts.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (4/3) reports some teachers in Florida are wondering whether they should follow the example of teachers "in other states...walkout out over low pay this week." However, the Florida Education Association is warning that such an action in Florida "is against the law." The Times quotes a statement from the group saying, "the activist options for teachers and education staff professionals are somewhat limited. Walking off the job or reporting to work late is not an appropriate action and it comes with harsh consequences. It is important for all FEA members to follow the law."

Walkout Unlikely In Tennessee.

The Tennessean (4/3) reports that a teacher walkout in Tennessee is "unlikely, but not out of the realm of possibility. That's because there are numerous issues at play that make a Tennessee teacher strike doubtful." The piece cites Gov. Bill Haslam's approval of significant teacher raises, an ample teacher retirement fund, and laws against strikes in the state.

New York City Program Seeks To Diversify Teacher Workforce.

Diverse Education (4/3, Pennamon) profiles NYC Men Teach, a teacher recruitment and retention program launched by the Young Men's Initiative (YMI) "in January 2015 and backed by a $16-million pledge from Mayor Bill de Blasio" that "is actively working to diversify the teacher workforce to reflect the city's diverse student population." The program "is in its third and final year of a strategic plan to recruit, support and retain 1,000 more Black, Hispanic and Asian male teachers in the city's classrooms." Currently, men of color account for only 8.3 percent of the city's teacher workforce, "a stark contrast to the majority of students that come from various cultural backgrounds." Boston University Peter Paul Assistant Professor Dr. Travis Bristol, the program's primary researcher, said men of color often face challenges in the teacher pipeline that "include coming from 'historically marginalized and disenfranchised schools,'" hiring practice biases, school placement, and disproportionate teacher state-certification exam passage rates.

Audit Finds Detroit District Has Outdated Curriculum Inconsistent With State Standards.

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The AP (4/3, Hanna) reports that "two top Republicans" in the Kansas state legislature, Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, "brought action on education funding to a halt" with their demand that the state first curtail the power of courts to issue rulings on what does and does not constitute adequate funding for schools. Wagle and Denning's demand comes "after significant progress had been made" on education funding, the state House having passed a funding bill providing "roughly a $520 million increase in education funding over five years," and the Senate having moved forward "a bill that would phase in a $274 million increase over five years."

The AP (4/3) reports in another story that "a coalition of Kansas business and agricultural groups is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature sole authority to decide education funding levels, as the Legislature struggles to satisfy a state Supreme Court order to spend more on schools." The Kansas Coalition for Fair Funding has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that "would remove the state courts' role in deciding what constitutes suitable education funding."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing

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teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

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School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of "a variety of school safety measures" under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that "would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers." State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, "said he's optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday."

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is "already in effect" due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is "now a misdemeanor" if it "disrupts school activities" and is "a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Segment Considers Canada's System For Integrating Immigrant Children To Public Schools.

In a video segment for PBS NewsHour's (4/3) weekly series "Making the Grade," special correspondent Kavitha Cardoza of Education Week discusses the public school integration process for children of new immigrants to Canada. These children generally "do as well as native-born children within three years of arriving," due to a combination of language and academic support, celebration of their home cultures, "strong social services and healthy education funding."

Vancouver Public Schools Launches Pilot Coding Program For Special Ed Students.

The Clark County (WA) Columbian (4/2, Gillespie) reports on the "pilot computer science program" Vancouver Public Schools has launched "for students in structured communication programs and structured learning centers," or, in other words, students who "demonstrate developmental delays in social awareness, communication skills and appropriate social behavior." Last year, the district "received a $5,000 grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction" and "a matching $5,000" donation from the Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools, which together helped "to pay for training for teachers, purchase iPads for kindergarten through second-grade classrooms, and buy robots the students can program to move around their classrooms."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **Amazon To Invest $50 Million Into CS Education.**
- **Study: Large For-Profit Charter Chain Boosts Student Achievement In Michigan.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**

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To: <abel.montoya@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: Behind the Story: When local news goes national
To: <murillot@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Behind the Story

An exclusive members-only newsletter



Last week, **thousands of students nationwide staged walkouts** at their schools in protest over gun violence. That headline is true to what happened and, whatever your political stance, is powerful on a national and international level.

But what did you see when you looked out the window? How did - or didn't - this act of protest matter to your community?

Could it be that your **middle-schooler in Scottsdale, Ariz., was**

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suspended for protesting, along with 39 others? Or that you couldn't find any media coverage from what happened in Greenville County, N.C., because the **media was banned from covering it**?

There are a lot of reasons to care about the news, and a lot of vantages from which the news can be understood. The USA TODAY NETWORK, composed of USA TODAY and more than 100 local markets (likely the reason you're getting this newsletter - hi new subscribers!), is exactly positioned to cover stories that matter on both a local and national level.

"Our coverage was so comprehensive and representative of the entire country, I felt very proud to be a part of it," says Holly Moore, Manager of Network Engagement. "We had reporters in the Florida school where it all started and reporters covering schools where students chose to not participate. We were at the Capitol and the West Coast. The USA TODAY Network has such a diverse footprint, we really shine when the story is everywhere."

To get the full story required planning. Moore started by asking editors to share their plans so they could all be organized in one place. From there, she analyzed what collaboration could happen, and got strategizing -- for everything from **impactful image galleries** to reporting to a rolling Instagram story takeover.

"The list of people involved is super long. We have editors at each of our 110 news sites, social media editors, interactive storytelling teams, video producers. It takes a village to tell a story across the country. Communication varies by group, most of it is through email, but there are also calls, video conferencing and Slack conversations," Moore says.

One of the places where everything came together was the **main news article on USATODAY.com**, which was reported with help from more than 60 feeds from cities across the U.S. and a contributor byline including 17 people.

To make that happen, USA TODAY Breaking News Reporter Christal Hayes

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made sure the story went live right in the morning and would be updated throughout the day. She used feeds from around the USA TODAY NETWORK to get voices and color from students, teachers and school administrators on the protests and how schools were handling the events. (Oh yeah, and she also reported in person from Washington, D.C.)

Hayes says there's a shift when reporting versus putting together a national story.

"If an officer is killed, we add in how many others have been killed this year and why this time is different, if a bridge collapses, we look at other big disasters over the years and infrastructure as a national issue," she says. "You have to take a step back from the breaking news aspect, and try to include some context and some bigger-picture themes."

And ultimately, Hayes says, "You have to think and write for your audience and ask yourself why does this matter, what's different about this and how can I make both someone living in New York City and rural Indiana care about this."

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To: "Traci Burns" <traci.burns@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 06:11:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bones on island linked to Earhart; Trump targets video game violence; Meet the "Wrinkle in Time" star
To: "Paula Spencer" <paula.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 06:12:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bones on island linked to Earhart; Trump targets video game violence; Meet the "Wrinkle in Time" star
To: "Sharla Autry" <sharla.autry@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 06:10:38 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bones on island linked to Earhart; Trump targets video game violence; Meet the "Wrinkle in Time" star
To: "Amy Hollis" <amy.hollis@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 06:13:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bones on island linked to Earhart; Trump targets video game violence; Meet the "Wrinkle in Time" star
To: "Louriz H.Soto" <louri.soto@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 06:18:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bones on island linked to Earhart; Trump targets video game violence; Meet the "Wrinkle in Time" star
To: "Victoria Gonzales" <victoria.gonzales@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Stan Rounds" <stan@nmcel.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 20 Apr 2018 09:39:29 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Call to Action - AASA
To: "Adan Delgado (Cuba)" <adelgado@cuba.k12.nm.us>, "Andy Ortiz (Raton)" <andy.ortiz@ratonschools.com>, "Anita Romero - Interim Wagon Mound" <anita.romero@wm.k12.nm.us>, "Arsenio Romero (Deming)" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "Audie Brown (Silver)" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Balch, Jody (Clovis)" <jody.balch@clovis-schools.org>, "Bickert, George (Ruidoso)" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "Bobbie Gutierrez (Espanola)" <bobbie.gutierrez@k12espanola.org>, "Bonnie Lightfoot - House Municipal Schools (blightfoot@houseschools.net)" <blightfoot@houseschools.net>, "Bowman, Colleen (Central)" <Bowmc@centralschools.org>, "Robert Brown" <rbrown@texicoschools.com>, "Cain, Johnnie (Portales)" <jcain@portalesschools.com>, "Carpenter, Kirk (Aztec)" <adcarpki@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Casados, Anthony (Chama)" <acasados@chamaschools.org>, "Caton, Crit (Artesia)" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Chris Gutierrez - Las Vegas West " <christopher_gutierrez@wlvs.k12.nm.us>, "Cleveland, Sue (Rio Rancho)" <scleveland@rrps.net>, "Cummins, Craig (TorC)" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "Cushman, Loren (Animas)" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Daniel Benavidez (Zuni)" <daniel.benavidez@zpsd.org>, "Dawn Apodaca (Mountainair)" <dapodaca@mpschools.net>, "Diane Cordova (Admin Pojoaque)" <dlc@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Diller, Stacy (Clayton)" <stacy.diller@claytonschools.us>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Dorothy Abbott (RRPS Exec Admin)" <Dorothy.Abbott@rrps.net>, "Elaine Romero (Mesa Vista)" <elaine.romero@mesavista.org>, "Ella Arellano (Mora) " <earellano@mora.k12.nm.us>, "Elnabeth Grau (Grady)" <egrau@gradyschool.com>, "Ricky Espinoza" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Estrada, Adan (Cimarron)" <aestrada@cimarronschools.org>, "Jo Lynn Gallegos" <jolynn@nmcel.org>, "Gandy, LeAnne (Lovington)" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Garcia Veronica (Santa Fe)" <vcgarcia@sfps.k12.nm.us>, "Gen Benes (Ruidoso Admin)" <benesg@ruidososchools.org>, "Glenn Haven (Magdalena)" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "Green, Bill (Reserve)" <billgreen@reserveschools.com>, "Greg Rodriguez (Carlsbad)" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Gregory Ewing (gewing@lcps.net)" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Grossman, Michael (Lake Arthur)" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Hale, Linda (Hatch Valley)" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "Haynes, Dwain (Eunice)" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "Irene Rodriguez (Cobre Admin)" <irod@cobre.k12.nm.us>, "Jim Holloway (Roy)" <supt@royschools.org>, "Joel Shirley (Estancia - Interim)" <joel.shirley@estancia.k12.nm.us>, "Joseph West (SFPS Admin)" <jwest@sfps.k12.nm.us>, "Keith Cowan (Interim Bernalillo)" <kcowan@bps.k12.nm.us>, "Kelt Cooper (Las Vegas City)" <keltcooper@cybercardinal.com>, "King, Eddie (Springer)" <eking@springerschools.org>, "Kodi Sumpter (Des Moines)" <ksumpterdms@bacavalley.com>, "Kristen Forrester - Maxwell" <kforrester@maxwellp12.com>, "Lackey, David (Quemado)" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "LeeAnn Salazar (Questa)" <lsalazar@questa.k12.nm.us>, "Lightfoot,Travis (Corona)" <travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org>, "Little, Buddy (Tatum)" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Marc Space (Grants/Cibola) (marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us)" <marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "Marvin MacAuley (Penasco Interim)" <mmacauley@penasco.k12.nm.us>, "Marvin Martin (Hondo)" <marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org>, "Matt Moyer (Fort Sumner)" <mmoyer@ftsumnerk12.com>, "McIlroy, Ann Lynn (Loving)" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "McKinney, Aaron (Tucumcari)" <a.mckinney@tucumcarischools.com>, "Mendoza, Robert (Cobre)" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>, "Mike Hyatt (Gallup McKinley)" <mhyatt@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, "Mizell, Kim (Bloomfield)" <kmizell@bsin.k12.nm.us>, "Montoya, Sherie (Springer Admin Asst)" <smontoya@springerschools.org>, "Sondra Adams" <mlm@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Nancy Chavez (APS Admin)" <chavez_n@aps.edu>, "Norma Cavazos - Jemez Mountain" <cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, "Pam Montoya (Dulce)" <pmontoya@dulceschools.com>, "Parks, T.J. 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Attachments:AASA CALL TO aCTION 4-18.docx (21.27k)

Colleagues:

Please find attached a Call to Action by AASA. Thanks!

Have a great weekend!

Stan

Stan Rounds

Stan Rounds
Executive Director
New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders and
New Mexico School Superintendents Association
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Albuquerque, NM 87109

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2018 05:29:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Jana Smith

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.

The Chicago Tribune (4/17) reports that Chicago Public Schools announced Tuesday that schools will receive $3.1 billion in the 2018-19 school year, an increase of $60 million. CPS officials say the funding "will largely finance unionized teacher salary increases and some new programs." The increase amounts to a 2.5% increase in per-student spending, and "corresponds with a cost-of-living salary increase in the latest Chicago Teachers Union contract." CPS "also was boosting funding for low-income students and creating a fund to support schools that have been battered by dwindling enrollment."

The Chicago Sun-Times (4/17) reports district principals "were receiving budgets Tuesday for individual schools that include increases for teacher raises, allowing school leaders to maintain steady staffing levels." The Sun-Times reports the school budgets "are being released unusually early for CPS, which in recent years didn't give numbers to principals until deep into the summer as officials scrambled to find money they had counted on from Springfield. Lawmakers finally approved a new evidence-based state school funding formula that benefits Chicago's schools."

With STEM Jobs Growing, Arizona Educators Lack Funding To Train Next Generation Of Workers.

The Arizona Republic (4/17, Castle) reports that the National Forum on Education, Policy and Education Commission of the States finds that in Arizona, STEM-related jobs are projected to grow by 21% over the next decade. The

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Republic writes that “Arizona educators worry that a lack of support for STEM programs and teachers in K-12 schools will impact the state’s ability to provide the quality workforce these companies will require,” adding that “some teachers believe more resources in the classroom can help the state attract more companies, and provide a better-prepared workforce.” According to the article, “Teachers across the state are advocating for more funding, including STEM teachers,” but, “it can be hard for schools to attract and retain STEM teachers due to low salaries, lower than average state education funding and a lack of collaboration among school STEM programs.”

Broward County May Ask For Tax Increase To Provide Teachers With Raises.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/16, Travis) reports Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie on Tuesday said that in order to provide a raise for teachers it would be necessary to seek a tax increase and is suggesting “an additional half mil,” in order to raise “about $93 million.” Otherwise the district will have a “$14.9 million deficit.” CFO Judith Marte said without a tax increase, “To give some people raises we’d have to lay people off.”

New Studies Reaffirm Findings Of Little Or No Improvement From de Blasio’s Improvement Program.

Chalkbeat (4/17, Zimmerman) reports that two new studies indicate that three years after New York Mayor Bill de Blasio started his Renewal program, an “aggressive and expensive campaign to turn around the city’s lowest performing schools,” which has been “flooding 78 schools with more than $386 million,” there have been “gains in student learning.” The studies are from Marcus Winters of the Manhattan Institute, and Aaron Pallas, a professor at Teachers College. The improvements, they say, “are modest — when they exist at all — and don’t yet match the mayor’s lofty promises.” A year ago, “Winters found a positive effect on test scores, while Pallas generally found little to no effect.” An additional year of data, adds Chalkbeat, “largely reaffirmed their earlier conclusions.”

Study Finds CTE Students Less Likely To Skip Class, More Likely To Graduate.

Education Week (4/17, Gewertz) reports on a study from the American Enterprise Institute finding that “students who take a lot of career-and-technical-education classes in high school are hard workers who are less likely than their peers to skip class.” The study also found that students who take CTE courses “have stronger ‘noncognitive’ skills.” The study was based on data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002, tracing “15,000 10th grade students from 2002 to 2012.” It found that students who took five or more CTE classes “are much less likely to skip class” are “more likely to graduate from high school” and “earn more by their mid 20s than their non-CTE peers.”

New Jersey Students Win Samsung Prize For Concussion Detection Device.

The New York Post (4/17, Fleming) reports on an idea from New Jersey eighth-graders “that could help instantaneously detect concussions right on the field of play.” The idea, called Head Safe, from students at Cavallini Middle School won them “a top prize in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest.” Teacher Jonathan Harvey said the students “consulted with a doctor, a high school official and a software engineer” in order to develop “a sensor that is placed inside a football helmet and uses an accelerometer to detect a possible concussion based on the force of the hit.” The sensor, by means of Bluetooth and a smartphone app “alerts a coach when there is a potentially dangerous blow to the player’s head.” The students’ idea “won $150,000 in Samsung technology” for Cavallini Middle School.

Iowa FIRST Team Going To Detroit Based On Work Promoting STEM To Others.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier (4/17, Wind) reports on Valley Lutheran School’s FIRST Tech Competition

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team which qualified for the World Championship in Detroit. They were working on an arm for their robot to "allow it to drop a plastic relic figure on a mat as far as possible outside of the nearly 12-foot square playing field." The team is advancing to Detroit, based not on robot work, but for awards for teams that are "role models to others, connect to the local engineering community and demonstrate enthusiasm for the program." The students taught a curriculum one of them wrote to three preschools, and have held STEM camps for elementary and middle school students.

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Ohio Representative, State School Board Panel Propose Changes To Schools' Report Cards.

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DIGITAL LEARNING

Education Week Runs Package On Principals' Education Technology Challenges.

Education Week (4/18) runs a package of articles called "Technology Counts" about school principals' education technology issues, including whether students are getting too much screen time, whether personalized learning is efficacious, and students' social media use. Education Week says its Research Center "conducted a nationally representative survey of 500 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders." The series "incorporates that data in the report, while taking a hard look at what principals are thinking and doing about some of the most vexing technology issues in their schools." Topics include principals' challenges (4/18) to manage school technology issues, principals' concerns about screen time (4/18), principals' growing enthusiasm for computer science instruction (4/18), principals' broad support for personalized learning (4/18), and the difficulty principals face in keeping up with students' use of social media.

HIGHER EDUCATION

NY Times Article Looks At Value Of Coding Education For Women In Future Workforce.

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The New York Times (4/17, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication) reports, in an article looking at the increasing role of technology in the workforce, that “college students who want high-paying, interesting jobs should choose a major in one of the STEM fields — science, tech, engineering and math.” The Times adds, however, that “STEM jobs are concentrated in one area: over the next six years, nearly 60 percent will be in computer science,” stating that “those jobs are increasing at three times the overall rate of job creation.” The article quotes Girls Who Code Founder and Chief Executive Reshma Saujani saying, “Women make up the majority of college grads and nearly the majority of family breadwinners. But less than 25 percent of the computing workforce is women.” The Times writes that “the gender gap in tech is getting worse,” and further quotes Saujani saying, “Computer science is one industry where people can march back up to the middle class.”

Court Rules UNC Chapel Hill Must Disclose Sexual Assault Investigation Records.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (4/17) reports that the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled on Tuesday that “UNC Chapel Hill must provide the public with the names of students and employees found responsible for rape, sexual assault or related offenses through the school’s honor court and internal procedures.” The college had argued that “federal law prohibits UNC Chapel Hill officials from turning over such records.” The ruling came after “The Daily Tar Heel, the UNC student newspaper, and other media organizations made arguments in a special court session held at N.C. Central University in Durham.”

More Getting College Degrees Later In Life.

Diverse Education (4/17, Clark, Esters) reports Doretha Daniels “in 2015, at the age of 99,” received a college degree, and so became “the oldest of a new minority of students who are earning their college degrees much later in life.” Diverse mentions students gaining degrees at 97, 95, 89, and says, “the list of college graduates over the age of 50 is growing” and the National Center for Education Statistics found “more than one-half million students over the age of 50 enrolled in degree-granting institutions” in 2011. Diverse cites Dr. James Fallon, a neuroscientist at University of California, Irvine, saying “that people reach their maximum cognitive abilities in their 60s.” Psychologist Timothy Salthouse at the University of Virginia has found “no evidence that cognitive ability declines with age.” Diverse adds that with an ageing population, there is “a need for higher education institutions to examine how they can best serve a growing middle-age student population.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.**
- **California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.**
- **Suspect In Custody After Fatal Stabbing At Binghamton University.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2018 05:29:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view

NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Eric Spencer

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.

The Chicago Tribune (4/17) reports that Chicago Public Schools announced Tuesday that schools will receive $3.1 billion in the 2018-19 school year, an increase of $60 million. CPS officials say the funding "will largely finance unionized teacher salary increases and some new programs." The increase amounts to a 2.5% increase in per-student spending, and "corresponds with a cost-of-living salary increase in the latest Chicago Teachers Union contract." CPS "also was boosting funding for low-income students and creating a fund to support schools that have been battered by dwindling enrollment."

The Chicago Sun-Times (4/17) reports district principals "were receiving budgets Tuesday for individual schools that include increases for teacher raises, allowing school leaders to maintain steady staffing levels." The Sun-Times reports the school budgets "are being released unusually early for CPS, which in recent years didn't give numbers to principals until deep into the summer as officials scrambled to find money they had counted on from Springfield. Lawmakers finally approved a new evidence-based state school funding formula that benefits Chicago's schools."

With STEM Jobs Growing, Arizona Educators Lack Funding To Train Next Generation Of Workers.

The Arizona Republic (4/17, Castle) reports that the National Forum on Education, Policy and Education Commission of the States finds that in Arizona, STEM-related jobs are projected to grow by 21% over the next decade. The

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Republic writes that “Arizona educators worry that a lack of support for STEM programs and teachers in K-12 schools will impact the state’s ability to provide the quality workforce these companies will require,” adding that “some teachers believe more resources in the classroom can help the state attract more companies, and provide a better-prepared workforce.” According to the article, “Teachers across the state are advocating for more funding, including STEM teachers,” but, “it can be hard for schools to attract and retain STEM teachers due to low salaries, lower than average state education funding and a lack of collaboration among school STEM programs.”

Broward County May Ask For Tax Increase To Provide Teachers With Raises.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/16, Travis) reports Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie on Tuesday said that in order to provide a raise for teachers it would be necessary to seek a tax increase and is suggesting “an additional half mil,” in order to raise “about $93 million.” Otherwise the district will have a “$14.9 million deficit.” CFO Judith Marte said without a tax increase, “To give some people raises we’d have to lay people off.”

New Studies Reaffirm Findings Of Little Or No Improvement From de Blasio’s Improvement Program.

Chalkbeat (4/17, Zimmerman) reports that two new studies indicate that three years after New York Mayor Bill de Blasio started his Renewal program, an “aggressive and expensive campaign to turn around the city’s lowest performing schools,” which has been “flooding 78 schools with more than $386 million,” there have been “gains in student learning.” The studies are from Marcus Winters of the Manhattan Institute, and Aaron Pallas, a professor at Teachers College. The improvements, they say, “are modest — when they exist at all — and don’t yet match the mayor’s lofty promises.” A year ago, “Winters found a positive effect on test scores, while Pallas generally found little to no effect.” An additional year of data, adds Chalkbeat, “largely reaffirmed their earlier conclusions.”

Study Finds CTE Students Less Likely To Skip Class, More Likely To Graduate.

Education Week (4/17, Gewertz) reports on a study from the American Enterprise Institute finding that “students who take a lot of career-and-technical-education classes in high school are hard workers who are less likely than their peers to skip class.” The study also found that students who take CTE courses “have stronger ‘noncognitive’ skills.” The study was based on data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002, tracing “15,000 10th grade students from 2002 to 2012.” It found that students who took five or more CTE classes “are much less likely to skip class” are “more likely to graduate from high school” and “earn more by their mid 20s than their non-CTE peers.”

New Jersey Students Win Samsung Prize For Concussion Detection Device.

The New York Post (4/17, Fleming) reports on an idea from New Jersey eighth-graders “that could help instantaneously detect concussions right on the field of play.” The idea, called Head Safe, from students at Cavallini Middle School won them “a top prize in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest.” Teacher Jonathan Harvey said the students “consulted with a doctor, a high school official and a software engineer” in order to develop “a sensor that is placed inside a football helmet and uses an accelerometer to detect a possible concussion based on the force of the hit.” The sensor, by means of Bluetooth and a smartphone app “alerts a coach when there is a potentially dangerous blow to the player’s head.” The students’ idea “won $150,000 in Samsung technology” for Cavallini Middle School.

Iowa FIRST Team Going To Detroit Based On Work Promoting STEM To Others.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier (4/17, Wind) reports on Valley Lutheran School’s FIRST Tech Competition

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team which qualified for the World Championship in Detroit. They were working on an arm for their robot to "allow it to drop a plastic relic figure on a mat as far as possible outside of the nearly 12-foot square playing field." The team is advancing to Detroit, based not on robot work, but for awards for teams that are "role models to others, connect to the local engineering community and demonstrate enthusiasm for the program." The students taught a curriculum one of them wrote to three preschools, and have held STEM camps for elementary and middle school students.

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DIGITAL LEARNING

Education Week Runs Package On Principals' Education Technology Challenges.

Education Week (4/18) runs a package of articles called "Technology Counts" about school principals' education technology issues, including whether students are getting too much screen time, whether personalized learning is efficacious, and students' social media use. Education Week says its Research Center "conducted a nationally representative survey of 500 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders." The series "incorporates that data in the report, while taking a hard look at what principals are thinking and doing about some of the most vexing technology issues in their schools." Topics include principals' challenges (4/18) to manage school technology issues, principals' concerns about screen time (4/18), principals' growing enthusiasm for computer science instruction (4/18), principals' broad support for personalized learning (4/18), and the difficulty principals face in keeping up with students' use of social media.

HIGHER EDUCATION

NY Times Article Looks At Value Of Coding Education For Women In Future Workforce.

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The New York Times (4/17, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication) reports, in an article looking at the increasing role of technology in the workforce, that “college students who want high-paying, interesting jobs should choose a major in one of the STEM fields — science, tech, engineering and math.” The Times adds, however, that “STEM jobs are concentrated in one area: over the next six years, nearly 60 percent will be in computer science,” stating that “those jobs are increasing at three times the overall rate of job creation.” The article quotes Girls Who Code Founder and Chief Executive Reshma Saujani saying, “Women make up the majority of college grads and nearly the majority of family breadwinners. But less than 25 percent of the computing workforce is women.” The Times writes that “the gender gap in tech is getting worse,” and further quotes Saujani saying, “Computer science is one industry where people can march back up to the middle class.”

Court Rules UNC Chapel Hill Must Disclose Sexual Assault Investigation Records.

The Raleigh (NC) News & Observer (4/17) reports that the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled on Tuesday that “UNC Chapel Hill must provide the public with the names of students and employees found responsible for rape, sexual assault or related offenses through the school’s honor court and internal procedures.” The college had argued that “federal law prohibits UNC Chapel Hill officials from turning over such records.” The ruling came after “The Daily Tar Heel, the UNC student newspaper, and other media organizations made arguments in a special court session held at N.C. Central University in Durham.”

More Getting College Degrees Later In Life.

Diverse Education (4/17, Clark, Esters) reports Doretha Daniels “in 2015, at the age of 99,” received a college degree, and so became “the oldest of a new minority of students who are earning their college degrees much later in life.” Diverse mentions students gaining degrees at 97, 95, 89, and says, “the list of college graduates over the age of 50 is growing” and the National Center for Education Statistics found “more than one-half million students over the age of 50 enrolled in degree-granting institutions” in 2011. Diverse cites Dr. James Fallon, a neuroscientist at University of California, Irvine, saying “that people reach their maximum cognitive abilities in their 60s.” Psychologist Timothy Salthouse at the University of Virginia has found “no evidence that cognitive ability declines with age.” Diverse adds that with an ageing population, there is “a need for higher education institutions to examine how they can best serve a growing middle-age student population.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.**
- **California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.**
- **Suspect In Custody After Fatal Stabbing At Binghamton University.**

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 07:56:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Concerns at your school?
To: <misti.fernandez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Misti,

A number of issues plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school board members to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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Sincerely,
Ron James
Ron@RonLJames.com
717-433-2551

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 07:56:24 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Concerns at your school?
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Denice,

A number of issues plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school board members to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 07:56:24 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Concerns at your school?
To: <fran.mccarthy@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Fran,

A number of issues plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school board members to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 11 Apr 2018 07:56:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Concerns at your school?
To: <yolanda.pirtle@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Yolanda,

A number of issues plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school board members to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 07:56:23 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Concerns at your school?
To: <andrea.edmonson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Andrea,

A number of issues plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school board members to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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From: "AASA News of the Nation" <communications@aasa.org>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 16:05:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Could the Disappointing 2017 NAEP Scores Be Due to the Great Recession?
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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WWW.AASA.ORG

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April 10, 2018

HOT TOPICS

Could the Disappointing 2017 NAEP Scores Be Due to the Great Recession?
April 10, Education Next
The results from the 2017 Nation's Report Card suggest that school spending does matter, and that even transitory school-spending cuts may be experienced for several years. educationnext.org

Does ESSA Deliver on New Gauges of School Quality?
April 10, Education Week
Chronic absenteeism and college-and-career readiness prove popular as states look to choose a school performance measure beyond test scores and grad rates. edweek.org

Without Warning System, Schools Often 'Pass The Trash' — And Expose Kids to Danger
April 6, NPR
Despite efforts, school districts still struggle with "passing the trash," a cycle of rehiring employees who have a committed sexual abuse or misconduct, who would do it again. npr.org

DeVos Holds 'Listening Sessions' on Student Discipline as GAO Report Confirms Widespread Racial Disparities
April 4, The 74



Magazine 'Extras' Video

School Administrator magazine's Extras video for

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After surveying 850 school leaders in 47 states, AASA, The School Superintendents Association, found the 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline was not transformative in changing discipline policies and practices for districts. the74million.org

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

AASA Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
April 5, AASA
"On the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's death, we must continue to speak out for the vast number of children not receiving the quality education they are entitled to in order to fulfill their dreams," said AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech. aasa.org

Five Thoughts on the Teacher Strikes
April 10, Rick Hess Straight Up
The recent teacher walkouts in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky have rapidly reshuffled the educational debates. edweek.org

What Does Real Leadership Look Like?
April 2, Forbes
Real leaders rise and identify themselves. If you want to find the next generation of leaders in your organization, build a culture where they can soar. forbes.com

How The Education Sector Can Do More to Uplift Women
March 26, Medium
"It's time for us to play an active role in reversing the inequalities that exist within our own field in order to pave a more sustainable path for the next generation of females looking to lead the way." medium.com

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SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE NEWS

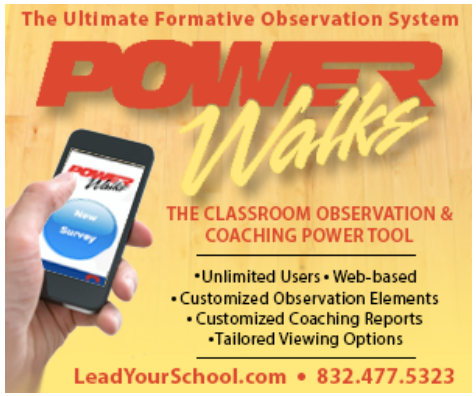


Texas Reads One Book Kicks Off for Fourth Year on April 16

April features the superintendent in Taunton, Mass., Julie Hackett, discussing the role of educators in tackling uncivil behavior. Watch the April Extras video now.

AASA Community

- Join us in a Day of Action to Stop Gun Violence in our Schools
- Attend the 2018 AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference, July 10-12, in Washington D.C.
- May 1-3, 2018 - The Happiness Advantage | Orange Frog Public Workshop
- Be a Part of the Urban Superintendents Academy (Now Accepting Applicants!)
- Applications Open: Be a Part of AASA's National Superintendent Certification Program®
- Join AASA's 2018 National Women's Leadership Consortium
- 2019 National Conference on Education Call for Proposals Now Open
- [WEBINAR: 4/12 at 2 p.m. ET] Supporting the Whole Child: A Superintendents' Roundtable
- Support Our Nation's Public Schools: Adopt the "I Love Public Education" Resolution in Your District
- The Wallace Foundation Releases The Final Episode In Its First-Ever Podcast Series: The Principle Pipeline



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April 5, Texas Association of School Administrators"
Texas Reads One Book has given us a mechanism to show parents how they can help their kids with their reading and have it be an enjoyable experience," said José Parra, superintendent, Irving Independent School District, Texas. tasanet.org

Oklahoma Superintendent Shares Personal Battle Regarding Educational Funding
April 5, KFOR
"I know firsthand how hard it is for families to come to grips with the fact that they're not getting the resources they need in their schools" said Scott Farmer, superintendent, Sallisaw Independent School District, Okla. kfor.com



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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 04:20:10 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: A bottle of red, a bottle of white
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

MARCH 15, 2018

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Skimm'd while prepping for a long lunch full of basketball

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Will arrange to return the pets to them as soon as possible" - United Airlines, after accidentally sending a dog that was going to Missouri...to Japan. Woof.

MAYDAY

The Story
UK Prime Minister Theresa May just told 23 Russians to pack their bags and go.

Why?
Earlier this month, a Russian former spy living in the UK and his daughter were poisoned with a rare nerve agent created decades ago by Russia. May pointed the finger at the Kremlin, and asked them to explain themselves. The Kremlin says 'wasn't us.'

What happened then?
May didn't buy it. Yesterday, she expelled 23 Russian diplomats that she says are spies, and deleted Moscow's phone number. Also, she says Prince George will no longer be attending the World Cup this summer in Russia. That'll show 'em.

What are people saying?
Supporters are cheering the biggest expulsion of Russians from the UK in decades. Critics were hoping to see May hit Russia where it really hurts - like the wallets of the oligarchs living it up in London. US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley says the US "stands in absolute solidarity" with the UK and agrees Russia totally did it.

How's Russia taking it?
Not well. Russia says 'we didn't do it.' It called these latest moves "unacceptable, unjustified and shortsighted." But don't go anywhere - Russia says it'll respond with action soon.

theSkimm
The Kremlin's prob not stressing about all this. Theresa May's relationships with the EU and President Trump are on the rocks - and it's unclear how far either will go to back her up in punishing Russia.

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REPEAT AFTER ME...

What to say when you need to take time to yourself...

Walk it out. Yesterday, thousands of students walked out of their schools to protest gun violence in the US. The protest came one month after a gunman killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, FL. Some TV networks including MTV, BET, and Comedy Central hit pause on their programs in solidarity. The #NeverAgain movement wants to see things like reforms to background checks and bans on assault weapons. So far, that hasn't picked up much support in Congress. But yesterday, the House did pass a bipartisan bill to up federal funding for schools to help them prevent gun violence. It would put money toward training officials to identify warning signs and improving schools' coordination with law enforcement. It's off to the Senate now.

What to say when you can't find a new show to watch...

Ready to settle. So is Elizabeth Holmes - the founder and CEO of Theranos - who was charged with massive fraud. Theranos is the Silicon Valley startup that promised a cheaper, faster, less painful way to take and analyze blood tests. It was once valued at $9 billion. And Holmes was once called the health tech's Steve Jobs. Turns out, no. A few years ago, the WSJ reported that Theranos wasn't actually using its hyped-up tech for most of its tests - and when it did, it didn't seem to work that well. And the company wasn't being open about that. Now she's agreed to write the gov a big check and not lead a public company for a few years. Seems like the least she can do.

What to say when your boss wants to chat...

Am I getting fired? Yesterday, it came out that a division of the FBI is recommending that Deputy Director Andrew McCabe get fired. Days before he's set to resign. The beef: The DOJ was looking into McCabe's alleged decision to let FBI officials speak to the press about the Clinton investigation. And decided he wasn't entirely honest when asked about. So a disciplinary office of the FBI is recommending he get shown the door. Now, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has to decide whether to cut him loose before his last day on Sunday. If he does, it means McCabe may have to say goodbye to his pension check after nearly 22 years at the bureau. In other shake-up news, President Trump got himself a new top economic adviser. Say hello to Larry Kudlow, a conservative analyst you might've seen on TV who's pro-free-trade but open to being tough on China.

What to say when you haven't been to the gym in months...

Time to call it quits. Yesterday, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he's pulling his country out of the International Criminal Court (ICC). For years, Duterte's been

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carrying out a brutal war on drugs in the Philippines that's killed thousands of people. Last month, the ICC said it's looking into accusations that he and his gov committed crimes against humanity. At first, Duterte said he'd cooperate. Then, a top human rights commissioner at the UN - which is also looking into human rights abuses in the Philippines - said Duterte should be psychiatrically evaluated. Duterte didn't take it well. He's now accusing the international community of bias and saying 'bye.' Won't change much - the ICC could still put him on trial.

What to say when your childhood friend shares a #TBT...
Here's a new one: Toys "R" Us.

BALLS

March is full of madness. The tournament starts at 12:15pm ET today with Oklahoma v Rhode Island. Psst...make sure you fill out your bracket by then. Here's one name to know before the games kick off:

Trae Young: College basketball's Steph Curry. The freshman point guard plays for Oklahoma. Even though the team had a rough end to the regular season and is a no. 10 seed, all eyes are on Young to see if he can bring it today.

Our Sports Calendar is here to get you through the Madness. It will give you the big and important games to watch so you don't have to watch all of them. And we're giving you things to celebrate for downloading theSkimm App. Today you can win an **Apple Watch, three SoulCycle classes**, and **$500 to Adidas**. Get ballsy. And to yesterday's winner: check your inbox.

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** Questions? Answers.*

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For when you miss your mom...

Send her our interview with Hoda Kotb. We talked adoption, her new book, and her new (history-making) job. We also sipped tequila. Watch here.

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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 04:40:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: A bottle of red, a bottle of white
To: <lisa.clouthier@carlsbadschools.net>

MARCH 15, 2018

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Skimm'd while prepping for a long lunch full of basketball

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Will arrange to return the pets to them as soon as possible" - United Airlines, after accidentally sending a dog that was going to Missouri...to Japan. Woof.

MAYDAY

The Story
UK Prime Minister Theresa May just told 23 Russians to pack their bags and go.

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Earlier this month, a Russian former spy living in the UK and his daughter were poisoned with a rare nerve agent created decades ago by Russia. May pointed the finger at the Kremlin, and asked them to explain themselves. The Kremlin says 'wasn't us.'

What happened then?
May didn't buy it. Yesterday, she expelled 23 Russian diplomats that she says are spies, and deleted Moscow's phone number. Also, she says Prince George will no longer be attending the World Cup this summer in Russia. That'll show 'em.

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How's Russia taking it?
Not well. Russia says 'we didn't do it.' It called these latest moves "unacceptable, unjustified and shortsighted." But don't go anywhere - Russia says it'll respond with action soon.

theSkimm
The Kremlin's prob not stressing about all this. Theresa May's relationships with the EU and President Trump are on the rocks - and it's unclear how far either will go to back her up in punishing Russia.

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REPEAT AFTER ME...

What to say when you need to take time to yourself...

Walk it out. Yesterday, thousands of students walked out of their schools to protest gun violence in the US. The protest came one month after a gunman killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, FL. Some TV networks including MTV, BET, and Comedy Central hit pause on their programs in solidarity. The #NeverAgain movement wants to see things like reforms to background checks and bans on assault weapons. So far, that hasn't picked up much support in Congress. But yesterday, the House did pass a bipartisan bill to up federal funding for schools to help them prevent gun violence. It would put money toward training officials to identify warning signs and improving schools' coordination with law enforcement. It's off to the Senate now.

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Here's a new one: Toys "R" Us.

BALLS

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Trae Young: College basketball's Steph Curry. The freshman point guard plays for Oklahoma. Even though the team had a rough end to the regular season and is a no. 10 seed, all eyes are on Young to see if he can bring it today.

Our Sports Calendar is here to get you through the Madness. It will give you the big and important games to watch so you don't have to watch all of them. And we're giving you things to celebrate for downloading theSkimm App. Today you can win an **Apple Watch, three SoulCycle classes**, and **$500 to Adidas**. Get ballsy. And to yesterday's winner: check your inbox.

** All you have to do is download theSkimm app to your iPhone (Android, we're coming for you soon), OR get someone else to try it by using your referral link. That's it. You'll be entered to win.*

** Already have the app? Already entered to win*

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** Questions? Answers.*

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For when the 'skills' section of your resume needs a refresh...
Get classy. As in classes. These ones in marketing, design, photography, and more will have you feeling ready to get down to business. Bonus: Skimm'rs get two months free. Get schooled here.*

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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 04:27:10 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: A bottle of red, a bottle of white
To: <wendy.christiansen@carlsbadschools.net>

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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 04:44:37 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Boo
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

APRIL 13, 2018 READ IN BROWSER

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Skimm'd while choosing a carry-on

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Guess we need a new WiFi password" - The Boston Red Sox. It was "baseball."

THINGS GETTING MIXED SIGNALS

The TPP

The Story
President Trump's texting "miss u" to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Remind me about the TPP.
It's the free-trade deal the US negotiated with 11 other countries that border the Pacific Ocean. It was meant to open up trade within the group - and compete against China. Trump campaigned on leaving the deal, arguing that it hurt US workers since it would make it easier to buy things overseas. He followed through. Last month, the other 11 countries signed a deal without the US. Now, Trump's having second thoughts.

Why's that?
Bets are on the fact that the US and China have been threatening each other with tariffs for the past few weeks. Being part of a big trade bloc like the TPP could give the US more leverage in trade talks. Yesterday, Trump also met with lawmakers from farming states. They want in on the deal because it helps farmers sell their stuff abroad. Now, Trump's telling his advisers to look into re-joining.

theSkimm
Trump's trade issue with one country (cough, China) could be pushing him back into the arms of a deal he once used as a verbal punching bag.

Syria

The Story

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President Trump won't say when he's attacking Syria.

What's this about?
Last weekend, the Assad regime is suspected to have carried out a chemical weapons attack outside of Damascus that left dozens of people dead. And may have included a nerve agent. When a similar attack happened last year, Trump responded with a missile strike on a Syrian air base. It was the first direct US attack against the regime. This week, Trump said 'expect another.' Now, he's saying an attack could come "very soon or not so soon at all."

Why's that?
Russia's been threatening to retaliate against any US strike in Syria - a conflict Trump's defense secretary wants to avoid. What might not help: yesterday, Trump's pick for sec of state said during his confirmation hearing that the US killed "a couple hundred Russians" in Syria. This happened a few months ago, when US-backed forces came under attack there.

theSkimm
The US and allies are trying to draw a red line on chemical weapons. But it's hard to reinforce principles when that could lead to a major escalation between global powers.

PS: *We talked to former Sec of State Madeleine Albright about some of today's biggest foreign policy issues. Watch here.*

REPEAT AFTER ME...

What to say when your landlord has some new building rules...
Getting tough. Yesterday, House Republicans announced new legislation on stricter rules for getting food stamps. This comes after the Trump administration is thinking of some ideas of its own. More than 40 million low-income people in the US get food stamps, which are gov-issued vouchers. Some Republicans want to change the rules around who's eligible. As in many have to work part-time or get job training to get them. And if you're new to the program, you would have one month to follow the rules. Republicans say this will help break the poverty cycle by encouraging people to work. Democrats say this could seriously cut down the number of people who rely on the system. The House is expected to vote on the legislation next week. It's unclear if it'll get the thumbs up - but if it does, it'll start in 2021.

What to say when you're not up for going out...
Let's reschedule. The Seattle Seahawks apparently postponed their date with Colin Kaepernick. You know him as the former San Francisco 49ers QB who started the #TakeAKnee movement, and he's been a free agent since 2017. He's apparently chatting with the Seahawks, and was supposed to pump some iron with the team this week. But when the team asked if he would stop kneeling next season, Kaepernick said 'no promises.' Now, the Seahawks are reportedly asking for a raincheck. Meanwhile, 49ers linebacker Reuben Foster still has a job. Even though he was charged for punching his girlfriend multiple times and having an assault weapon.

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What to say when you hear you don't have to sign on the dotted line anymore...
Interesting. So is this: an environmental nonprofit wants to launch a satellite into space to try and reduce global warming. Methane is a major contributor to climate change. And this new satellite would scope out methane leaking from things like oil and gas facilities around the world. The nonprofit hopes getting this info will nudge governments to take action on lowering emissions. It says that cutting down on methane is the fastest way to pump the brakes on climate change. And aims to launch the satellite by 2021.

What to say after you hear "Broad City" is coming to an end...
Every end is a new beginning. Hi, Khloé's baby.

SKIMM MORE

Meet Skimm More. This is where you'll find (yes) more Skimm on the people and topics driving the national conversation. Interviews with newsmakers, audio deep dives, explainers - it'll all be here. Like...

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) is on the ballot this fall. He grabbed a beer with Skimm HQ and talked up Congress's wins like tax reform, plus what to do about gun violence. Watch here.

SKIMM PICKS

Meet Skimm Picks. This is where you'll find our favorite things to read, watch, and listen to, plus the products we're adding to our carts. We'll always tell you when we're working with a partner - but you can trust that if we're putting something here, Skimm HQ has tried it and loves it.

For when you really need a weekend getaway...
Keep calm and carry-on. We compared some of our fave carry-on suitcases so you can pick the right one for you to take off with. Here you go. Weekend trip daydreaming starts now.

For when you're out to coffee with your mentor...

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You might be into this read. "The Female Persuasion" by Meg Wolitzer follows Greer into her first job working for feminist icon Faith Frank. And her 'meant to be' love story that doesn't go as planned. It'll give you a little "The Devil Wears Prada," a little "The Affair," and a feminist history lesson along the way. Get it here.

For when your superstitious friend reminds you it's Friday the 13th...
Skimm HQ is very aware. We want to know if you're as paranoid as us. DM us your superstitions and we'll share them in Stories.

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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 04:49:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Boo
To: <lisa.clouthier@carlsbadschools.net>

APRIL 13, 2018 READ IN BROWSER

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Skimm'd while choosing a carry-on

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Guess we need a new WiFi password" - The Boston Red Sox. It was "baseball."

THINGS GETTING MIXED SIGNALS

The TPP

The Story
President Trump's texting "miss u" to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Remind me about the TPP.
It's the free-trade deal the US negotiated with 11 other countries that border the Pacific Ocean. It was meant to open up trade within the group - and compete against China. Trump campaigned on leaving the deal, arguing that it hurt US workers since it would make it easier to buy things overseas. He followed through. Last month, the other 11 countries signed a deal without the US. Now, Trump's having second thoughts.

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Keep calm and carry-on. We compared some of our fave carry-on suitcases so you can pick the right one for you to take off with. Here you go. Weekend trip daydreaming starts now.

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Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 04:30:32 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Legen...wait for it...dary
To: <wendy.christiansen@carlsbadschools.net>

MARCH 26, 2018

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A guy walked up on me and said to me, 'Leave Trump alone. Forget the story'" - Stormy Daniels during her "60 Minutes" interview about her alleged affair with the President.

ON THE MARCH

The Story
On Saturday, hundreds of thousands of people rallied for gun control.

Give me the numbers.
At least 200,000 people are estimated to have attended the March for Our Lives rally in DC. And there were over 800 other marches around the world.

What else should I know?
Emma González knows the power of silence. 11-year-old Naomi Wadler urged everyone to remember black women who've died from gun violence. And the granddaughter of MLK Jr dreams of "a gun-free world." Next week, marks 50 years since he was killed by gun violence.

What's next?
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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 04:22:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Legen...wait for it...dary
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

MARCH 26, 2018

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Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 04:44:57 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Legen...wait for it...dary
To: <lisa.clouthier@carlsbadschools.net>

MARCH 26, 2018

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Subject: Daily Skimm: TGIF
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

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THINGS RAISING THE STAKES

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The Story
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theSkimm
These are just some of the people that have either been fired or resigned in recent weeks: FBI deputy director, communications director, top economic adviser, secretary of state, Trump's top attorney...and now, national security adviser.

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China is threatening to hit back at the US - hard - with some new tariffs.

What's going on?
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If a US-China trade war kicks off, workers in all areas from farming to tech could feel the effects of it. And chances are you might feel it in your wallet too.

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Not all suburbs are a snooze. Meet "Santa Clarita Diet." Season 2 is baaack today. Sheila Hammond (aka Drew Barrymore) still has some v questionable habits. And her hubby Joel is still by her side. You can watch here on Netflix, or add it to your queue for later.*

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Subject: Daily Skimm: TGIF
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These are just some of the people that have either been fired or resigned in recent weeks: FBI deputy director, communications director, top economic adviser, secretary of state, Trump's top attorney...and now, national security adviser.

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China

The Story
China is threatening to hit back at the US - hard - with some new tariffs.

What's going on?
Yesterday, Trump said he's ready to impose tariffs on up to $60 billion in Chinese products coming to the US. Everything from your shoes to your electronics could get more expensive as a result. Trump's also planning to block Chinese companies from investing in American technology.

Why now?
This is all in response to a government investigation that found that China stole US technology and trade secrets.

What are people saying?
Supporters say it's time for America to defend itself against unfair trade deals. Critics say this could start a trade war. The Dow said 'I'm scared.' And China says 'we'll raise you one.' It's now threatening to retaliate with tariffs on 128 US products. The biggest potential target...soybeans.

theSkimm
If a US-China trade war kicks off, workers in all areas from farming to tech could feel the effects of it. And chances are you might feel it in your wallet too.

REPEAT AFTER ME...

What to say when you finish a project right before the deadline...
We did it. Congress just passed a $1.3 trillion spending bill, working to avoid a government shutdown. For months, lawmakers have been passing short-term bills to put a band-aid on the issue. But now they finally have a bill to keep the gov going through the end of September - when they have to do this song and dance all over again. The bill is more than 2,000 pages long. And includes billions of dollars for the Pentagon, the opioid crisis, and infrastructure projects. It lets the CDC study gun violence...something Congress hasn't give the thumbs up to in decades. What's not included: a DACA fix. And the billions of dollars President Trump wanted for his border wall - though he still more than $1 billion to get the wall started. Now, it's on to President Trump's desk, who's expected to sign it.

What to say when your co-worker asks what you're up to this weekend...
This may be on your radar. Tomorrow is March for Our Lives, where people in DC and around the world are rallying for stricter gun control legislation. The protest was planned by surviving students from last month's high school shooting in Parkland, FL. As many as 500,000 people could attend the rally in DC. And there more than 800 events happening worldwide. We talked to Emma González and David Hogg - two students behind the movement - ahead of the march. Watch some of our interview

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here.

Who people are talking about...
Stephon Clark. Earlier this week, the 22-year-old black man was killed when police fired about 20 shots at him while he was in his grandparents' backyard. Police in Sacramento, CA were responding to a 911 call reporting a man in a hoodie breaking car windows. They spotted Clark and moved in on him. The officers say they shot him because they thought he had a gun. It was an iPhone. A couple days later, body camera and helicopter footage were released. Before the body camera footage ends, one of the officers says "Hey mute" and then there's silence. The incident is under investigation and the officers involved are on paid administrative leave.

What to say when you're in a spring cleaning mood...
So is Best Buy. The nation's largest consumer electronics retailer will stop selling Huawei products over the next few weeks. The Chinese company is the world's third-largest smartphone maker. Earlier this year, US intelligence agencies warned that the Chinese gov could use Huawei products to spy on Americans. Not good since Huawei was trying to make it in the US market. Now, Best Buy is keeping them on the struggle bus. BTW, Amazon has a patent for a drone that understands screaming and flailing arms. So, yeah.

What to say to your friend who hasn't broken Lent yet...
Crushing it. Just like Loyola-Chicago.

What to say when you can't figure something out...
Don't worry, Clarissa is back to explain it all again.

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SKIMM LIFE

For when your parents say they're bored in the suburbs...
Not all suburbs are a snooze. Meet "Santa Clarita Diet." Season 2 is baaack today. Sheila Hammond (aka Drew Barrymore) still has some v questionable habits. And her hubby Joel is still by her side. You can watch here on Netflix, or add it to your queue for later.*

For when you wake up before the alarm...
It's a miracle. But this really is. "Anatomy of a Miracle" by Jonathan Miles is a novel that reads like a true story. It's about a US veteran whose paralysis from the War in Afghanistan is miraculously cured. Cue a media frenzy and you finishing this story in days. Get into it here.

Want more reads to stay inside with until it gets warmer? Here are our favorite Skimm Reads of the year (so far).

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Your friends have been moving off the platform for years. Now, its stock is down, a shareholder is suing, and users are losing trust.

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REPEAT AFTER ME...

What people are watching...

Boko Haram. Last month, the Islamist militant group kidnapped dozens of girls from their school in Nigeria. Yesterday, most of them were released. Along with a reported warning: "don't ever put your daughters in school again." Boko Haram has been tormenting the country for almost a decade. The group made international headlines in 2014 when it kidnapped almost 300 schoolgirls - about 100 of them are still being held. The Nigerian government says it's since defeated the group. Apparently not. Last month, 110 girls were taken from their school. The government says 104 of them have been let go. Some think the government paid a ransom to avoid getting similar criticism it faced back in 2014. But the government says they were released "through back-channel efforts."

What people are talking about...

Austin, TX. Yesterday, the suspected "serial bomber" blew himself up when police closed in on him. This month, the city of Austin, TX has been on edge after multiple bombs have gone off in the area. Authorities say the suspect was 23 years old and unemployed - but they're still investigating his motive. Police are also warning people to be careful because there may still be other devices out there.

What to say while negotiating a new salary...

How about a little higher? The Federal Reserve's hiking things up too. Yesterday, the US central bank bumped up interest rates. Again. Reminder: interest rates dropped to basically zero during the '08 financial crisis. The goal: make it easier for people to borrow money so they could still drop cash on big-ticket items. And help give the economy that little boost it needed. But the economy's been on the up and up for the last few years. So the Fed's been slowly creeping those rates back up. This new hike is the sixth one since 2015. But wait, there's more: expect to see two more hikes this year. Partayyyy.

What to say when your co-worker sends a post-mortem report...

Let's take a look. That's what the NYC buildings regulator is saying after launching investigations into more than a dozen Kushner Co. properties. Earlier this week, a report came out that the real estate developer regularly filed paperwork saying it had zero rent-regulated tenants. The number was apparently more like hundreds. Problem, because it means the co might've been able to push these tenants out in favor of higher-paying renters on the down low. And Jared Kushner - President

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Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser - was in charge when all of this would have gone down. That wasn't the only thing keeping Kushner up last night. Yesterday we learned that the Saudi Crown Prince reportedly said Kushner was "in his pocket." And that he passed on to the prince the names of Saudis who've been disloyal to him. Kushner reportedly says 'wasn't me.'

What to say after you're finally caught up on "This Is Us"...
Good timing. March Madness Sweet 16 is starting up tonight. Want to know when and where to watch? Download theSkimm app here.

What to say to your friend who's trying to be an influencer...
Take, er, read a page out of Bill Cunningham's memoir.

SKIMM MORE

Last month's mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, FL was one of the worst in modern US history. Since then, some surviving students have organized a movement to change national gun policy. theSkimm sat down with Emma González and David Hogg, two leaders of the movement, ahead of the March For Our Lives on Saturday. Here's some of that interview...

David: I think there are two main things that made [the national reaction to the shooting] different this time. The fact that a lot of the students that are a part of this movement are journalists...and because we're extremely white, we're extremely privileged, and we come from an affluent community. Every single day, in Liberty City, in Chicago and Compton, and places of color and low socioeconomic status, there are children being murdered as a result of gun violence.

Watch more of the interview here.

SKIMM LIFE

For when you're refilling your Nalgene...
Heads up: it's World Water Day. Our **Skimm'r of the Week Nora Shauna Jackson** is a first grader who gave $8.15 of the $12 she had saved to charity: water. That's the non-profit making sure people in developing countries have access to clean, safe drinking water. Take a page from Nora's book and consider donating $8.15 today.

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Here's how.

For when your friend tells you she's pregnant...
Congrats. You're gonna need new clothes. Whether you're having a baby, having a food baby, or just want something new to wear, Stitch Fix is here to help. It's a service that delivers clothes directly to your door. So you'll get all kinds of clothes that match your fit, style, and budget. If you sign up now, you'll also get a styling session for free. Get into it here.*

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Sent Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2018 04:28:26 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Who run the world
To: <wendy.christiansen@carlsbadschools.net>

MARCH 8, 2018

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Subject: Daily Skimm: Who run the world
To: <lisa.clouthier@carlsbadschools.net>

MARCH 8, 2018

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Sent Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2018 04:22:02 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Who run the world
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Oh, bonjour. Yesterday, France told companies they have to close the gender pay gap or face fines. Fun reminder: women on average make less money than men all over the world. And in France, women get nine percent less. Now, the country's saying 'enough.' Over the next few years, companies with more than 50 employees have to install software that monitors any employee pay gaps. If a gap isn't justified, the company has three years to get its bureaucratic sh*t together or pay the price. Oui, oui.

What to say when your coworker still has your iPhone charger...

Cough it up. Yesterday, the US Holocaust Museum took back an award it had given Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi. For years, Suu Kyi took on the country's military dictatorship and became a symbol of resistance. She got a bunch of awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize and the Holocaust Museum's Elie Wiesel Award. But last summer, Myanmar's military cracked down on Rohingya, a Muslim minority group. They destroyed villages and brutally killed thousands of people. Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, where they are living in makeshift homes that are threatened by monsoon season. As the country's leader, Suu Kyi did nothing. Instead, she's been accused of spreading hate against Rohingya and refusing to let the UN and journalists investigate. Now, the Holocaust Museum's telling her 'you don't deserve nice things.'

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What to say when you hear "Cat Person" wants to give you goosebumps...
So spoooky. The author of this NYT article has other reasons to freak.

What to say to your friend who uses the upside-down smiley emoji...
McDonald's is also flipping the script.

SKIMM MD: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Today is International Women's Day. Part of our goal this week has been to help millennial women feel smarter about some areas of their reproductive health. We've talked birth control, fertility options and struggles, and now we're talking birth. Whether you want to be a party of one or a table for ten, here are some things to know...

Pitocin: It's a man-made version of a hormone that can help speed up labor. Some (like the WHO) think healthcare providers are too quick to reach for this.

Epidural: We see your labor pains and we raise you the epidural. It's an injection that delivers anesthetics into your spine so you don't have to feel the feels. Some swear by it, others swear against it.

Placenta: The organ attached to your uterus that nourishes the baby and more. After you push out a person, surprise: you're not done. Still gotta deliver the placenta.

PS: *There are a number of ways to electively have a child. You could adopt, have a surrogate, foster, etc. Do you.*

There's more Skimm...
* Hear from women who've been through some of the above

* Read more on all of the above

SKIMM LIFE

For when your BFF gets a promotion...
Like a boss. Skimm HQ is all about women doing big things in the workplace. Say hi to Stitch Fix founder Katrina Lake. She's making your life a looot easier by sending you clothes based on your fit, budget, and style. Plus you get a personal stylist. Casual...or fancy, if that's more your thing. Bonus: Skimm'rs get a little something off the price tag. Get in on it here.*

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For your friend who says 'my body is a temple'...

Treat your temple to some vitamins. This will do the trick. It sends you specific vitamins and supplements you need in Insta-worthy packaging. Answer a few Qs about your lifestyle and it'll deliver. In more ways than one. Plus prenatal ones for all the soon-to-be mamas. Bonus: Skimm'rs get a discount off their first order. Take the quiz and get started here.*

For when you want to help on International Women's Day...

Skimm'r of the Week Lyndsey Jefferson (Indianapolis, IN) has an idea. She works at The Girl Generation, a global non-profit fighting to end female genital mutilation. Half a million women in the US are affected by it. Plus 200 million worldwide. Learn more here.

**PS This is an affiliate partner, which means if you purchase or sign up theSkimm may get something in return. Thanks.*

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Issues?

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 05:36:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez April 23, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (4/20, Lang, Heim, Rozsa) reports "several hundred students left their schools Friday morning and staged a vigil outside the White House" as part of nationwide walkouts "calling for an end to gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the school shooting in Columbine, Colo., an event that marked the start of an era of deadly school rampages." The Post adds the walkouts "signaled the resolve of students who continue to demand action on gun control measures and to remember victims of school shootings, including the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida." However, the Post says "the events Friday were more muted, missing some of the adrenaline and exuberance that had propelled hundreds of thousands of students through the previous protests."

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The New York Times (4/20, Times, Subscription Publication) says that the rallies were "the third nationally organized student protest in the two months" since the Parkland shooting, but on the CBS Evening News (4/20, story 5, 2:05, Glor), Jericka Duncan acknowledged Florida and Vermont are the only states that "strengthened gun legislation" since February, and "at the federal level, not much has changed."

Meanwhile, ABC World News Tonight's (4/20, story 4, 1:35, Muir) Steve Osunsami reported "students at Forest High School in Central Florida were just about to join their peers across the country walking out of school to protest gun violence, when the issue hit home. Just after 8:30 a.m. police say that 19-year-old Sky Bouche, who didn't

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attend classes here, managed to get into the main building with a gun and opened fire on a 17-year-old student." Osunsami added "police report that the student who was shot did not suffer any life-threatening wounds." The Washington Post (4/20, Wootson) reports Sheriff Billy Woods "said the shooter – a 19-year-old who was not a student – was taken into custody and "offered no resistance" to responding officers. Investigators haven't released the man's identity or given details about his suspected motive."

Broward Deputies To Hold "No Confidence" Vote In Sheriff Next Week Over Parkland Shooting. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/20, O'Matz) reports "upset with Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, members of a union of rank-and-file deputies will vote electronically over the next week on whether they have faith in his leadership." According to the Sun Sentinel, "the so-called 'no confidence' vote, slated to begin tonight, is a first for the office."

After Parkland, Gun Control Advocates Embrace Voter Registration In Bid To Enact Policy Changes. The Washington Post (4/21, Zezima) reports "the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February sparked a renewed interest in gun control," and leaders of the movement are now "hoping the momentum from the March for Our Lives movement will lead to a more enduring next phase: getting young people to the voting booth in November, an effort to change not just policy in Washington, but the people who set it." The Post says groups nationwide have begun "hosting voter drives at high schools and colleges, including during widespread school walkouts on Friday, the anniversary of the 1999 massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School."

Texas Sixth-Grader Struck, Killed By Car During Gun Violence Walkout. The Dallas Morning News (4/22, Branham) reports an 11-year-old Texas sixth-grader "was hit by a car and killed when he attempted to walk across a highway" after leaving school "during national student walkouts Friday." The student "was struck while leaving Parkland Middle School in El Paso during the walkout, but he was not participating in it, Ysleta Independent School District Superintendent Xavier De La Torre said at a news conference."

El Paso (TX) Times (4/21, Borunda) reports that De La Torre "said the boy was with a group of about 12 to 15 students who used the National School Walkout as a way to leave Parkland Middle to go to a park."

POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.

Education Week (4/20) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "met with Pentagon officials Thursday to talk about...extending school choice to the children of military personnel." The piece says that Impact Aid districts are concerned that "the Trump administration is planning to put its muscle behind a bill sponsored by Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., and Sens. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., and Tim Scott, R-S.C." However, DeVos "has not endorsed the bill publicly, and she did not discuss it or any other specific proposals in the meeting. Instead, they talked about school choice for military personnel more generally, a department official said."

Politico Morning Education (4/20, Leonor) reports DeVos "is broadly supportive of school choice for military families and in particular has backed the notion of providing them with education savings accounts, which families can use to help pay for private school tuition, tutoring services, online courses and more." The piece reports the Banks bill "would do just that, drawing on dollars through the Impact Aid program as a funding stream. But DeVos hasn't publicly endorsed that specific proposal. And while she met with Department of Defense officials this week – stoking concerns that she's hoping to garner support for such a plan – specific legislation wasn't discussed at the meeting, an Education Department official told Morning Education."

Spellings Addresses State Of Leadership, Bipartisanship In Education Reform.

Politico Morning Education (4/20, Leonor) reports on an interview with UNC President and former Education

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Secretary Margaret Spellings, who said she thinks there is a “leadership vacuum” in the education reform movement. The piece quotes Spellings saying, “I’m just observing that when we make progress and when we’re coming together and doing bipartisan things, there’s a cast of characters across the political spectrum that work together and put some skin in the game and their necks on the line or whatever metaphor you want to use and we move the needle. So, in my case, during the No Child Left Behind era, that’s Michael Bloomberg and Jeb Bush and George W. Bush and [former North Carolina] Gov. [Jim] Hunt and Michelle Rhee and Joel Klein and Kevin Johnson and Wendy Kopp — a cast of characters that was pretty significant, and I’m hard-pressed to name who those folks are now.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.

The AP (4/21) reports Great Hearts Monte Vista, a charter school San Antonio, “apologized after a teacher asked students in an eighth grade American history class to list the positive and negative aspects of slavery.” According to the AP, the teacher “who distributed the worksheet titled ‘The Life of Slaves: A Balanced View’ was placed on leave and the school said it would audit the textbook associated with the lesson, said Aaron Kindel, the superintendent of Great Hearts Texas, which operates 28 public charter schools in Texas and Arizona.” In a statement, Kindel said, “To be clear, there is no debate about slavery. It is immoral and a crime against humanity.” The AP adds that “Scott Overland, a spokesman for Pearson, which published the textbook, said the company didn’t create and doesn’t endorse the worksheet assigned to the students, KENS-TV reported.”

Commentary Urges Retired STEM Professionals To Go Into Teaching.

In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (4/22, Subscription Publication), Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Encore.org and chairman of the Generation to Generation campaign, writes about Now Teach, a program started by British business columnist Lucy Kellaway, who retired to go into teaching math. In the US, Hollywood film executive Sherry Lansing has founded the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, which recruits experienced STEM professionals to teach in California schools. Freedman praises the concept of STEM professionals teaching.

Ohio Program Encourages Teachers To Help Students Learn To Avoid Opioid Abuse.

The Washington Post (4/20, Schaaff) reports a “controversial” Ohio plan “is taking the fight against the opioid epidemic into the classroom with a new style of drug-abuse-prevention education.” The plan “features lessons that begin in kindergarten. Instead of relying on scare tactics about drug use or campaigns that recite facts about drugs’ toll on the body, teachers are encouraged to discuss real-life situations and ways to deal with them and to build the social and emotional skills that experts say can reduce the risk of substance abuse.”

FIRST World Championship Highlights Robotics Program’s Growing Popularity In Michigan.

Under the headline “The Robots Are Coming – Really,” Crain’s Detroit Business (4/22, Livengood) reports “more than 35,000 students, parents and team coaches” will convene Wednesday “at Ford Field and Cobo Center” in Detroit for the FIRST Robotics World Championship. The event “has turned robot-building into a team sport in high schools across Michigan,” and this week’s event “and spotlight on Detroit underscores the growing popularity of an extracurricular activity seen by many potential employers as a critical way to expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math.” The FIRST program “has created a pipeline of young talent that companies like DTE, General Motors Co. and Magna Seating have been tapping in recent years for engineering, problem-solving,

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teamwork and communications skills."

Omaha-Area Coding Camp Seeks To Inspire Girls To Pursue STEM.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (4/21) reported that on Saturday, ACI Worldwide hosted its fourth annual Coding for Girls Camp for Omaha-area middle school girls. In remarks to "a room full of 17 young girls," ACI Worldwide senior vice president Shelly Ahlers "talked about her experiences as a woman in a technological career" and "discussed how her computer science experience landed her a job at ACI right out of college." ACI Worldwide senior recruiter Sampy Gajre "said she hopes that coding camps can start to change those numbers by inspiring young girls to see themselves as coders and future technological leaders." Gajre explained, "We hope to catch them early on, before they build any stereotypes about (science, technology, engineering and math-related) fields."

Summer Course Aims To Address Iowa's Construction Workforce Shortage.

The AP (4/22) reports the Home Builders Association is hoping to mitigate the impact of Iowa's construction worker shortage by "reviving what used to be an annual activity in Iowa City Community School District: building a house with students." HBA partnered "with Kirkwood Community College to offer a summer course where students help construct a house," and "HBA members have also committed to funding the cost for students in ICCSD who want to take the class and get the college credit." Participating students "will shadow McCreedy Ruth Construction while building a group home with Reach for Your Potential, a nonprofit that provides homes for adults with disabilities." ICCSD board member Phil Hemingway, "who pushed for the program," said that a similar program that ended over funding concerns "was considered a model program for home-building in high schools across the state." Amid an agricultural worker shortage, he successfully advocated for agricultural education courses that will allow students to participate in FFA.

North Dakota State University "Cyber-Range" Class Profiled.

The AP (4/21) profiled Terry Traylor, "a major in the U.S. Marine Corps" who teaches "at North Dakota State University in Fargo as an unpaid volunteer with the NDSU Institute for Cyber Security Education and Research." Traylor is "excited to bring some of the skills honed in the military to an academic setting where he works with associate professor Jeremy Straub to blend knowledge and know how." He explained, "Normally to get this type of training you have to go to one of the military's post-graduate schools." The AP says Traylor's classroom is not typical, "it's a cyber-range, a place where students can attack computer networks and fend off attacks from hackers in a controlled environment." A growing number of American universities, including Metropolitan State University, "are building these cyber-rangers." MSU is the first university in Minnesota to offer a cyber-range, and it "is also developing MN Cyber, a place where professionals can get top-level cybersecurity training."

Higher Education Expert: Workforce Needs More Graduates With Communications Skills, Not STEM Skills.

In a piece for the Washington Post (4/20, Selingo), higher education author Jeffrey J. Selingo acknowledged the need for college graduates with degrees in "software programming or artificial intelligence, or anything to do with the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math)." While those "skills are still desired by employers," Selingo wrote, "a skill far more in demand is the ability to communicate." A LinkedIn analysis, for example, "found a shortage of 1.4 million people with communications skills compared with a deficit of 472,000 with software development skills." Still, Selingo argued, the American "education system – especially beginning in middle and high schools when teaching to the test tends to crowd out the project-based and play-based learning of elementary schools – rarely emphasizes development of the soft skills."

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AP Analysis: Mississippi Task Force To Determine Purpose Of Standardized Testing.

An AP (4/22) analysis says “a new testing task force that Mississippi state Superintendent Carey Wright announced last week” will determine “how many and what kinds of tests students are taking at the state and district levels, recommend ways to ‘streamline’ testing and recommend best practices.” The AP says that state “leaders might do well to first question what those tests are supposed to accomplish,” like “how a school or district is doing corporately, how a student is doing,” or something else. A recent Mississippi First study found “students in some low-performing schools may spend so much time getting ready for high-stakes state tests that teachers don’t teach new material for a significant portion of the school year.” Meanwhile, state Rep. Tom Miles is leading efforts to replace standardized high school tests with the ACT exam, which opponents say would not “measure what Mississippi students are required to learn, especially in history and biology.”

Arizona Teachers To Go On Strike Next Week.

The Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports Arizona educators voted late Thursday to go on strike next week. They are demanding a 20 percent pay raise and an increase in state education funding. The New York Times (4/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) says that “the spread of the protests to Arizona from West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky, all Republican-dominated states with weak public sector unions, signaled the depth of frustration from teachers and parents over years of education budget cuts.” The Times adds “the vote in Arizona followed weeks of protest across the state and promises from the governor to raise salaries.”

Study: No Link Between Arizona District Administrative Spending, Teacher Pay.

The Arizona Daily Star (4/22) reports that as Arizona state policymakers consider responding to teacher protests, “some conservatives and their allies have pointed to bloated administration costs as a reason teachers in Arizona have among the worst pay in the nation.” However, “an Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting analysis of school district spending data compiled by the Arizona Auditor General’s Office shows no correlation between how much a school district spends on administration and how it pays its teachers.”

Data Show Largest Level Of Teacher Dissension Since 1993.

The Wall Street Journal (4/22, Gillers, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports that the US is seeing the greatest level of teacher protest since 1993, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data on large work stoppages. While strikes have often taken place over the years, most have been at the local or school district level; this year’s massive state-level teacher strikes are unusual. So far, there have been major actions in Arizona, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

Oklahoma Education Association President Calls Walkout A Victory.

The Oklahoman (4/22) reports that Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest announced on April 12 that “her organization was calling for an end to a teacher walkout,” which began nearly two weeks earlier “to advocate for more education funding.” She “claimed a victory” but “struggled to answer media questions about why the walkout had lasted as long as it did and why the organization was giving in now.” State lawmakers accused OEA “of moving the goalposts on its demands and extending the walkout too long,” and some educators “responded to their call for an end by dropping their membership.” Priest, however, maintained that 300 new members signed up in the last month. “While there are various views on how successful the walkout was, the past few weeks represented a heightened level of advocacy from teachers,” the Oklahoman says, adding that the “moment embodied both the power and limitations a teachers union can have in attempting to corral a grassroots movement.”

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Alaska's Displaced Teacher System Draws Criticism.

The AP (4/21) reported on Alaska's so-called "pink slip season," when teachers are laid off – a decision that "attracts most of the attention when education loyalists argue for funding" – or involuntarily transferred, or "'displaced." Affected teachers are "generally are the latest hired, said Tim Parker, president of the National Education Association-Alaska Chapter," meaning they "could get lost in the 'last-hired-first fired' criteria," according to critics. The method for reassigning displaced teachers "occurs in tight budget years, after dozens of pink slips were sent out and student needs shift." Parker "said the bid process for acquiring a teacher might pit one principal against another principal who both want the same teacher, so using the term 'bid' to describe the process isn't inaccurate." Yet, the AP says, it is unclear what "kind of bargaining they do to get the credentialed teacher they want." Teachers who have been displaced multiple times also expressed to the AP the uncertainties, frustrations, and lack of clarity in the process.

Colorado State Lawmakers Weigh Bill To Punish Teachers Who Go On Strike.

On its website, KMGH-TV Denver (4/22) reports that ahead of a planned teacher walkout, Colorado state senators introduced a bill that would prohibit such strikes "by authorizing school districts to seek an injunction from district court." Teachers who fail to comply could be held in contempt of court, fined, and imprisoned for "up to six months in county jail." Additionally, the measure would direct "school districts to fire teachers on the spot without a proper hearing if they're found in contempt of court and also bans public school teachers from getting paid 'for any day which the public school teacher participates in a strike.'" Colorado is currently "underfunding schools by more than $800 million each year, and the teacher shortage and education budget shortage are hitting rural schools hardest." While some additional funds have been allocated to pay down the figure, Democratic state lawmakers "have argued it's not enough."

OPERATIONS

Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.

Chalkbeat (4/20) reports Republican leaders in the Indiana legislature are "planning to re-introduce a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts" next month. The bill's supporters say it would "give control of Muncie schools to Ball State University and strip power from the Gary school board," and that it "creates opportunities for both districts to get on the right track after years of poor decision-making around finances." However, "Democrats strongly oppose the takeovers."

New York District Ramps Up Attendance Efforts.

The Schenectady (NY) Daily Gazette (4/22) reports on efforts by educators in Schenectady, New York to encourage improved attendance, including recognizing students with perfect attendance, and posting "daily attendance on the school's electronic marquee outside. It is a public statement of how well, or poorly, the school community is doing at getting kids to class."

Houston District Trustees Slated To Vote On Controversial Partnership Proposal.

The Houston Chronicle (4/22, Carpenter) reports Houston Independent School District's "long-awaited proposal" to "temporarily surrender control over 10 of its lowest-performing schools" has received "mixed reviews" ahead of a vote Tuesday. Houston Federation of Teachers president Zeph Capo "blasted the proposal to allow Energized For

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STEM Academy to run all 10 schools as ill-conceived and hastily arranged, saying he has 'no confidence that this is in the best interest of children.'" He "added that residents and local education advocates, including his union, haven't had enough time to vet Energized For STEM Academy for possible improper ties to for-profit entities or other conflicts of interest." Board of Trustees president Rhonda Skillern-Jones, meanwhile, "defended the arrangement as 'the best choice of all the bad choices' available to HISD, which faces forced campus closures or a state takeover of its locally elected school board without a partnership." The Chronicle says it is unclear whether the trustees will vote in favor of the proposal.

Independent Watchdog Poised To Rebuild Trust In Scandal-Afflicted DC Public Schools.

The Washington Post (4/22, Stein) reports DC Council member Mary Cheh "introduced legislation that would establish" an independent research advisory board "focused on education data and rebuilding trust in the District's public schools" as "they emerge from a torrent of scandals." Her "proposal follows a city-commissioned report released this year that found one in three D.C. high school graduates in 2017 did not meet city requirements to earn their diplomas." According to Cheh, "if the board she is proposing had existed, it would have flagged inconsistencies between poor student attendance rates and rising graduation numbers." Most council members "endorsed the legislation," so there will be "enough votes to pass the legislation and override a potential mayoral veto." EmpowerK12 executive director Josh Boots "said the creation of a research watchdog is promising, but he thinks it needs to focus on smaller tasks." The proposed "audit of 20 years of data, he said, could be a colossal and unproductive task."

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.

The Washington Post (4/21, Phillips) reports that as Sky Bouche, 19, "was being taken to jail that Friday evening, hours after authorities said he drove to a high school in Ocala, Fla., carrying a shotgun hidden in a guitar case" and "shot one round from his sawed-off shotgun through a classroom door, injuring one student, investigators said," Bouche told reporters that he was "sorry" to the wounded Forest High School student. The Post says that according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, "Bouche is facing several charges, including terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm on school property." The Post adds "Bouche, in a jailhouse interview with the Ocala Star Banner, said that he bought the shotgun without a background check from a private seller online a week after the Parkland massacre. Shooting, he said, was his only way out of a violent home life."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.**
- **Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.**
- **Newark Working On Upgrading CTE Programs.**
- **Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout.**
- **Kansas AG Presents School Funding Bill To State Supreme Court.**

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LEADING THE NEWS

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Omaha-Area Coding Camp Seeks To Inspire Girls To Pursue STEM.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (4/21) reported that on Saturday, ACI Worldwide hosted its fourth annual Coding for Girls Camp for Omaha-area middle school girls. In remarks to "a room full of 17 young girls," ACI Worldwide senior vice president Shelly Ahlers "talked about her experiences as a woman in a technological career" and "discussed how her computer science experience landed her a job at ACI right out of college." ACI Worldwide senior recruiter Sampy Gajre "said she hopes that coding camps can start to change those numbers by inspiring young girls to see themselves as coders and future technological leaders." Gajre explained, "We hope to catch them early on, before they build any stereotypes about (science, technology, engineering and math-related) fields."

Summer Course Aims To Address Iowa's Construction Workforce Shortage.

The AP (4/22) reports the Home Builders Association is hoping to mitigate the impact of Iowa's construction worker shortage by "reviving what used to be an annual activity in Iowa City Community School District: building a house with students." HBA partnered "with Kirkwood Community College to offer a summer course where students help construct a house," and "HBA members have also committed to funding the cost for students in ICCSD who want to take the class and get the college credit." Participating students "will shadow McCreedy Ruth Construction while building a group home with Reach for Your Potential, a nonprofit that provides homes for adults with disabilities." ICCSD board member Phil Hemingway, "who pushed for the program," said that a similar program that ended over funding concerns "was considered a model program for home-building in high schools across the state." Amid an agricultural worker shortage, he successfully advocated for agricultural education courses that will allow students to participate in FFA.

North Dakota State University "Cyber-Range" Class Profiled.

The AP (4/21) profiled Terry Traylor, "a major in the U.S. Marine Corps" who teaches "at North Dakota State University in Fargo as an unpaid volunteer with the NDSU Institute for Cyber Security Education and Research." Traylor is "excited to bring some of the skills honed in the military to an academic setting where he works with associate professor Jeremy Straub to blend knowledge and know how." He explained, "Normally to get this type of training you have to go to one of the military's post-graduate schools." The AP says Traylor's classroom is not typical, "it's a cyber-range, a place where students can attack computer networks and fend off attacks from hackers in a controlled environment." A growing number of American universities, including Metropolitan State University, "are building these cyber-rangers." MSU is the first university in Minnesota to offer a cyber-range, and it "is also developing MN Cyber, a place where professionals can get top-level cybersecurity training."

Higher Education Expert: Workforce Needs More Graduates With Communications Skills, Not STEM Skills.

In a piece for the Washington Post (4/20, Selingo), higher education author Jeffrey J. Selingo acknowledged the need for college graduates with degrees in "software programming or artificial intelligence, or anything to do with the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math)." While those "skills are still desired by employers," Selingo wrote, "a skill far more in demand is the ability to communicate." A LinkedIn analysis, for example, "found a shortage of 1.4 million people with communications skills compared with a deficit of 472,000 with software development skills." Still, Selingo argued, the American "education system – especially beginning in middle and high schools when teaching to the test tends to crowd out the project-based and play-based learning of elementary schools – rarely emphasizes development of the soft skills."

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AP Analysis: Mississippi Task Force To Determine Purpose Of Standardized Testing.

An AP (4/22) analysis says “a new testing task force that Mississippi state Superintendent Carey Wright announced last week” will determine “how many and what kinds of tests students are taking at the state and district levels, recommend ways to ‘streamline’ testing and recommend best practices.” The AP says that state “leaders might do well to first question what those tests are supposed to accomplish,” like “how a school or district is doing corporately, how a student is doing,” or something else. A recent Mississippi First study found “students in some low-performing schools may spend so much time getting ready for high-stakes state tests that teachers don’t teach new material for a significant portion of the school year.” Meanwhile, state Rep. Tom Miles is leading efforts to replace standardized high school tests with the ACT exam, which opponents say would not “measure what Mississippi students are required to learn, especially in history and biology.”

Arizona Teachers To Go On Strike Next Week.

The Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports Arizona educators voted late Thursday to go on strike next week. They are demanding a 20 percent pay raise and an increase in state education funding. The New York Times (4/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) says that “the spread of the protests to Arizona from West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky, all Republican-dominated states with weak public sector unions, signaled the depth of frustration from teachers and parents over years of education budget cuts.” The Times adds “the vote in Arizona followed weeks of protest across the state and promises from the governor to raise salaries.”

Study: No Link Between Arizona District Administrative Spending, Teacher Pay.

The Arizona Daily Star (4/22) reports that as Arizona state policymakers consider responding to teacher protests, “some conservatives and their allies have pointed to bloated administration costs as a reason teachers in Arizona have among the worst pay in the nation.” However, “an Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting analysis of school district spending data compiled by the Arizona Auditor General’s Office shows no correlation between how much a school district spends on administration and how it pays its teachers.”

Data Show Largest Level Of Teacher Dissension Since 1993.

The Wall Street Journal (4/22, Gillers, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports that the US is seeing the greatest level of teacher protest since 1993, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data on large work stoppages. While strikes have often taken place over the years, most have been at the local or school district level; this year’s massive state-level teacher strikes are unusual. So far, there have been major actions in Arizona, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

Oklahoma Education Association President Calls Walkout A Victory.

The Oklahoman (4/22) reports that Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest announced on April 12 that “her organization was calling for an end to a teacher walkout,” which began nearly two weeks earlier “to advocate for more education funding.” She “claimed a victory” but “struggled to answer media questions about why the walkout had lasted as long as it did and why the organization was giving in now.” State lawmakers accused OEA “of moving the goalposts on its demands and extending the walkout too long,” and some educators “responded to their call for an end by dropping their membership.” Priest, however, maintained that 300 new members signed up in the last month. “While there are various views on how successful the walkout was, the past few weeks represented a heightened level of advocacy from teachers,” the Oklahoman says, adding that the “moment embodied both the power and limitations a teachers union can have in attempting to corral a grassroots movement.”

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Alaska's Displaced Teacher System Draws Criticism.

The AP (4/21) reported on Alaska's so-called "pink slip season," when teachers are laid off – a decision that "attracts most of the attention when education loyalists argue for funding" – or involuntarily transferred, or "'displaced." Affected teachers are "generally are the latest hired, said Tim Parker, president of the National Education Association-Alaska Chapter," meaning they "could get lost in the 'last-hired-first fired' criteria," according to critics. The method for reassigning displaced teachers "occurs in tight budget years, after dozens of pink slips were sent out and student needs shift." Parker "said the bid process for acquiring a teacher might pit one principal against another principal who both want the same teacher, so using the term 'bid' to describe the process isn't inaccurate." Yet, the AP says, it is unclear what "kind of bargaining they do to get the credentialed teacher they want." Teachers who have been displaced multiple times also expressed to the AP the uncertainties, frustrations, and lack of clarity in the process.

Colorado State Lawmakers Weigh Bill To Punish Teachers Who Go On Strike.

On its website, KMGH-TV Denver (4/22) reports that ahead of a planned teacher walkout, Colorado state senators introduced a bill that would prohibit such strikes "by authorizing school districts to seek an injunction from district court." Teachers who fail to comply could be held in contempt of court, fined, and imprisoned for "up to six months in county jail." Additionally, the measure would direct "school districts to fire teachers on the spot without a proper hearing if they're found in contempt of court and also bans public school teachers from getting paid 'for any day which the public school teacher participates in a strike.'" Colorado is currently "underfunding schools by more than $800 million each year, and the teacher shortage and education budget shortage are hitting rural schools hardest." While some additional funds have been allocated to pay down the figure, Democratic state lawmakers "have argued it's not enough."

OPERATIONS

Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.

Chalkbeat (4/20) reports Republican leaders in the Indiana legislature are "planning to re-introduce a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts" next month. The bill's supporters say it would "give control of Muncie schools to Ball State University and strip power from the Gary school board," and that it "creates opportunities for both districts to get on the right track after years of poor decision-making around finances." However, "Democrats strongly oppose the takeovers."

New York District Ramps Up Attendance Efforts.

The Schenectady (NY) Daily Gazette (4/22) reports on efforts by educators in Schenectady, New York to encourage improved attendance, including recognizing students with perfect attendance, and posting "daily attendance on the school's electronic marquee outside. It is a public statement of how well, or poorly, the school community is doing at getting kids to class."

Houston District Trustees Slated To Vote On Controversial Partnership Proposal.

The Houston Chronicle (4/22, Carpenter) reports Houston Independent School District's "long-awaited proposal" to "temporarily surrender control over 10 of its lowest-performing schools" has received "mixed reviews" ahead of a vote Tuesday. Houston Federation of Teachers president Zeph Capo "blasted the proposal to allow Energized For

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STEM Academy to run all 10 schools as ill-conceived and hastily arranged, saying he has 'no confidence that this is in the best interest of children.'" He "added that residents and local education advocates, including his union, haven't had enough time to vet Energized For STEM Academy for possible improper ties to for-profit entities or other conflicts of interest." Board of Trustees president Rhonda Skillern-Jones, meanwhile, "defended the arrangement as 'the best choice of all the bad choices' available to HISD, which faces forced campus closures or a state takeover of its locally elected school board without a partnership." The Chronicle says it is unclear whether the trustees will vote in favor of the proposal.

Independent Watchdog Poised To Rebuild Trust In Scandal-Afflicted DC Public Schools.

The Washington Post (4/22, Stein) reports DC Council member Mary Cheh "introduced legislation that would establish" an independent research advisory board "focused on education data and rebuilding trust in the District's public schools" as "they emerge from a torrent of scandals." Her "proposal follows a city-commissioned report released this year that found one in three D.C. high school graduates in 2017 did not meet city requirements to earn their diplomas." According to Cheh, "if the board she is proposing had existed, it would have flagged inconsistencies between poor student attendance rates and rising graduation numbers." Most council members "endorsed the legislation," so there will be "enough votes to pass the legislation and override a potential mayoral veto." EmpowerK12 executive director Josh Boots "said the creation of a research watchdog is promising, but he thinks it needs to focus on smaller tasks." The proposed "audit of 20 years of data, he said, could be a colossal and unproductive task."

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.

The Washington Post (4/21, Phillips) reports that as Sky Bouche, 19, "was being taken to jail that Friday evening, hours after authorities said he drove to a high school in Ocala, Fla., carrying a shotgun hidden in a guitar case" and "shot one round from his sawed-off shotgun through a classroom door, injuring one student, investigators said," Bouche told reporters that he was "sorry" to the wounded Forest High School student. The Post says that according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, "Bouche is facing several charges, including terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm on school property." The Post adds "Bouche, in a jailhouse interview with the Ocala Star Banner, said that he bought the shotgun without a background check from a private seller online a week after the Parkland massacre. Shooting, he said, was his only way out of a violent home life."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.**
- **Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.**
- **Newark Working On Upgrading CTE Programs.**
- **Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout.**
- **Kansas AG Presents School Funding Bill To State Supreme Court.**

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Good morning Cindy Romero April 23, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (4/20, Lang, Heim, Rozsa) reports "several hundred students left their schools Friday morning and staged a vigil outside the White House" as part of nationwide walkouts "calling for an end to gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the school shooting in Columbine, Colo., an event that marked the start of an era of deadly school rampages." The Post adds the walkouts "signaled the resolve of students who continue to demand action on gun control measures and to remember victims of school shootings, including the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida." However, the Post says "the events Friday were more muted, missing some of the adrenaline and exuberance that had propelled hundreds of thousands of students through the previous protests."

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OPERATIONS

Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.

Chalkbeat (4/20) reports Republican leaders in the Indiana legislature are "planning to re-introduce a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts" next month. The bill's supporters say it would "give control of Muncie schools to Ball State University and strip power from the Gary school board," and that it "creates opportunities for both districts to get on the right track after years of poor decision-making around finances." However, "Democrats strongly oppose the takeovers."

New York District Ramps Up Attendance Efforts.

The Schenectady (NY) Daily Gazette (4/22) reports on efforts by educators in Schenectady, New York to encourage improved attendance, including recognizing students with perfect attendance, and posting "daily attendance on the school's electronic marquee outside. It is a public statement of how well, or poorly, the school community is doing at getting kids to class."

Houston District Trustees Slated To Vote On Controversial Partnership Proposal.

The Houston Chronicle (4/22, Carpenter) reports Houston Independent School District's "long-awaited proposal" to "temporarily surrender control over 10 of its lowest-performing schools" has received "mixed reviews" ahead of a vote Tuesday. Houston Federation of Teachers president Zeph Capo "blasted the proposal to allow Energized For

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STEM Academy to run all 10 schools as ill-conceived and hastily arranged, saying he has 'no confidence that this is in the best interest of children.'" He "added that residents and local education advocates, including his union, haven't had enough time to vet Energized For STEM Academy for possible improper ties to for-profit entities or other conflicts of interest." Board of Trustees president Rhonda Skillern-Jones, meanwhile, "defended the arrangement as 'the best choice of all the bad choices' available to HISD, which faces forced campus closures or a state takeover of its locally elected school board without a partnership." The Chronicle says it is unclear whether the trustees will vote in favor of the proposal.

Independent Watchdog Poised To Rebuild Trust In Scandal-Afflicted DC Public Schools.

The Washington Post (4/22, Stein) reports DC Council member Mary Cheh "introduced legislation that would establish" an independent research advisory board "focused on education data and rebuilding trust in the District's public schools" as "they emerge from a torrent of scandals." Her "proposal follows a city-commissioned report released this year that found one in three D.C. high school graduates in 2017 did not meet city requirements to earn their diplomas." According to Cheh, "if the board she is proposing had existed, it would have flagged inconsistencies between poor student attendance rates and rising graduation numbers." Most council members "endorsed the legislation," so there will be "enough votes to pass the legislation and override a potential mayoral veto." EmpowerK12 executive director Josh Boots "said the creation of a research watchdog is promising, but he thinks it needs to focus on smaller tasks." The proposed "audit of 20 years of data, he said, could be a colossal and unproductive task."

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.

The Washington Post (4/21, Phillips) reports that as Sky Bouche, 19, "was being taken to jail that Friday evening, hours after authorities said he drove to a high school in Ocala, Fla., carrying a shotgun hidden in a guitar case" and "shot one round from his sawed-off shotgun through a classroom door, injuring one student, investigators said," Bouche told reporters that he was "sorry" to the wounded Forest High School student. The Post says that according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, "Bouche is facing several charges, including terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm on school property." The Post adds "Bouche, in a jailhouse interview with the Ocala Star Banner, said that he bought the shotgun without a background check from a private seller online a week after the Parkland massacre. Shooting, he said, was his only way out of a violent home life."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.**
- **Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.**
- **Newark Working On Upgrading CTE Programs.**
- **Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout.**
- **Kansas AG Presents School Funding Bill To State Supreme Court.**

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Sent Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 05:36:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup April 23, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (4/20, Lang, Heim, Rozsa) reports "several hundred students left their schools Friday morning and staged a vigil outside the White House" as part of nationwide walkouts "calling for an end to gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the school shooting in Columbine, Colo., an event that marked the start of an era of deadly school rampages." The Post adds the walkouts "signaled the resolve of students who continue to demand action on gun control measures and to remember victims of school shootings, including the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida." However, the Post says "the events Friday were more muted, missing some of the adrenaline and exuberance that had propelled hundreds of thousands of students through the previous protests."

NBC Nightly News' (4/20, story 5, 1:55, Holt) Gabe Gutierrez said "from Atlanta to Philadelphia to Chicago," students engaged in "another wave of powerful protests," which the Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hobbs, Brody, Subscription Publication) says also included demonstrations in New York City.

The New York Times (4/20, Times, Subscription Publication) says that the rallies were "the third nationally organized student protest in the two months" since the Parkland shooting, but on the CBS Evening News (4/20, story 5, 2:05, Glor), Jericka Duncan acknowledged Florida and Vermont are the only states that "strengthened gun legislation" since February, and "at the federal level, not much has changed."

Meanwhile, ABC World News Tonight's (4/20, story 4, 1:35, Muir) Steve Osunsami reported "students at Forest High School in Central Florida were just about to join their peers across the country walking out of school to protest gun violence, when the issue hit home. Just after 8:30 a.m. police say that 19-year-old Sky Bouche, who didn't

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attend classes here, managed to get into the main building with a gun and opened fire on a 17-year-old student." Osunsami added "police report that the student who was shot did not suffer any life-threatening wounds." The Washington Post (4/20, Wootson) reports Sheriff Billy Woods "said the shooter – a 19-year-old who was not a student – was taken into custody and "offered no resistance" to responding officers. Investigators haven't released the man's identity or given details about his suspected motive."

Broward Deputies To Hold "No Confidence" Vote In Sheriff Next Week Over Parkland Shooting. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/20, O'Matz) reports "upset with Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, members of a union of rank-and-file deputies will vote electronically over the next week on whether they have faith in his leadership." According to the Sun Sentinel, "the so-called 'no confidence' vote, slated to begin tonight, is a first for the office."

After Parkland, Gun Control Advocates Embrace Voter Registration In Bid To Enact Policy Changes. The Washington Post (4/21, Zezima) reports "the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February sparked a renewed interest in gun control," and leaders of the movement are now "hoping the momentum from the March for Our Lives movement will lead to a more enduring next phase: getting young people to the voting booth in November, an effort to change not just policy in Washington, but the people who set it." The Post says groups nationwide have begun "hosting voter drives at high schools and colleges, including during widespread school walkouts on Friday, the anniversary of the 1999 massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School."

Texas Sixth-Grader Struck, Killed By Car During Gun Violence Walkout. The Dallas Morning News (4/22, Branham) reports an 11-year-old Texas sixth-grader "was hit by a car and killed when he attempted to walk across a highway" after leaving school "during national student walkouts Friday." The student "was struck while leaving Parkland Middle School in El Paso during the walkout, but he was not participating in it, Ysleta Independent School District Superintendent Xavier De La Torre said at a news conference."

El Paso (TX) Times (4/21, Borunda) reports that De La Torre "said the boy was with a group of about 12 to 15 students who used the National School Walkout as a way to leave Parkland Middle to go to a park."

POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.

Education Week (4/20) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "met with Pentagon officials Thursday to talk about...extending school choice to the children of military personnel." The piece says that Impact Aid districts are concerned that "the Trump administration is planning to put its muscle behind a bill sponsored by Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., and Sens. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., and Tim Scott, R-S.C." However, DeVos "has not endorsed the bill publicly, and she did not discuss it or any other specific proposals in the meeting. Instead, they talked about school choice for military personnel more generally, a department official said."

Politico Morning Education (4/20, Leonor) reports DeVos "is broadly supportive of school choice for military families and in particular has backed the notion of providing them with education savings accounts, which families can use to help pay for private school tuition, tutoring services, online courses and more." The piece reports the Banks bill "would do just that, drawing on dollars through the Impact Aid program as a funding stream. But DeVos hasn't publicly endorsed that specific proposal. And while she met with Department of Defense officials this week – stoking concerns that she's hoping to garner support for such a plan – specific legislation wasn't discussed at the meeting, an Education Department official told Morning Education."

Spellings Addresses State Of Leadership, Bipartisanship In Education Reform.

Politico Morning Education (4/20, Leonor) reports on an interview with UNC President and former Education

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Secretary Margaret Spellings, who said she thinks there is a “leadership vacuum” in the education reform movement. The piece quotes Spellings saying, “I’m just observing that when we make progress and when we’re coming together and doing bipartisan things, there’s a cast of characters across the political spectrum that work together and put some skin in the game and their necks on the line or whatever metaphor you want to use and we move the needle. So, in my case, during the No Child Left Behind era, that’s Michael Bloomberg and Jeb Bush and George W. Bush and [former North Carolina] Gov. [Jim] Hunt and Michelle Rhee and Joel Klein and Kevin Johnson and Wendy Kopp — a cast of characters that was pretty significant, and I’m hard-pressed to name who those folks are now.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.

The AP (4/21) reports Great Hearts Monte Vista, a charter school San Antonio, “apologized after a teacher asked students in an eighth grade American history class to list the positive and negative aspects of slavery.” According to the AP, the teacher “who distributed the worksheet titled ‘The Life of Slaves: A Balanced View’ was placed on leave and the school said it would audit the textbook associated with the lesson, said Aaron Kindel, the superintendent of Great Hearts Texas, which operates 28 public charter schools in Texas and Arizona.” In a statement, Kindel said, “To be clear, there is no debate about slavery. It is immoral and a crime against humanity.” The AP adds that “Scott Overland, a spokesman for Pearson, which published the textbook, said the company didn’t create and doesn’t endorse the worksheet assigned to the students, KENS-TV reported.”

Commentary Urges Retired STEM Professionals To Go Into Teaching.

In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (4/22, Subscription Publication), Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Encore.org and chairman of the Generation to Generation campaign, writes about Now Teach, a program started by British business columnist Lucy Kellaway, who retired to go into teaching math. In the US, Hollywood film executive Sherry Lansing has founded the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, which recruits experienced STEM professionals to teach in California schools. Freedman praises the concept of STEM professionals teaching.

Ohio Program Encourages Teachers To Help Students Learn To Avoid Opioid Abuse.

The Washington Post (4/20, Schaaff) reports a “controversial” Ohio plan “is taking the fight against the opioid epidemic into the classroom with a new style of drug-abuse-prevention education.” The plan “features lessons that begin in kindergarten. Instead of relying on scare tactics about drug use or campaigns that recite facts about drugs’ toll on the body, teachers are encouraged to discuss real-life situations and ways to deal with them and to build the social and emotional skills that experts say can reduce the risk of substance abuse.”

FIRST World Championship Highlights Robotics Program’s Growing Popularity In Michigan.

Under the headline “The Robots Are Coming – Really,” Crain’s Detroit Business (4/22, Livengood) reports “more than 35,000 students, parents and team coaches” will convene Wednesday “at Ford Field and Cobo Center” in Detroit for the FIRST Robotics World Championship. The event “has turned robot-building into a team sport in high schools across Michigan,” and this week’s event “and spotlight on Detroit underscores the growing popularity of an extracurricular activity seen by many potential employers as a critical way to expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math.” The FIRST program “has created a pipeline of young talent that companies like DTE, General Motors Co. and Magna Seating have been tapping in recent years for engineering, problem-solving,

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OPERATIONS

Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.

Chalkbeat (4/20) reports Republican leaders in the Indiana legislature are "planning to re-introduce a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts" next month. The bill's supporters say it would "give control of Muncie schools to Ball State University and strip power from the Gary school board," and that it "creates opportunities for both districts to get on the right track after years of poor decision-making around finances." However, "Democrats strongly oppose the takeovers."

New York District Ramps Up Attendance Efforts.

The Schenectady (NY) Daily Gazette (4/22) reports on efforts by educators in Schenectady, New York to encourage improved attendance, including recognizing students with perfect attendance, and posting "daily attendance on the school's electronic marquee outside. It is a public statement of how well, or poorly, the school community is doing at getting kids to class."

Houston District Trustees Slated To Vote On Controversial Partnership Proposal.

The Houston Chronicle (4/22, Carpenter) reports Houston Independent School District's "long-awaited proposal" to "temporarily surrender control over 10 of its lowest-performing schools" has received "mixed reviews" ahead of a vote Tuesday. Houston Federation of Teachers president Zeph Capo "blasted the proposal to allow Energized For

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STEM Academy to run all 10 schools as ill-conceived and hastily arranged, saying he has 'no confidence that this is in the best interest of children.'" He "added that residents and local education advocates, including his union, haven't had enough time to vet Energized For STEM Academy for possible improper ties to for-profit entities or other conflicts of interest." Board of Trustees president Rhonda Skillern-Jones, meanwhile, "defended the arrangement as 'the best choice of all the bad choices' available to HISD, which faces forced campus closures or a state takeover of its locally elected school board without a partnership." The Chronicle says it is unclear whether the trustees will vote in favor of the proposal.

Independent Watchdog Poised To Rebuild Trust In Scandal-Afflicted DC Public Schools.

The Washington Post (4/22, Stein) reports DC Council member Mary Cheh "introduced legislation that would establish" an independent research advisory board "focused on education data and rebuilding trust in the District's public schools" as "they emerge from a torrent of scandals." Her "proposal follows a city-commissioned report released this year that found one in three D.C. high school graduates in 2017 did not meet city requirements to earn their diplomas." According to Cheh, "if the board she is proposing had existed, it would have flagged inconsistencies between poor student attendance rates and rising graduation numbers." Most council members "endorsed the legislation," so there will be "enough votes to pass the legislation and override a potential mayoral veto." EmpowerK12 executive director Josh Boots "said the creation of a research watchdog is promising, but he thinks it needs to focus on smaller tasks." The proposed "audit of 20 years of data, he said, could be a colossal and unproductive task."

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.

The Washington Post (4/21, Phillips) reports that as Sky Bouche, 19, "was being taken to jail that Friday evening, hours after authorities said he drove to a high school in Ocala, Fla., carrying a shotgun hidden in a guitar case" and "shot one round from his sawed-off shotgun through a classroom door, injuring one student, investigators said," Bouche told reporters that he was "sorry" to the wounded Forest High School student. The Post says that according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office, "Bouche is facing several charges, including terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm and possession of a firearm on school property." The Post adds "Bouche, in a jailhouse interview with the Ocala Star Banner, said that he bought the shotgun without a background check from a private seller online a week after the Parkland massacre. Shooting, he said, was his only way out of a violent home life."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.**
- **Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.**
- **Newark Working On Upgrading CTE Programs.**
- **Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout.**
- **Kansas AG Presents School Funding Bill To State Supreme Court.**

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LEADING THE NEWS

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DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.

NBC Nightly News (3/11, story 2, 0:50, O'Donnell) reported last night that the White House was "beginning to roll out a range of school safety ideas," with "aides" saying "the President will support states and lawmakers who will begin to improve law enforcement information sharing for the background check system – but that does not mean expanding those who are included in the checks." NBC added that plan would also include asking "states to raise gun purchase age requirements for certain weapons," but the Washington Post (3/11, Rucker) later reported the White House "vowed to help provide 'rigorous firearms training' to some schoolteachers and formally endorsed a bill to tighten the federal background checks system, but it backed off...Trump's earlier call to raise the minimum age to purchase some guns." Instead, "officials" said "the president is establishing a Federal Commission on School Safety, to be chaired by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, that will explore possible solutions, such as the age requirement for purchases." DeVos "characterized the administration's efforts as 'a pragmatic plan to dramatically increase school safety,'" while "pressed by reporters about the apparent backtracking" of raising the minimum age to purchase rifles, "a senior administration official said the age issue was 'a state-based discussion right now' and would be explored by DeVos's commission."

The AP (3/11, Colvin) reports DeVos' commission will study raising the age to purchase assault weapons "as well as a long list of others topics, as part of a longer-term look at school safety and violence." The piece quotes DeVos saying, "Today we are announcing meaningful actions, steps that can be taken right away to help protect students." The AP adds DeVos "said that 'far too often, the focus' after such tragedies 'has been only on the most contentious fights, the things that have divided people and sent them into their entrenched corners.' She described the plan as 'pragmatic.'"

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The Washington Times (3/11, Boyer) reports that while the provision is not part of the plan, "Trump still supports raising the age limit for purchasing long guns from 18 to 21."

DeVos: Armed School Staff Should Be Option For States, Districts. In a segment on CBS' 60 Minutes (3/11), DeVos was asked if teachers should have guns in the classroom. DeVos said, "That should be an option for states and communities to consider. And I hesitate to think of, like, my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Zorhoff. I couldn't ever imagine her having a gun and being trained in that way. But for those who are capable, this is one solution that can and should be considered. But, no one size fits all. Every state and every community is going to address this issue in a different way."

The Hill (3/9, Greenwood) reports Education Secretary DeVos in an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" that is set to air on Sunday "said that states should consider arming teachers as a way to protect school campuses from shooters." DeVos asserted "that not all teachers should carry firearms, but 'for those who are capable this is one solution that can and should be considered.'" DeVos added, "Every state and every community is going to address this issue in a different way." The Washington Times (3/11, Richardson) runs a story noting DeVos' comments.

POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.

CBS' 60 Minutes (3/11) reported that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos wanted the job "so she could promote school choice, offering parents options other than traditional public schools, where 90 percent of kids go." DeVos "has proposed massive cuts in public education funding, and wants to shift billions to alternative players like private, parochial and charter schools." DeVos: "We have invested billions and billions and billions of dollars from the federal level, and we have seen zero results." Reminded that "test scores have gone up over the last 25 years," DeVos said, "Well actually, test scores vis-à-vis the rest of the world have not gone up. And we have continued to be middle of the pack at best." DeVos added, "Any family that has the economic means and the power to make choices is doing so for their children. ... I am fighting for the parents who don't have those choices. We need all parents to have those choices."

The Washington Examiner (3/11, Lim) says DeVos "struggled to answer questions regarding school choice, her signature policy and admitted she had not 'intentionally' toured 'underperforming' schools during her tenure." DeVos said, "Well, in places where there have been, where there is, a lot of choice that's been introduced – Florida, for example – the studies show that when there's a large number of students that opt to go to a different school or different schools, the traditional public schools actually, the results get better as well." The Examiner adds that DeVos "could not explain why public schools in her home state of Michigan had not improved when funding had been diverted elsewhere." DeVos said, "I don't know. Overall, I can't say overall that they have all gotten better. ... I hesitate to talk about all schools in general because schools are made up of individual students attending them." She added that she had "not intentionally visited schools that are underperforming."

West Virginia Lawmakers Pass Bill To Eliminate Department Of Education And Arts.

The Hill (3/10, Bowden) reports West Virginia lawmakers on Saturday voted along partisan lines "to dismantle the state's Department of Education and the Arts just days after the longest teachers' strike in the state's history ended." The Hill says Democrats opposed the bill, which "they say will destroy public funding for the arts in the state." The Hill adds that "among other provisions, the bill would eliminate the position of state Secretary of Education and the Arts, which is currently held by Gayle Manchin, wife of Sen. Joe Manchin."

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.

The Oklahoman (3/11) recalls a teacher strike "over low school funding and teacher pay" that was organized by the Oklahoma Education Association in 1990, and says after a "four-day showdown," the state Legislature approved "a series of tax increases that sent new money to teacher salaries and school budgets, along with establishing a variety of education reforms." Nearly three decades later, "Oklahoma educators again face funding and pay challenges that have teachers threatening an April 2 walkout if lawmakers fail to provide more than $800 million in new funding for public schools and state employees next fiscal year." The Oklahoman outlines "key differences" in the strike teachers are preparing for this April and the one in 1990, and examines the "unique challenges, along with unique opportunities," presented by the latest walkout.

In a separate piece, the Oklahoman (3/11, Willert) reports Oklahoma City Public Schools spokeswoman Beth Harrison said if state lawmakers do not approve the new funding and at least 520 of the 2,600 teachers in the district walk out, then OCPS would be compelled to close its doors to students. Harrison explained that "we don't have enough substitutes to ensure there are enough adults in the building to be sure that we have a safe environment for students." That outcome "could mean hardship for parents who work and can't afford day care or rely on nutrition provided by schools." In the meantime, OCPS "and other metro-area districts are working on contingency plans in the event of a walkout." Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy also "announced Friday that it is working with community leaders from across the state to compile a list of organizations that will provide child care and meals during the planned walkout."

Massachusetts High School Awarded STEM Grant.

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/11) reports Nashoba Valley Technical High School was awarded a $20,000 Project Lead the Way grant "to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math programs." It is one of 73 schools in Massachusetts to receive the grant, "which is supported by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as well as the One8 Foundation and Mass STEM Hub." Nashoba Tech is planning to "use the grant to strengthen its existing Programming and Web technical programming by incorporating Project Lead the Way Computer Science." It will also use the funds to "support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based courses."

"Robo Moms" Discuss Involvement In Students' After-School Robotics Activities.

The AP (3/11, Hammerschlag) reports after-school robotics activities have "been credited with drawing children to science and technology fields; mothers tell of little ones staying up into the early morning hours programming and building robots." VEX Robotics and other companies "have cashed in on the trend, selling assembly kits and organizing regional competitions." The AP interviews several mothers of robotics students, with one mother saying she is like a soccer mom, but with more demanding duties. Other so-called "robo moms" told the AP "that in addition to encouraging their children to pursue careers in science and technology, robotics has taught them time management skills and how to solve problems under pressure; they have learned how to be leaders but also how to work as a team."

Nebraska To Implement Computer-Adaptive Assessments This Spring.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/11) reports the Nebraska state Department of Education is replacing the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments with the new, computer-adaptive Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment

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System (NSCAS) tests during the spring testing season, which begins on March 19. The use of computer-adaptive math and English language arts questions is a first for Nebraska, and it constitutes the "latest attempt to find a testing system" that "complies with state and federal testing mandates without burdening students and teachers with excessive testing." State assessment director Valorie Foy said the new format may challenge high-performing students, but "engages our struggling learners, who may have more trouble encountering those very, very difficult test items and may be more frustrated and thus engage in the test less." The test results, which may not be released until this fall, "will still be used for accountability, including the identification of low-performing schools for assistance and intervention."

OPERATIONS

WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/10, A1, Brown, Strauss, Stein) reports that "in the decade after the city dissolved its elected local school board and turned management of the schools over to the mayor, [Michelle] Rhee and her successor, Kaya Henderson, created a system that demanded ever-higher accomplishments," but "with only weak oversight from the D.C. Council and other city education agencies...there was no strong check on any impulse to gloss over shortcomings and pump up numbers." According to the Post, while Rhee had promised to focus on data to determine accountability, "a cascade of D.C. school scandals in recent months has shown that data can sometimes mislead." The Post adds "the revelations – coupled with the resignation of the chancellor after his own personal scandal and, separately, allegations of enrollment fraud at one of the city's most sought-after selective high schools – have shattered the simple narrative of success."

Virginia District Overhauls Curriculum To Close Racial Barriers To Gifted Classes.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/10) reported Chesterfield County Public Schools introduced a curriculum across 39 schools designed to "break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes." During the 2016-17 school year, white students accounted for about 54 percent of the district's student population, but 82 percent of gifted class enrollment, according to a report prepared by a district equity committee. That same year, "African-American students were 27 percent of the total population, but represented 8 percent of gifted enrollment," and "Latino students were 15 percent of the student population, but 4 percent of the gifted enrollment." ED's Office of Civil Rights found that in 2013, the gaps "existed in nearly the same form" in Chesterfield and many neighborhood districts. The equity report, meanwhile, cited another study that attributed the issue to "many advantages that white students have due to the material advantages available to them."

North Dakota District Classrooms Face Anticipated Overcapacity.

The AP (3/11) reports Madan Public Schools in central North Dakota is anticipating an enrollment increase by more than 500 students over the next five years. The "projections indicate student numbers could overwhelm classroom capacity," something MPS superintendent Mike Bitz called "a big concern." The school board is now reviewing options. Bitz said building an addition to the high school, which "is expected to be over capacity by 150 students," may not be possible because of the existing building's age. While another elementary school could be constructed, school board president Tim Rector "says officials want to be careful to avoid overbuilding."

DIGITAL LEARNING

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Alaska Elementary School Experiments With "Screen-Free" Week.

The AP (3/10, Sorensen) reported Nikiski North Star Elementary School in Alaska conducted an experiment, dubbed "Nikiski North Star Unplugged," in which students were "screen-free" for a week. Principal Margaret Gilman said the experiment was launched in hopes of granting students an opportunity to compare learning experiences with and without technology, and overall, it was well received by the students. Gilman also "said she was excited to see how behavior changed without screens, since students would have to be more hands-on and vocal about what they were learning." In fact, many students "said that they found themselves learning more, getting more work done and remembering more of what they were taught in the classroom."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.

The Washington Post (3/8, Berman) reports, "there are many unanswered questions about how law enforcement officials handled warnings about the suspected attacker and the way they responded to the Feb. 14 massacre" at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. There are also "numerous ongoing inquiries from local, state and federal officials." The Post adds, "authorities have acknowledged receiving multiple warnings about Nikolas Cruz," 19, and that has "prompted intense scrutiny of how law enforcement officials handled the red flags." FBI acting deputy director David Bowdich, has "acknowledge[d] that the bureau made a mistake by not investigating a January warning that Cruz could 'get into a school and just shoot the place up.'" The Post adds, "The FBI is still reviewing its handling of" two tips related to Cruz. Fox News (3/9, Diaz) reports on the question of "how the FBI unit that received a tip about the potential shooter in early January failed to pass it along." Fox adds, "Bowdich admitted in a March 6 briefing that 'the caller provided sufficient information to the tip line for the FBI to launch a probe.'"

School Resource Officer Radioed Shots Coming From Inside Building. The AP (3/9, Spencer, Pane) reports, "the school's armed resource officer radioed that shots were coming from the freshman building, but he advised officers to stay back – a seeming failure to follow widely established guidelines to immediately confront the attacker in active shooter situations." The AP adds that the radio message indicates "he almost immediately realized gunshots were being fired inside" the school. The AP also reports, "Broward County Sheriff's Office mass shooting guidelines required him to enter the building and kill or stop the gunman."

Mother Of Student Calls FBI About Threats Posted On Facebook. The AP (3/9) reports Rebecca Boldrick, mother of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student David Hogg, who "has been an outspoken advocate for stricter gun laws," said that "she contacted the FBI this week because threats against her family have continued to appear on Facebook." She said that "her husband is a former FBI agent and carries a gun at all times."

Lawyer Expects To File More Suits On Behalf Of Victims. USA Today (3/11, Bacon) reports Lawyer Alex Arreaza "who filed notice of a lawsuit on behalf of a student shot five times" at the school, "says he expects to be filing legal papers for more families of victims soon." Arreaza said that "evidence increasingly reveals mistakes by the Broward County Sheriff's Office and school district leading up to the" attack. USA adds, "Arreaza pointed to dozens of incidents involving Cruz and law enforcement" and said that "more...should have been done."

Former Agent Faults FBI For Response To Warnings. Kenneth Strange, Jr., who was with the FBI as a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Newark, New Jersey and as Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General in Los Angeles, writes in The Hill (3/9, Strange, Jr.), that Nikolas Cruz "is the one who purchased the weapons" and "murdered 17 people and injured 14 others." Strange also writes that "the community did its part" in reporting that Cruz "was a clear and present danger", but "I give a failing grade to local law enforcement" and to the FBI, because someone "called the FBI to warn that Cruz was unraveling and posed an immediate threat" but that "message apparently sat on the Hotline queue in West Virginia instead of making its way

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back to Florida and the FBI Field Office in Miami."

NRA Files Lawsuit After Scott Signs Florida Gun Control Law.

The New York Times (3/9, A1, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Friday signed into law "requirements to raise the minimum age and waiting period to purchase a gun." The Times calls the law "the most aggressive action on gun control taken in the state in many years." Scott also spoke to a group of families "who had traveled to the State Capitol" from Parkland, Florida, and "called parents and classmates of the slain students his inspiration." He also "praised them for helping persuade lawmakers to pass legislation, even if neither they nor him agreed with all of its provisions."

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication) reports that Scott said he weighed in his decision whether the legislation would improve school safety, whether it would provide more funding for mental-health treatment, and whether it would keep guns away from individuals who should not have access to them. Scott said, "The answer to all three is yes," adding, "That is why I'm signing the legislation today." The Washington Post (3/9, Scherer) reports that Scott also said after the signing, "I am going to do what I think are common sense solutions...I think this is the beginning. There is now going to be a real conversation about how we make our schools safe." The Post adds that Scott, "who is moving toward a U.S. Senate bid against Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson, was critical of the inaction in Washington." However, the Post states that "shortly after Scott signed the law, the NRA filed suit in federal court to block raising the minimum age for purchasing long guns, arguing that the change violates the constitutional rights of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds."

In an analysis, the Washington Post (3/10, Phillips) also examines whether Scott's "new views on gun control [will] be a political pro or con" as he prepares to run for Senate.

The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 5, 0:25, Glor) and NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 7, 0:25, Holt) broadcasts provided similar coverage in brief reports.

Students Planning New Walkouts Over Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (3/10, Heim, Truong, George) reports that "for the second time in a month, students and school leaders in the Washington region are preparing for a school walkout to protest gun violence." In addition, "many more" students "are expected to join actions on their campuses coordinated with school administrators." The Post says school districts in the area "are seeking a middle ground that acknowledges and supports students engaged in protests while ensuring rules are followed and students remain safe."

The AP (3/11) reports administrators at schools across the country are "scrambling to perform a delicate balancing act: How to let thousands of students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school and not pulling administrators into the raging debate over gun control. ... Some have taken a hard line, promising to suspend students who walk out, while others are using a softer approach, working with students to set up places on campus where they can remember the victims of the Florida shooting and express their views about school safety and gun control."

Elementary Schools Plan Student Walkout. The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports elementary schools are planning a nationwide student walkout on March 14 in the name of student safety, to last 17 minutes in honor of each victim of the Parkland, Florida shooting last month. The Journal says schools are struggling to find ways to address the event with such young children.

Brady Campaign Releases Curriculum To Facilitate Student Protests.

USA Today (3/10, Gaudiano) reports the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is "offering a school curriculum" to address next week's planned student walkouts. "The gun-control group's 10-page guide is written to help school

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officials address gun violence as students across the country plan to participate in protests on Wednesday, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla." Brady officials "describe the guide as 'neutral and nonpartisan' in a letter to principals, teachers or school administrators, noting that it proposes no particular policy solutions." However, National Rifle Association spokesman Andrew Arulanandam "called it a 'political white paper on gun control' that he said does nothing to keep students safe."

Stoneman Douglas Junior Visited White House During Washington, DC Tour.

The Washington Post (3/9, Zak) reports on Stoneman Douglas junior Kyle Kashuv's trip to Washington, DC this week, where had meetings with "five senators, the Speaker of the House, the counselor to the president, and then a special surprise at the White House." The Post says Kashuv is "fiercely fixated on the middle ground" on the issue of gun control. During his meeting with President Trump, which was "over in five minutes," Trump "asked about his classmates" and Kashuv "talked about his app idea."

Indiana Governor Requests Funds For School Security Grants.

The Indianapolis Star (3/9, Herron, Cook) reports that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb "is asking the Indiana legislature for an extra $5 million for school security grants." Holcomb "requested the additional money for the Indiana Secured School Safety Fund, which provides matching grants to schools to hire school resource officers and purchase equipment to bolster school security." The Star says the request is "the first major move the state has taken toward bolstering safety in schools since" the shooting in Parkland, Florida.

AP Analysis Finds NRA Has Increased Grants To Schools.

An AP (3/9, Binkley, Hoyer) analysis of the National Rifle Association's public tax records shows that the NRA "has dramatically increased its funding to schools in recent years amid a national debate over guns and school violence." The article provides further detail on the analysis, and says that few schools "say they plan to give up the money in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting."

Parkland Students Turn Grief Into Song.

The AP (3/10) reports that a few days after the Parkland massacre, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students Sawyer Garrity and Andrea Peña began collaborating on a song they called "Shine" as a method of expressing their grief. Soon after, "Sawyer and Andrea were standing on a stage at the BB&T Center performing the song live in front of 7,000 people. They were the closing act for CNN's Town Hall Meeting on the shooting. Millions of viewers were tuned in."

Kansas Republicans' School Safety Plan Draws Criticism.

The AP (3/10, Hanna, Writer) reports a bill "to mandate safety standards for schools and provide state funds to school districts for training and security upgrades" floated by Republicans in the Kansas legislature is facing criticism from "educators and other legislators" who "say the new spending is not enough and argue that the House GOP leaders who drafted the plan are ducking a core issue by not proposing gun control measures."

Florida Governor Signs Bill Giving Vouchers To Bullied Students.

The AP (3/11, Fineout) reports Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) on Sunday signed a bill to "create the nation's first ever private school voucher program for bullied students." The sweeping legislation also "requires all Florida schools to display the words 'In God We Trust' on school grounds and that Florida teacher union must go through a

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recertification process if membership levels fall beneath a certain threshold."

Study: Many Teachers Fail To Report Student Attacks.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/11) reports Ohio State University Department of Educational Studies chairman Eric Anderman led a nationwide study that found nearly one in five teachers who were physically or verbally attacked by students declined to notify school administrators, and one in four said "they didn't even tell family members." The study, published online by the journal Social Psychology of Education on Tuesday, specifically examined "how teachers react to attacks: whether their emotional response and what they feel is to blame for the violence influences the way the attack is ultimately handled." The National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers urged their members to respond. Of the nearly 3,500 teachers who did, 2,505 from 48 states reported incidents. Since student attacks and how they are handled can influence whether teachers "ultimately stay in the profession," school leaders "might reflect on whether they create the conditions and policies under which teachers aren't coming forward with information, the study said."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Ohio Parents Compel District To Change Reading Instruction Methods.

NPR's (3/11) "NPR Ed" reports that parents were frustrated with Upper Arlington Schools' failure to address the needs of their children with dyslexia, so they filed a complaint with the Ohio state Department of Education in 2011. The state DOE "found the Upper Arlington Schools in violation of the law when it came to promptly and properly identifying students with learning disabilities and finding them eligible for special education services," and ordered the district "to train teachers and staff on how to identify and evaluate students with learning disabilities." Upper Arlington also changed the way it taught reading. It was using a "whole language" approach, which erroneously assumes that reading "is a natural process" and is particularly difficult for children with dyslexia. In its transition to "a phonics-based approach that explicitly and systematically teaches them how letters represent sounds to form words on the page," Upper Arlington had to retrain teachers who "learned whole language-based methods in their teacher-preparation programs."

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Subject: DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup March 12, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.

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DeVos: Armed School Staff Should Be Option For States, Districts. In a segment on CBS' 60 Minutes (3/11), DeVos was asked if teachers should have guns in the classroom. DeVos said, "That should be an option for states and communities to consider. And I hesitate to think of, like, my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Zorhoff. I couldn't ever imagine her having a gun and being trained in that way. But for those who are capable, this is one solution that can and should be considered. But, no one size fits all. Every state and every community is going to address this issue in a different way."

The Hill (3/9, Greenwood) reports Education Secretary DeVos in an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" that is set to air on Sunday "said that states should consider arming teachers as a way to protect school campuses from shooters." DeVos asserted "that not all teachers should carry firearms, but 'for those who are capable this is one solution that can and should be considered.'" DeVos added, "Every state and every community is going to address this issue in a different way." The Washington Times (3/11, Richardson) runs a story noting DeVos' comments.

POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.

CBS' 60 Minutes (3/11) reported that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos wanted the job "so she could promote school choice, offering parents options other than traditional public schools, where 90 percent of kids go." DeVos "has proposed massive cuts in public education funding, and wants to shift billions to alternative players like private, parochial and charter schools." DeVos: "We have invested billions and billions and billions of dollars from the federal level, and we have seen zero results." Reminded that "test scores have gone up over the last 25 years," DeVos said, "Well actually, test scores vis-à-vis the rest of the world have not gone up. And we have continued to be middle of the pack at best." DeVos added, "Any family that has the economic means and the power to make choices is doing so for their children. ... I am fighting for the parents who don't have those choices. We need all parents to have those choices."

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West Virginia Lawmakers Pass Bill To Eliminate Department Of Education And Arts.

The Hill (3/10, Bowden) reports West Virginia lawmakers on Saturday voted along partisan lines "to dismantle the state's Department of Education and the Arts just days after the longest teachers' strike in the state's history ended." The Hill says Democrats opposed the bill, which "they say will destroy public funding for the arts in the state." The Hill adds that "among other provisions, the bill would eliminate the position of state Secretary of Education and the Arts, which is currently held by Gayle Manchin, wife of Sen. Joe Manchin."

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.

The Oklahoman (3/11) recalls a teacher strike "over low school funding and teacher pay" that was organized by the Oklahoma Education Association in 1990, and says after a "four-day showdown," the state Legislature approved "a series of tax increases that sent new money to teacher salaries and school budgets, along with establishing a variety of education reforms." Nearly three decades later, "Oklahoma educators again face funding and pay challenges that have teachers threatening an April 2 walkout if lawmakers fail to provide more than $800 million in new funding for public schools and state employees next fiscal year." The Oklahoman outlines "key differences" in the strike teachers are preparing for this April and the one in 1990, and examines the "unique challenges, along with unique opportunities," presented by the latest walkout.

In a separate piece, the Oklahoman (3/11, Willert) reports Oklahoma City Public Schools spokeswoman Beth Harrison said if state lawmakers do not approve the new funding and at least 520 of the 2,600 teachers in the district walk out, then OCPS would be compelled to close its doors to students. Harrison explained that "we don't have enough substitutes to ensure there are enough adults in the building to be sure that we have a safe environment for students." That outcome "could mean hardship for parents who work and can't afford day care or rely on nutrition provided by schools." In the meantime, OCPS "and other metro-area districts are working on contingency plans in the event of a walkout." Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy also "announced Friday that it is working with community leaders from across the state to compile a list of organizations that will provide child care and meals during the planned walkout."

Massachusetts High School Awarded STEM Grant.

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/11) reports Nashoba Valley Technical High School was awarded a $20,000 Project Lead the Way grant "to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math programs." It is one of 73 schools in Massachusetts to receive the grant, "which is supported by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as well as the One8 Foundation and Mass STEM Hub." Nashoba Tech is planning to "use the grant to strengthen its existing Programming and Web technical programming by incorporating Project Lead the Way Computer Science." It will also use the funds to "support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based courses."

"Robo Moms" Discuss Involvement In Students' After-School Robotics Activities.

The AP (3/11, Hammerschlag) reports after-school robotics activities have "been credited with drawing children to science and technology fields; mothers tell of little ones staying up into the early morning hours programming and building robots." VEX Robotics and other companies "have cashed in on the trend, selling assembly kits and organizing regional competitions." The AP interviews several mothers of robotics students, with one mother saying she is like a soccer mom, but with more demanding duties. Other so-called "robo moms" told the AP "that in addition to encouraging their children to pursue careers in science and technology, robotics has taught them time management skills and how to solve problems under pressure; they have learned how to be leaders but also how to work as a team."

Nebraska To Implement Computer-Adaptive Assessments This Spring.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/11) reports the Nebraska state Department of Education is replacing the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments with the new, computer-adaptive Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment

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System (NSCAS) tests during the spring testing season, which begins on March 19. The use of computer-adaptive math and English language arts questions is a first for Nebraska, and it constitutes the "latest attempt to find a testing system" that "complies with state and federal testing mandates without burdening students and teachers with excessive testing." State assessment director Valorie Foy said the new format may challenge high-performing students, but "engages our struggling learners, who may have more trouble encountering those very, very difficult test items and may be more frustrated and thus engage in the test less." The test results, which may not be released until this fall, "will still be used for accountability, including the identification of low-performing schools for assistance and intervention."

OPERATIONS

WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/10, A1, Brown, Strauss, Stein) reports that "in the decade after the city dissolved its elected local school board and turned management of the schools over to the mayor, [Michelle] Rhee and her successor, Kaya Henderson, created a system that demanded ever-higher accomplishments," but "with only weak oversight from the D.C. Council and other city education agencies...there was no strong check on any impulse to gloss over shortcomings and pump up numbers." According to the Post, while Rhee had promised to focus on data to determine accountability, "a cascade of D.C. school scandals in recent months has shown that data can sometimes mislead." The Post adds "the revelations – coupled with the resignation of the chancellor after his own personal scandal and, separately, allegations of enrollment fraud at one of the city's most sought-after selective high schools – have shattered the simple narrative of success."

Virginia District Overhauls Curriculum To Close Racial Barriers To Gifted Classes.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/10) reported Chesterfield County Public Schools introduced a curriculum across 39 schools designed to "break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes." During the 2016-17 school year, white students accounted for about 54 percent of the district's student population, but 82 percent of gifted class enrollment, according to a report prepared by a district equity committee. That same year, "African-American students were 27 percent of the total population, but represented 8 percent of gifted enrollment," and "Latino students were 15 percent of the student population, but 4 percent of the gifted enrollment." ED's Office of Civil Rights found that in 2013, the gaps "existed in nearly the same form" in Chesterfield and many neighborhood districts. The equity report, meanwhile, cited another study that attributed the issue to "many advantages that white students have due to the material advantages available to them."

North Dakota District Classrooms Face Anticipated Overcapacity.

The AP (3/11) reports Madan Public Schools in central North Dakota is anticipating an enrollment increase by more than 500 students over the next five years. The "projections indicate student numbers could overwhelm classroom capacity," something MPS superintendent Mike Bitz called "a big concern." The school board is now reviewing options. Bitz said building an addition to the high school, which "is expected to be over capacity by 150 students," may not be possible because of the existing building's age. While another elementary school could be constructed, school board president Tim Rector "says officials want to be careful to avoid overbuilding."

DIGITAL LEARNING

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Alaska Elementary School Experiments With "Screen-Free" Week.

The AP (3/10, Sorensen) reported Nikiski North Star Elementary School in Alaska conducted an experiment, dubbed "Nikiski North Star Unplugged," in which students were "screen-free" for a week. Principal Margaret Gilman said the experiment was launched in hopes of granting students an opportunity to compare learning experiences with and without technology, and overall, it was well received by the students. Gilman also "said she was excited to see how behavior changed without screens, since students would have to be more hands-on and vocal about what they were learning." In fact, many students "said that they found themselves learning more, getting more work done and remembering more of what they were taught in the classroom."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.

The Washington Post (3/8, Berman) reports, "there are many unanswered questions about how law enforcement officials handled warnings about the suspected attacker and the way they responded to the Feb. 14 massacre" at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. There are also "numerous ongoing inquiries from local, state and federal officials." The Post adds, "authorities have acknowledged receiving multiple warnings about Nikolas Cruz," 19, and that has "prompted intense scrutiny of how law enforcement officials handled the red flags." FBI acting deputy director David Bowdich, has "acknowledge[d] that the bureau made a mistake by not investigating a January warning that Cruz could 'get into a school and just shoot the place up.'" The Post adds, "The FBI is still reviewing its handling of" two tips related to Cruz. Fox News (3/9, Diaz) reports on the question of "how the FBI unit that received a tip about the potential shooter in early January failed to pass it along." Fox adds, "Bowdich admitted in a March 6 briefing that 'the caller provided sufficient information to the tip line for the FBI to launch a probe.'"

School Resource Officer Radioed Shots Coming From Inside Building. The AP (3/9, Spencer, Pane) reports, "the school's armed resource officer radioed that shots were coming from the freshman building, but he advised officers to stay back – a seeming failure to follow widely established guidelines to immediately confront the attacker in active shooter situations." The AP adds that the radio message indicates "he almost immediately realized gunshots were being fired inside" the school. The AP also reports, "Broward County Sheriff's Office mass shooting guidelines required him to enter the building and kill or stop the gunman."

Mother Of Student Calls FBI About Threats Posted On Facebook. The AP (3/9) reports Rebecca Boldrick, mother of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student David Hogg, who "has been an outspoken advocate for stricter gun laws," said that "she contacted the FBI this week because threats against her family have continued to appear on Facebook." She said that "her husband is a former FBI agent and carries a gun at all times."

Lawyer Expects To File More Suits On Behalf Of Victims. USA Today (3/11, Bacon) reports Lawyer Alex Arreaza "who filed notice of a lawsuit on behalf of a student shot five times" at the school, "says he expects to be filing legal papers for more families of victims soon." Arreaza said that "evidence increasingly reveals mistakes by the Broward County Sheriff's Office and school district leading up to the" attack. USA adds, "Arreaza pointed to dozens of incidents involving Cruz and law enforcement" and said that "more...should have been done."

Former Agent Faults FBI For Response To Warnings. Kenneth Strange, Jr., who was with the FBI as a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Newark, New Jersey and as Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General in Los Angeles, writes in The Hill (3/9, Strange, Jr.), that Nikolas Cruz "is the one who purchased the weapons" and "murdered 17 people and injured 14 others." Strange also writes that "the community did its part" in reporting that Cruz "was a clear and present danger", but "I give a failing grade to local law enforcement" and to the FBI, because someone "called the FBI to warn that Cruz was unraveling and posed an immediate threat" but that "message apparently sat on the Hotline queue in West Virginia instead of making its way

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back to Florida and the FBI Field Office in Miami."

NRA Files Lawsuit After Scott Signs Florida Gun Control Law.

The New York Times (3/9, A1, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Friday signed into law "requirements to raise the minimum age and waiting period to purchase a gun." The Times calls the law "the most aggressive action on gun control taken in the state in many years." Scott also spoke to a group of families "who had traveled to the State Capitol" from Parkland, Florida, and "called parents and classmates of the slain students his inspiration." He also "praised them for helping persuade lawmakers to pass legislation, even if neither they nor him agreed with all of its provisions."

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication) reports that Scott said he weighed in his decision whether the legislation would improve school safety, whether it would provide more funding for mental-health treatment, and whether it would keep guns away from individuals who should not have access to them. Scott said, "The answer to all three is yes," adding, "That is why I'm signing the legislation today." The Washington Post (3/9, Scherer) reports that Scott also said after the signing, "I am going to do what I think are common sense solutions...I think this is the beginning. There is now going to be a real conversation about how we make our schools safe." The Post adds that Scott, "who is moving toward a U.S. Senate bid against Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson, was critical of the inaction in Washington." However, the Post states that "shortly after Scott signed the law, the NRA filed suit in federal court to block raising the minimum age for purchasing long guns, arguing that the change violates the constitutional rights of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds."

In an analysis, the Washington Post (3/10, Phillips) also examines whether Scott's "new views on gun control [will] be a political pro or con" as he prepares to run for Senate.

The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 5, 0:25, Glor) and NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 7, 0:25, Holt) broadcasts provided similar coverage in brief reports.

Students Planning New Walkouts Over Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (3/10, Heim, Truong, George) reports that "for the second time in a month, students and school leaders in the Washington region are preparing for a school walkout to protest gun violence." In addition, "many more" students "are expected to join actions on their campuses coordinated with school administrators." The Post says school districts in the area "are seeking a middle ground that acknowledges and supports students engaged in protests while ensuring rules are followed and students remain safe."

The AP (3/11) reports administrators at schools across the country are "scrambling to perform a delicate balancing act: How to let thousands of students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school and not pulling administrators into the raging debate over gun control. ... Some have taken a hard line, promising to suspend students who walk out, while others are using a softer approach, working with students to set up places on campus where they can remember the victims of the Florida shooting and express their views about school safety and gun control."

Elementary Schools Plan Student Walkout. The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports elementary schools are planning a nationwide student walkout on March 14 in the name of student safety, to last 17 minutes in honor of each victim of the Parkland, Florida shooting last month. The Journal says schools are struggling to find ways to address the event with such young children.

Brady Campaign Releases Curriculum To Facilitate Student Protests.

USA Today (3/10, Gaudiano) reports the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is "offering a school curriculum" to address next week's planned student walkouts. "The gun-control group's 10-page guide is written to help school

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officials address gun violence as students across the country plan to participate in protests on Wednesday, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla." Brady officials "describe the guide as 'neutral and nonpartisan' in a letter to principals, teachers or school administrators, noting that it proposes no particular policy solutions." However, National Rifle Association spokesman Andrew Arulanandam "called it a 'political white paper on gun control' that he said does nothing to keep students safe."

Stoneman Douglas Junior Visited White House During Washington, DC Tour.

The Washington Post (3/9, Zak) reports on Stoneman Douglas junior Kyle Kashuv's trip to Washington, DC this week, where had meetings with "five senators, the Speaker of the House, the counselor to the president, and then a special surprise at the White House." The Post says Kashuv is "fiercely fixated on the middle ground" on the issue of gun control. During his meeting with President Trump, which was "over in five minutes," Trump "asked about his classmates" and Kashuv "talked about his app idea."

Indiana Governor Requests Funds For School Security Grants.

The Indianapolis Star (3/9, Herron, Cook) reports that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb "is asking the Indiana legislature for an extra $5 million for school security grants." Holcomb "requested the additional money for the Indiana Secured School Safety Fund, which provides matching grants to schools to hire school resource officers and purchase equipment to bolster school security." The Star says the request is "the first major move the state has taken toward bolstering safety in schools since" the shooting in Parkland, Florida.

AP Analysis Finds NRA Has Increased Grants To Schools.

An AP (3/9, Binkley, Hoyer) analysis of the National Rifle Association's public tax records shows that the NRA "has dramatically increased its funding to schools in recent years amid a national debate over guns and school violence." The article provides further detail on the analysis, and says that few schools "say they plan to give up the money in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting."

Parkland Students Turn Grief Into Song.

The AP (3/10) reports that a few days after the Parkland massacre, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students Sawyer Garrity and Andrea Peña began collaborating on a song they called "Shine" as a method of expressing their grief. Soon after, "Sawyer and Andrea were standing on a stage at the BB&T Center performing the song live in front of 7,000 people. They were the closing act for CNN's Town Hall Meeting on the shooting. Millions of viewers were tuned in."

Kansas Republicans' School Safety Plan Draws Criticism.

The AP (3/10, Hanna, Writer) reports a bill "to mandate safety standards for schools and provide state funds to school districts for training and security upgrades" floated by Republicans in the Kansas legislature is facing criticism from "educators and other legislators" who "say the new spending is not enough and argue that the House GOP leaders who drafted the plan are ducking a core issue by not proposing gun control measures."

Florida Governor Signs Bill Giving Vouchers To Bullied Students.

The AP (3/11, Fineout) reports Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) on Sunday signed a bill to "create the nation's first ever private school voucher program for bullied students." The sweeping legislation also "requires all Florida schools to display the words 'In God We Trust' on school grounds and that Florida teacher union must go through a

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recertification process if membership levels fall beneath a certain threshold."

Study: Many Teachers Fail To Report Student Attacks.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/11) reports Ohio State University Department of Educational Studies chairman Eric Anderman led a nationwide study that found nearly one in five teachers who were physically or verbally attacked by students declined to notify school administrators, and one in four said "they didn't even tell family members." The study, published online by the journal Social Psychology of Education on Tuesday, specifically examined "how teachers react to attacks: whether their emotional response and what they feel is to blame for the violence influences the way the attack is ultimately handled." The National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers urged their members to respond. Of the nearly 3,500 teachers who did, 2,505 from 48 states reported incidents. Since student attacks and how they are handled can influence whether teachers "ultimately stay in the profession," school leaders "might reflect on whether they create the conditions and policies under which teachers aren't coming forward with information, the study said."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Ohio Parents Compel District To Change Reading Instruction Methods.

NPR's (3/11) "NPR Ed" reports that parents were frustrated with Upper Arlington Schools' failure to address the needs of their children with dyslexia, so they filed a complaint with the Ohio state Department of Education in 2011. The state DOE "found the Upper Arlington Schools in violation of the law when it came to promptly and properly identifying students with learning disabilities and finding them eligible for special education services," and ordered the district "to train teachers and staff on how to identify and evaluate students with learning disabilities." Upper Arlington also changed the way it taught reading. It was using a "whole language" approach, which erroneously assumes that reading "is a natural process" and is particularly difficult for children with dyslexia. In its transition to "a phonics-based approach that explicitly and systematically teaches them how letters represent sounds to form words on the page," Upper Arlington had to retrain teachers who "learned whole language-based methods in their teacher-preparation programs."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Former Baltimore County Superintendent Pleads Guilty To Perjury.**
- **California Officials Say They're Nearing Compromise With ED Over ESSA Plan.**
- **Experts: West Virginia Teacher Strike Demonstrates Women's Power.**
- **After Years Of Apparent Success, DC Schools Beset By Multiple Scandals.**
- **IL House Approves School Funding Bill.**

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The Washington Examiner (3/11, Lim) says DeVos "struggled to answer questions regarding school choice, her signature policy and admitted she had not 'intentionally' toured 'underperforming' schools during her tenure." DeVos said, "Well, in places where there have been, where there is, a lot of choice that's been introduced – Florida, for example – the studies show that when there's a large number of students that opt to go to a different school or different schools, the traditional public schools actually, the results get better as well." The Examiner adds that DeVos "could not explain why public schools in her home state of Michigan had not improved when funding had been diverted elsewhere." DeVos said, "I don't know. Overall, I can't say overall that they have all gotten better. ... I hesitate to talk about all schools in general because schools are made up of individual students attending them." She added that she had "not intentionally visited schools that are underperforming."

West Virginia Lawmakers Pass Bill To Eliminate Department Of Education And Arts.

The Hill (3/10, Bowden) reports West Virginia lawmakers on Saturday voted along partisan lines "to dismantle the state's Department of Education and the Arts just days after the longest teachers' strike in the state's history ended." The Hill says Democrats opposed the bill, which "they say will destroy public funding for the arts in the state." The Hill adds that "among other provisions, the bill would eliminate the position of state Secretary of Education and the Arts, which is currently held by Gayle Manchin, wife of Sen. Joe Manchin."

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.

The Oklahoman (3/11) recalls a teacher strike "over low school funding and teacher pay" that was organized by the Oklahoma Education Association in 1990, and says after a "four-day showdown," the state Legislature approved "a series of tax increases that sent new money to teacher salaries and school budgets, along with establishing a variety of education reforms." Nearly three decades later, "Oklahoma educators again face funding and pay challenges that have teachers threatening an April 2 walkout if lawmakers fail to provide more than $800 million in new funding for public schools and state employees next fiscal year." The Oklahoman outlines "key differences" in the strike teachers are preparing for this April and the one in 1990, and examines the "unique challenges, along with unique opportunities," presented by the latest walkout.

In a separate piece, the Oklahoman (3/11, Willert) reports Oklahoma City Public Schools spokeswoman Beth Harrison said if state lawmakers do not approve the new funding and at least 520 of the 2,600 teachers in the district walk out, then OCPS would be compelled to close its doors to students. Harrison explained that "we don't have enough substitutes to ensure there are enough adults in the building to be sure that we have a safe environment for students." That outcome "could mean hardship for parents who work and can't afford day care or rely on nutrition provided by schools." In the meantime, OCPS "and other metro-area districts are working on contingency plans in the event of a walkout." Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy also "announced Friday that it is working with community leaders from across the state to compile a list of organizations that will provide child care and meals during the planned walkout."

Massachusetts High School Awarded STEM Grant.

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/11) reports Nashoba Valley Technical High School was awarded a $20,000 Project Lead the Way grant "to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math programs." It is one of 73 schools in Massachusetts to receive the grant, "which is supported by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as well as the One8 Foundation and Mass STEM Hub." Nashoba Tech is planning to "use the grant to strengthen its existing Programming and Web technical programming by incorporating Project Lead the Way Computer Science." It will also use the funds to "support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based courses."

"Robo Moms" Discuss Involvement In Students' After-School Robotics Activities.

The AP (3/11, Hammerschlag) reports after-school robotics activities have "been credited with drawing children to science and technology fields; mothers tell of little ones staying up into the early morning hours programming and building robots." VEX Robotics and other companies "have cashed in on the trend, selling assembly kits and organizing regional competitions." The AP interviews several mothers of robotics students, with one mother saying she is like a soccer mom, but with more demanding duties. Other so-called "robo moms" told the AP "that in addition to encouraging their children to pursue careers in science and technology, robotics has taught them time management skills and how to solve problems under pressure; they have learned how to be leaders but also how to work as a team."

Nebraska To Implement Computer-Adaptive Assessments This Spring.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/11) reports the Nebraska state Department of Education is replacing the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments with the new, computer-adaptive Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment

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System (NSCAS) tests during the spring testing season, which begins on March 19. The use of computer-adaptive math and English language arts questions is a first for Nebraska, and it constitutes the "latest attempt to find a testing system" that "complies with state and federal testing mandates without burdening students and teachers with excessive testing." State assessment director Valorie Foy said the new format may challenge high-performing students, but "engages our struggling learners, who may have more trouble encountering those very, very difficult test items and may be more frustrated and thus engage in the test less." The test results, which may not be released until this fall, "will still be used for accountability, including the identification of low-performing schools for assistance and intervention."

OPERATIONS

WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.

In a front-page article, the Washington Post (3/10, A1, Brown, Strauss, Stein) reports that "in the decade after the city dissolved its elected local school board and turned management of the schools over to the mayor, [Michelle] Rhee and her successor, Kaya Henderson, created a system that demanded ever-higher accomplishments," but "with only weak oversight from the D.C. Council and other city education agencies...there was no strong check on any impulse to gloss over shortcomings and pump up numbers." According to the Post, while Rhee had promised to focus on data to determine accountability, "a cascade of D.C. school scandals in recent months has shown that data can sometimes mislead." The Post adds "the revelations – coupled with the resignation of the chancellor after his own personal scandal and, separately, allegations of enrollment fraud at one of the city's most sought-after selective high schools – have shattered the simple narrative of success."

Virginia District Overhauls Curriculum To Close Racial Barriers To Gifted Classes.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (3/10) reported Chesterfield County Public Schools introduced a curriculum across 39 schools designed to "break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes." During the 2016-17 school year, white students accounted for about 54 percent of the district's student population, but 82 percent of gifted class enrollment, according to a report prepared by a district equity committee. That same year, "African-American students were 27 percent of the total population, but represented 8 percent of gifted enrollment," and "Latino students were 15 percent of the student population, but 4 percent of the gifted enrollment." ED's Office of Civil Rights found that in 2013, the gaps "existed in nearly the same form" in Chesterfield and many neighborhood districts. The equity report, meanwhile, cited another study that attributed the issue to "many advantages that white students have due to the material advantages available to them."

North Dakota District Classrooms Face Anticipated Overcapacity.

The AP (3/11) reports Madan Public Schools in central North Dakota is anticipating an enrollment increase by more than 500 students over the next five years. The "projections indicate student numbers could overwhelm classroom capacity," something MPS superintendent Mike Bitz called "a big concern." The school board is now reviewing options. Bitz said building an addition to the high school, which "is expected to be over capacity by 150 students," may not be possible because of the existing building's age. While another elementary school could be constructed, school board president Tim Rector "says officials want to be careful to avoid overbuilding."

DIGITAL LEARNING

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Alaska Elementary School Experiments With "Screen-Free" Week.

The AP (3/10, Sorensen) reported Nikiski North Star Elementary School in Alaska conducted an experiment, dubbed "Nikiski North Star Unplugged," in which students were "screen-free" for a week. Principal Margaret Gilman said the experiment was launched in hopes of granting students an opportunity to compare learning experiences with and without technology, and overall, it was well received by the students. Gilman also "said she was excited to see how behavior changed without screens, since students would have to be more hands-on and vocal about what they were learning." In fact, many students "said that they found themselves learning more, getting more work done and remembering more of what they were taught in the classroom."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.

The Washington Post (3/8, Berman) reports, "there are many unanswered questions about how law enforcement officials handled warnings about the suspected attacker and the way they responded to the Feb. 14 massacre" at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. There are also "numerous ongoing inquiries from local, state and federal officials." The Post adds, "authorities have acknowledged receiving multiple warnings about Nikolas Cruz," 19, and that has "prompted intense scrutiny of how law enforcement officials handled the red flags." FBI acting deputy director David Bowdich, has "acknowledge[d] that the bureau made a mistake by not investigating a January warning that Cruz could 'get into a school and just shoot the place up.'" The Post adds, "The FBI is still reviewing its handling of" two tips related to Cruz. Fox News (3/9, Diaz) reports on the question of "how the FBI unit that received a tip about the potential shooter in early January failed to pass it along." Fox adds, "Bowdich admitted in a March 6 briefing that 'the caller provided sufficient information to the tip line for the FBI to launch a probe.'"

School Resource Officer Radioed Shots Coming From Inside Building. The AP (3/9, Spencer, Pane) reports, "the school's armed resource officer radioed that shots were coming from the freshman building, but he advised officers to stay back – a seeming failure to follow widely established guidelines to immediately confront the attacker in active shooter situations." The AP adds that the radio message indicates "he almost immediately realized gunshots were being fired inside" the school. The AP also reports, "Broward County Sheriff's Office mass shooting guidelines required him to enter the building and kill or stop the gunman."

Mother Of Student Calls FBI About Threats Posted On Facebook. The AP (3/9) reports Rebecca Boldrick, mother of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student David Hogg, who "has been an outspoken advocate for stricter gun laws," said that "she contacted the FBI this week because threats against her family have continued to appear on Facebook." She said that "her husband is a former FBI agent and carries a gun at all times."

Lawyer Expects To File More Suits On Behalf Of Victims. USA Today (3/11, Bacon) reports Lawyer Alex Arreaza "who filed notice of a lawsuit on behalf of a student shot five times" at the school, "says he expects to be filing legal papers for more families of victims soon." Arreaza said that "evidence increasingly reveals mistakes by the Broward County Sheriff's Office and school district leading up to the" attack. USA adds, "Arreaza pointed to dozens of incidents involving Cruz and law enforcement" and said that "more...should have been done."

Former Agent Faults FBI For Response To Warnings. Kenneth Strange, Jr., who was with the FBI as a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Newark, New Jersey and as Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General in Los Angeles, writes in The Hill (3/9, Strange, Jr.), that Nikolas Cruz "is the one who purchased the weapons" and "murdered 17 people and injured 14 others." Strange also writes that "the community did its part" in reporting that Cruz "was a clear and present danger", but "I give a failing grade to local law enforcement" and to the FBI, because someone "called the FBI to warn that Cruz was unraveling and posed an immediate threat" but that "message apparently sat on the Hotline queue in West Virginia instead of making its way

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back to Florida and the FBI Field Office in Miami."

NRA Files Lawsuit After Scott Signs Florida Gun Control Law.

The New York Times (3/9, A1, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott on Friday signed into law "requirements to raise the minimum age and waiting period to purchase a gun." The Times calls the law "the most aggressive action on gun control taken in the state in many years." Scott also spoke to a group of families "who had traveled to the State Capitol" from Parkland, Florida, and "called parents and classmates of the slain students his inspiration." He also "praised them for helping persuade lawmakers to pass legislation, even if neither they nor him agreed with all of its provisions."

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication) reports that Scott said he weighed in his decision whether the legislation would improve school safety, whether it would provide more funding for mental-health treatment, and whether it would keep guns away from individuals who should not have access to them. Scott said, "The answer to all three is yes," adding, "That is why I'm signing the legislation today." The Washington Post (3/9, Scherer) reports that Scott also said after the signing, "I am going to do what I think are common sense solutions...I think this is the beginning. There is now going to be a real conversation about how we make our schools safe." The Post adds that Scott, "who is moving toward a U.S. Senate bid against Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson, was critical of the inaction in Washington." However, the Post states that "shortly after Scott signed the law, the NRA filed suit in federal court to block raising the minimum age for purchasing long guns, arguing that the change violates the constitutional rights of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds."

In an analysis, the Washington Post (3/10, Phillips) also examines whether Scott's "new views on gun control [will] be a political pro or con" as he prepares to run for Senate.

The CBS Evening News (3/9, story 5, 0:25, Glor) and NBC Nightly News (3/9, story 7, 0:25, Holt) broadcasts provided similar coverage in brief reports.

Students Planning New Walkouts Over Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (3/10, Heim, Truong, George) reports that "for the second time in a month, students and school leaders in the Washington region are preparing for a school walkout to protest gun violence." In addition, "many more" students "are expected to join actions on their campuses coordinated with school administrators." The Post says school districts in the area "are seeking a middle ground that acknowledges and supports students engaged in protests while ensuring rules are followed and students remain safe."

The AP (3/11) reports administrators at schools across the country are "scrambling to perform a delicate balancing act: How to let thousands of students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school and not pulling administrators into the raging debate over gun control. ... Some have taken a hard line, promising to suspend students who walk out, while others are using a softer approach, working with students to set up places on campus where they can remember the victims of the Florida shooting and express their views about school safety and gun control."

Elementary Schools Plan Student Walkout. The Wall Street Journal (3/10, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports elementary schools are planning a nationwide student walkout on March 14 in the name of student safety, to last 17 minutes in honor of each victim of the Parkland, Florida shooting last month. The Journal says schools are struggling to find ways to address the event with such young children.

Brady Campaign Releases Curriculum To Facilitate Student Protests.

USA Today (3/10, Gaudiano) reports the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is "offering a school curriculum" to address next week's planned student walkouts. "The gun-control group's 10-page guide is written to help school

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officials address gun violence as students across the country plan to participate in protests on Wednesday, the one-month anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla." Brady officials "describe the guide as 'neutral and nonpartisan' in a letter to principals, teachers or school administrators, noting that it proposes no particular policy solutions." However, National Rifle Association spokesman Andrew Arulanandam "called it a 'political white paper on gun control' that he said does nothing to keep students safe."

Stoneman Douglas Junior Visited White House During Washington, DC Tour.

The Washington Post (3/9, Zak) reports on Stoneman Douglas junior Kyle Kashuv's trip to Washington, DC this week, where had meetings with "five senators, the Speaker of the House, the counselor to the president, and then a special surprise at the White House." The Post says Kashuv is "fiercely fixated on the middle ground" on the issue of gun control. During his meeting with President Trump, which was "over in five minutes," Trump "asked about his classmates" and Kashuv "talked about his app idea."

Indiana Governor Requests Funds For School Security Grants.

The Indianapolis Star (3/9, Herron, Cook) reports that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb "is asking the Indiana legislature for an extra $5 million for school security grants." Holcomb "requested the additional money for the Indiana Secured School Safety Fund, which provides matching grants to schools to hire school resource officers and purchase equipment to bolster school security." The Star says the request is "the first major move the state has taken toward bolstering safety in schools since" the shooting in Parkland, Florida.

AP Analysis Finds NRA Has Increased Grants To Schools.

An AP (3/9, Binkley, Hoyer) analysis of the National Rifle Association's public tax records shows that the NRA "has dramatically increased its funding to schools in recent years amid a national debate over guns and school violence." The article provides further detail on the analysis, and says that few schools "say they plan to give up the money in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting."

Parkland Students Turn Grief Into Song.

The AP (3/10) reports that a few days after the Parkland massacre, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students Sawyer Garrity and Andrea Peña began collaborating on a song they called "Shine" as a method of expressing their grief. Soon after, "Sawyer and Andrea were standing on a stage at the BB&T Center performing the song live in front of 7,000 people. They were the closing act for CNN's Town Hall Meeting on the shooting. Millions of viewers were tuned in."

Kansas Republicans' School Safety Plan Draws Criticism.

The AP (3/10, Hanna, Writer) reports a bill "to mandate safety standards for schools and provide state funds to school districts for training and security upgrades" floated by Republicans in the Kansas legislature is facing criticism from "educators and other legislators" who "say the new spending is not enough and argue that the House GOP leaders who drafted the plan are ducking a core issue by not proposing gun control measures."

Florida Governor Signs Bill Giving Vouchers To Bullied Students.

The AP (3/11, Fineout) reports Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) on Sunday signed a bill to "create the nation's first ever private school voucher program for bullied students." The sweeping legislation also "requires all Florida schools to display the words 'In God We Trust' on school grounds and that Florida teacher union must go through a

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recertification process if membership levels fall beneath a certain threshold."

Study: Many Teachers Fail To Report Student Attacks.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/11) reports Ohio State University Department of Educational Studies chairman Eric Anderman led a nationwide study that found nearly one in five teachers who were physically or verbally attacked by students declined to notify school administrators, and one in four said "they didn't even tell family members." The study, published online by the journal Social Psychology of Education on Tuesday, specifically examined "how teachers react to attacks: whether their emotional response and what they feel is to blame for the violence influences the way the attack is ultimately handled." The National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers urged their members to respond. Of the nearly 3,500 teachers who did, 2,505 from 48 states reported incidents. Since student attacks and how they are handled can influence whether teachers "ultimately stay in the profession," school leaders "might reflect on whether they create the conditions and policies under which teachers aren't coming forward with information, the study said."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Ohio Parents Compel District To Change Reading Instruction Methods.

NPR's (3/11) "NPR Ed" reports that parents were frustrated with Upper Arlington Schools' failure to address the needs of their children with dyslexia, so they filed a complaint with the Ohio state Department of Education in 2011. The state DOE "found the Upper Arlington Schools in violation of the law when it came to promptly and properly identifying students with learning disabilities and finding them eligible for special education services," and ordered the district "to train teachers and staff on how to identify and evaluate students with learning disabilities." Upper Arlington also changed the way it taught reading. It was using a "whole language" approach, which erroneously assumes that reading "is a natural process" and is particularly difficult for children with dyslexia. In its transition to "a phonics-based approach that explicitly and systematically teaches them how letters represent sounds to form words on the page," Upper Arlington had to retrain teachers who "learned whole language-based methods in their teacher-preparation programs."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Former Baltimore County Superintendent Pleads Guilty To Perjury.**
- **California Officials Say They're Nearing Compromise With ED Over ESSA Plan.**
- **Experts: West Virginia Teacher Strike Demonstrates Women's Power.**
- **After Years Of Apparent Success, DC Schools Beset By Multiple Scandals.**
- **IL House Approves School Funding Bill.**

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Feb 2018 14:37:21 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Emergency petition: Ban assault weapons now
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough

The petition to Republicans in Congress reads:
"Put your constituents before the National Rifle Association. Take immediate action to ban weapons of war, including assault weapons and large capacity magazines, which have no place in the hands of private citizens."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Within hours of Wednesday's deadly mass shooting at a Parkland, Florida high school – which took the lives of at least 17 people – Republican politicians without the courage to support real solutions to our gun violence crisis released statements and social media posts offering their "thoughts and prayers" to the victims and their families. [1]

It was the exact same cowardly, ineffectual response they offered after gunmen wielding AR-15 assault rifles killed people at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, a concert in Las Vegas, Pulse nightclub in Orlando and Sandy Hook Elementary School.[2]

Reports now indicate that the Parkland gunman was closely aligned with a violent white supremacist group in Florida.[3] Groups like this have been emboldened and unleashed by Trump's racism and the refusal of the Republican Party to condemn it. **This encouragement of dangerous bigotry combined with their constant capitulation to the National Rifle Association means that blood is on Republicans' hands. It is time for every Republican in Congress to join Democrats in standing up to the NRA and pass an assault weapons ban that will save American lives.**

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click here to sign the petition.

Tragic mass shootings like the one yesterday in South Florida have become all too common. The last 5 months alone now account for three of the 10 deadliest mass shootings in modern U.S. history.[4] In the past 5 years, there have been nearly 300 school shootings in the United States[5] – including 18 so far in 2018 alone.[6]

According to Newsweek, "Florida has some of the weakest gun laws in the country." Gun owners are not required to have a license, they are not required to register their guns and it is perfectly legal to own semi-automatic assault rifles like the one used in Wednesday's tragic shooting. [7] The heartbreaking truth is that the combination of weak state and federal gun laws made Wednesday's horrific attack possible.

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click here to sign the petition.

There's one reason why politicians consistently fail to take real action on gun violence: The National Rifle Association. The NRA has a chokehold on Congress that keeps most bills about gun control from even coming to the floor for a vote. Politicians beholden to – or afraid of – the NRA are willing to turn their backs on their constituents when it comes time to implement reasonable limits and controls on guns. But you can count on them for

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a “heartbroken” tweet about their “thoughts and prayers” when a tragic shooting makes the national news.

Finally breaking the NRA’s chokehold on Congress will require massive grassroots pressure on our elected officials, demanding that they deliver more than thoughts and prayers in the face of our epidemic of gun violence.

We must forcefully demand that Congress takes immediate action to ban weapons of war, including assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Please add your name to our emergency petition now.

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click the link below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/parkland?t=8&akid=27300%2E12772310%2EQpGXHp

Thanks for everything you do,

Heidi Hess, Senior Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

1. Ed Mazza, "People Sick Of ‘Thoughts And Prayers’ Demand Action After Florida School Shooting," HuffPost, Feb. 15, 2018.
2. Igor Volsky, "Tweet," Twitter, Feb. 14, 2018.
3. Kelly Weill, Justin Miller and Taylor Lorenz, "Nikolas Cruz Trained With White Supremacists, Wore Pro-Trump Hat in School," The Daily Beast, Feb. 15. 2018.
4. The New York Times, "Florida Shooting: Nikolas Cruz Is Charged With 17 Counts of Murder," Feb. 15. 2018.
5. BBC News, "Florida shooting: 'Policy and change' not 'thoughts and prayers,'" Feb. 15. 2018.
6. Meghan Keneally, "There have already been 18 school shootings in the US this year: Everytown," ABC News, Feb. 14, 2018.
7. Chantal Da Silva, "Florida Massacre Survivor Tells Trump: 'I Don't Want Your Condolences,' Demands Gun Control," Newsweek, Feb. 15, 2018.

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From: "Charles Goodmacher" <cgoodmacher@neanm.org>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2018 12:53:35 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FINAL Leg summary - 2 pager for front and back printing and posting to web....
To: "NM All staff" <nmallstaff@neanm.org>

Attachments:Summary 2018 session draft 2 pager.docx (110.18k) Summary 2018 session draft 2 pager.pdf (482.64k) Summary 2018 session draft 2 pager.docx (109.77k)

For those of you who had not yet printed these, please use the attached and discard earlier versions, thanks. I corrected two minor typos and added in the names of sponsors of one bill that I'd omitted by mistake.
Since the web site leg update has not yet been updated ... please use the attached for that too.
We will update this as well once the Governor's done with any potential whole bill, or line-item vetos. March 7 is her deadline.

Charles Goodmacher
Government and Media Relations Director, UniServ Director
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From: "Stan Rounds" <stan@nmcel.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 11:05:33 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: FW: [state-execs] AASA Analysis of FY18 Omnibus Bill
To: "Adan Delgado (Cuba)" <adelgado@cuba.k12.nm.us>, "Andy Ortiz (Raton)" <andy.ortiz@ratonschools.com>, "Anita Romero - Interim Wagon Mound" <anita.romero@wm.k12.nm.us>, "Arsenio Romero (Deming)" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "Audie Brown (Silver)" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Balch, Jody (Clovis)" <jody.balch@clovis-schools.org>, "Bickert, George (Ruidoso)" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "Bobbie Gutierrez (Espanola)" <bobbie.gutierrez@k12espanola.org>, "Bonnie Lightfoot - House Municipal Schools (blightfoot@houseschools.net)" <blightfoot@houseschools.net>, "Bowman, Colleen (Central)" <Bowmc@centralschools.org>, "Brandon Hays (Interim Dora)" <bhays@doraschools.com>, "Robert Brown" <rbrown@texicoschools.com>, "Cain, Johnnie (Portales)" <jcain@portalesschools.com>, "Carpenter, Kirk (Aztec)" <adcarpki@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Casados, Anthony (Chama)" <acasados@chamaschools.org>, "Caton, Crit (Artesia)" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Chris Gutierrez - Las Vegas West " <christopher_gutierrez@wlvs.k12.nm.us>, "Cleveland, Sue (Rio Rancho)" <scleveland@rrps.net>, "Cummins, Craig (TorC)" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "Cushman, Loren (Animas)" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Daniel Benavidez (Zuni)" <daniel.benavidez@zpsd.org>, "David Albert (Questa)" <dalbert@questa.k12.nm.us>, "Dawn Apodaca (Mountainair)" <dapodaca@mpschools.net>, "Diane Cordova (Admin Pojoaque)" <dlc@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Diller, Stacy (Clayton)" <stacy.diller@claytonschools.us>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Dorothy Abbott (RRPS Exec Admin)" <Dorothy.Abbott@rrps.net>, "Ella Arellano (Mora) " <earellano@mora.k12.nm.us>, "Elnabeth Grau (Grady)" <egrau@gradyschool.com>, "Ricky Espinoza" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Estrada, Adan (Cimarron)" <aestrada@cimarronschools.org>, "Jo Lynn Gallegos" <jolynn@nmcel.org>, "Gandy, LeAnne (Lovington)" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Garcia Veronica (Santa Fe)" <vcgarcia@sfps.k12.nm.us>, "Gen Benes (Ruidoso Admin)" <benesg@ruidososchools.org>, "Glenn Haven (Magdalena)" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "Green, Bill (Reserve)" <billgreen@reserveschools.com>, "Greg Rodriguez (Carlsbad)" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Gregory Ewing (gewing@lcps.net)" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Grossman, Michael (Lake Arthur)" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Hale, Linda (Hatch Valley)" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "Haynes, Dwain (Eunice)" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "Irene Rodriguez (Cobre Admin)" <irod@cobre.k12.nm.us>, "Jim Holloway (Roy)" <supt@royschools.org>, "Joel Shirley (Estancia - Interim)" <joel.shirley@estancia.k12.nm.us>, "Joseph West (SFPS Admin)" <jwest@sfps.k12.nm.us>, "Keith Cowan (Interim Bernalillo)" <kcowan@bps.k12.nm.us>, "Kelt Cooper (Las Vegas City)" <keltcooper@cybercardinal.com>, "King, Eddie (Springer)" <eking@springerschools.org>, "Kodi Sumpter (Des Moines)" <ksumpterdms@bacavalley.com>, "Kristen Forrester - Maxwell" <kforrester@maxwellp12.com>, "Lackey, David (Quemado)" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "Lightfoot,Travis (Corona)" <travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org>, "Little, Buddy (Tatum)" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Manuel Valdez (Interim Dulce)" <mvaldez@dulceschools.com>, "Marc Space (Grants/Cibola) (marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us)" <marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "Marvin MacAuley (Penasco Interim)" <mmacauley@penasco.k12.nm.us>, "Marvin Martin (Hondo)" <marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org>, "Matt Moyer (Fort Sumner)" <mmoyer@ftsumnerk12.com>, "McIlroy, Ann Lynn (Loving)" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "McKinney, Aaron (Tucumcari)" <a.mckinney@tucumcarischools.com>, "Mendoza, Robert (Cobre)" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>, "Mike Hyatt (Gallup McKinley)" <mhyatt@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, "Mizell, Kim (Bloomfield)" <kmizell@bsin.k12.nm.us>, "Montoya, Sherie (Springer Admin Asst)" <smontoya@springerschools.org>, "Sondra Adams" <mlm@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Nancy Chavez (APS Admin)" <chavez_n@aps.edu>, "Norma Cavazos - Jemez Mountain" <cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, "Parks, T.J. (Hobbs)" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "Paula Arellano" <paula@nmcel.org>, "Perea, Richard (Santa Rosa)" <rperea@srlions.com>, "Perez, Max (Belen)" <perezm@beleneagles.org>, "Piper, Randy (Lordsburg)" <rpiper@lmsed.org>, "Jack Props" <jprops@vaughn.k12.nm.us>, "Reedy, Raquel (APS)" <reedy@aps.edu>, "Roch, Dennis (Logan)" <droch@loganschool.net>, "Ron Hendrix (Sororro)" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "Salas, Adrianne (Alamogordo)" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "Sanders, Dana (Los Lunas)" <dsanders@llschools.net>, "Randy Bondow" <eschmidt@fms.k12.nm.us>, "Sean Wootton (Capitan)" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "Sergio Castanon (Cloudcroft)" <sergio.castanon@cmsbears.org>, "Brian Snider" <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, "Stan Rounds" <stan@nmcel.org>, "Steinhaus, Kurt (Los Alamos)" <k.steinhaus@laschools.net>, "Sullivan, Tom (Moriarty/Edgewood)" <tom.sullivan@mesd.us>, "Susan Sanchez (Roswell Interim)" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "Tandee Delk (Elida)" <tdelk@elidaschools.net>, "Taylor, Colin (San Jon)" <ctaylor@sanjonschools.com>, "Terry, Damon (Floyd)" <dterry@floydbroncos.com>, "Tommy Turner - Mosquero Schools" <superintendent@mosquero.net>, "Torrez, Lillian (Taos)" <lillian.torrez@taosschools.org>, "Travis Dempsey (Gadsden)" <tldempsey@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Trujillo, Fred (Pecos)" <ftrujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us>, "Valdez, Ernesto (Mesa Vista)" <ernesto.valdez@mesavista.org>, "brenda.vigil@tularosak12.us" <brenda.vigil@tularosak12.us>, "Widner, Jamie (Melrose)" <jwidner@melroseschools.org>, "Wilkinson Davis, Susan (Jemez Valley)" <swdavis@jvps.org>, "Williams, Rickey (Hagerman)" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "Annette Johnson (annettejoycejohnson@gmail.com)" <annettejoycejohnson@gmail.com>, "Arnold, Julie" <julie.arnold@rrps.net>, "Bill Lewis" <billlewis@lovingtonschools.net>, "Chavez, David " <David@ces.org>, "Chris Pash" <cpash@fms.k12.nm.us>, "Christina Velasquez" <mcv@pvs.k12.nm.us>,

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"Erik Bose" <erik.bose@abqca.org>, "Hawkins, Will (hawkinsw@hobbsschools.net)" <HawkinsW@hobbsschools.net>, "Jude P. Garcia (APSPA)" <garcia_ju@aps.edu>, "Karen Trujillo" <karentrujillolc@gmail.com>, "Maria Jaramillo" <mjaramillo@crecnm.org>, "Montaño, Joey" <joey@nmasbo.org>, "Patrick Arguelles" <arguelles@aps.edu>, "Raul Sanchez - NMAESP (pcs3081@gmail.com)" <pcs3081@gmail.com>, "Russell Goff" <nmaer@cybermesa.com>, "Sally Marquez" <sally@nmact.org>, "Scott McMath" <smcmath@rec6.net>, "Traci Filiss" <tfiliss@taosacademy.org>, "Victoria Tafoya (victoria@dlenm.org)" <victoria@dlenm.org>

Attachments:FY18 Omni Analysis.pdf (182.99k)

Colleagues:

Attached please find an update from AASA, Noelle Ellerson Ng that I received today. It outlines the Fed Omnibus Funding Bill (Federal Budget) foe this fiscal year. You will notice that it fully funds current levels for Title 2; increases funding for Title 1 and Title 4. It is expected to be signed by the President and will become (finally) the Federal Budget for this year. Overall it is better news than we had expected. I hope this will assist you in your budget planning. I am sure it will be discussed to some degree in the upcoming Spring Budget Workshop.

Best Regards:

Stan

Stan Rounds

Stan Rounds
Executive Director
New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders and
New Mexico School Superintendents Association
6600 Palomas, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Cell: 575-915-7868
Office: 505-217-2345
stan@nmcel.org
www.nmcel.org

From: CJ Reid [mailto:creid@aasa.org]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 8:33 AM
To: Stan Rounds <stan@nmcel.org>
Subject: [state-execs] AASA Analysis of FY18 Omnibus Bill

The following comes to you from Noelle Ellerson Ng ...

Good morning all,

Yesterday, I shared AASA's analysis to the FY18 omnibus bill. It has come to my attention the email may not have made it to all of your inboxes. In an effort to trouble shoot, CJ is sending it again. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Original email: I have attached our analysis of the House Omnibus Appropriations bill, which will fund FY18, the federal dollars that will be in your schools for the 2018-19 school year. The memo includes a link to our letter of support for the bill.

You can access the memo and Dan's statement on the blog.

Thanks,

Noelle

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy

AASA: The School Superintendents Association

(c)703-774-6935

Twitter: @Noellerson

#LovePublicEducation

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From: "Lydia Williams" <Lydia.Williams@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 15:45:09 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "lydiabwilliams@gmail.com" <lydiabwilliams@gmail.com>

Attachments:Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Everyone,
Here's another webinar. Although I don't think they will be offering CEs for this. Pass along to those who might be interested.
Thanks,
Val

From: Avron Kriechman [mailto:AKriechman@salud.unm.edu]

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 MT** on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

A flyer is attached.

Warmly,

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Avi Kriechman, M.D.
Division of Community and Behavioral Health
UNM HSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
MSC 09-5030
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
4001 Indian School NE Ste 325
AKriechman@salud.unm.edu
CBH Phone: 505-272-6238
CBH Fax: 505-272-1876â€‹

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From: "Lisa Clouthier" <Lisa.Clouthier@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 09:06:52 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

I think this one would be more interesting. What do you think? I will ask the group and see what they think.

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
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From: "Lisa Clouthier" <Lisa.Clouthier@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 09:09:00 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Bonnie Fick" <Bonnie.Fick@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

Good morning,

I was wondering what your thoughts on all of us getting together and doing CEU's at Edison?

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
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From: "Lopez, Valerie A, DOH" <ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 15:16:32 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Acosta, Susan, DOH" <Susan.Acosta@state.nm.us>, "Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH" <Twila.Becenti-Funda@state.nm.us>, "Farmer, Jim, DOH" <James.Farmer@state.nm.us>, "Lopez, Amanda J, DOH" <AmandaJ.Lopez@state.nm.us>, "Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH" <Tessa.Medina-Lucero@state.nm.us>, "Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH" <Kristin.Oreskovich@state.nm.us>, "Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH" <Winona.Stoltzfus@state.nm.us>, "Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH" <Rebecca.Trujillo@state.nm.us>, "Woodard, Katherine, DOH" <Katherine.Woodard@state.nm.us>

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Warmly,

Avi

Avi Kriechman, M.D.
Division of Community and Behavioral Health

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CBH Phone: 505-272-6238
CBH Fax: 505-272-1876â€‹

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From: "Lisa Clouthier" <Lisa.Clouthier@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Thu, 1 Mar 2018 10:24:24 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Cheryl Vickers" <Cheryl.Vickers@CarlsbadSchools.net>

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From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
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From: "Justin Gossett" <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Thu, 1 Mar 2018 06:52:47 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Ellen Krumm" <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

FYI,

From: Kelli Barta
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Justin Gossett <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
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To: Acosta, Susan, DOH <Susan.Acosta@state.nm.us>; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH <Twila.Becenti-Funda@state.nm.us>; Farmer, Jim, DOH <James.Farmer@state.nm.us>; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH <AmandaJ.Lopez@state.nm.us>; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH <Tessa.Medina-Lucero@state.nm.us>; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH <Kristin.Oreskovich@state.nm.us>; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH <Winona.Stoltzfus@state.nm.us>; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH <Rebecca.Trujillo@state.nm.us>; Woodard, Katherine, DOH <Katherine.Woodard@state.nm.us>
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Warmly,

Avi

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From: "Kelli Barta" <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 15:48:57 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Justin Gossett" <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Mark Barela" <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>

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Importance: High

Good Afternoon Everyone,
Here's another webinar. Although I don't think they will be offering CEs for this. Pass along to those who might be interested.
Thanks,
Val

From: Avron Kriechman [mailto:AKriechman@salud.unm.edu]

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 M**T on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

A flyer is attached.

Warmly,

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Avi Kriechman, M.D.
Division of Community and Behavioral Health
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From: "glenda DePaula" <glendadepaula@yahoo.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 15:23:20 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Fwd: NMAFCS March 2018 News Service
To: "Linda Benoit" <lbenoit@houseschools.net>, "Linda Ortiz" <facs_linda_ortiz@hotmail.com>, "Patricia Downing" <patricia.downing@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "Crystal Boylan" <crystal.boylan@aps4kids.org>, "Carol Wilson" <carol.wilson@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Kristin Meyer" <Kristin.meyer@aps.edu>, "Bertha Parker" <bparker@gccs.cc>, "Evelyn Ramirez-Chavez" <erchavez@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Kelsey Armijo" <karmijo@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Gloria Pengasro" <pengg@centralschools.org>, "Camilo Montano" <camilo.montano@aps.edu>, "Conda Arteaga" <artec@centralschools.org>, "Franklin Romero" <franklin.romero@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "Karrie Wren" <karrie.wren@capitantigers.org>, "Katrina Hayes" <k.hayes@tucumcarischools.com>, "Kevin Zink" <kevin.zink@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Key Thomas" <kthomas@texicoschools.com>, "Lanea Donahoo" <ahmcclla@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Linda Casper" <lcasper@maxwellp12.com>, "Mary Hester" <Mary.hester@aps4kids.org>, "Olga Perez" <operez@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Patricia Downing" <particia.downing@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "Teresa Haggerson-Lucero" <thaggerson@silvershcools.org>, "l Martinez" <lmartinez@dulce.schools.com>, "Tamara Faulk" <tamara.faulk@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "J Velarde" <JVelarde@risd.k12.nm.us>, "Judy Ruggles" <judyr@lpdsf.com>, "S Newman" <s.newman@laschools.net>, "Tanya Lovato" <nmtania@hotmail.com>, "Virginia Lerma" <vlerma@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Debbie Stenstrom" <dstenstromn@portalesschools.com>, "Ella Davis" <emdavis@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "April Molina" <ahibbert@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Carleigh Salmon" <cpettenuzzo@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Jennifer Cosman" <jcosman@risd.k12.nm.us>, "Magan Romig" <mromig@lcps.net>, "Kasey Graziano" <Kasey.graziano@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Gwendolyn Chapman" <gwendolyn.chapman@clovis-schools.org>, "Stephanie Lengers" <stephanie.lengers@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Kolbe Williams" <kwilliams@fms.k12.nm.us>, "Donna Yazzie" <yazzdo@centralschools.org>, "LisaJo McCasland" <lisajo.mccasland@clovis-schools.org>, "Amy Garcia" <amy.garcia@clovis-schools.org>, "Veronica Garcia" <vahunnicutt@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Rebecca Lusk" <rlusk@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Maria Herrera" <herrera_mar@aps.edu>, "Ammy James" <jameaa@centralschools.org>, "Lupe Garcia" <gggarcia@lcpsl.net>, "Christine Hightower" <chightower@portalesschools.com>, "Yvonne Bernino" <yvonne.bernino@tularosak12.us>, "L Williamson" <lwilliamson@silverschools.org>, "Cheryl Hinrichs" <chinrichs@melroseschools.org>, "Amber Quintana" <alq@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Kristina Martinez" <kmartinez2@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Brandi Holcomb" <brandi.holcomb7@gmail.com>, "Diane Chapman" <gwendolyn.chapman@clovis-schools.org>, "Deidre Washburn" <dwashburn@houseshcools.net>, "Jessie Olson" <Jessie.Olson@aps.edu>, "Dianne Kemp" <dkemp@portalesschools.com>, "Lanea McCluhan" <ahmcclla@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Linda LeClear" <linda.leclear@clovis-schools.org>, "Jodi Lamm" <J.Lamm@tucumcarischools.com>, "Unna Valdez" <valdez_u@aps.edu>, "Maria Buena Canda" <amodb@centralschools.org>, "Margaret Medeiros" <mmedeiros@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "Veronica Hunmcutt" <vahunnicutt@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "Phyllis Turquette" <pturquette@lcps.net>, "Gaye Faulkner" <faulkner@aps.edu>, "Pamela Flores" <pflores@spxabq.org>, "Jan Schuman" <jan.schuman@clovis-schools.org>, "Alexandria Armstrong" <armstronga@ruidososchools.org>, "Patricia Irons" <patriciairons@lovingtonschools.net>, "Donna Hinders" <dhinders@llschools.net>, "Myra Baird" <puckheadnm@msn.com>, "Aleita Kiwanuka" <kiwanuka@aps.edu>, "Martha Ramirez-Ketelaar" <mzella@lcps.net>, "Roxane McCasland" <rmccasland@fms.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:NMAFCS March 2018.pdf (200.71k)

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From: "LaVern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 10:06:52 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Fwd: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Justin Gossett" <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Ellen Krumm" <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:ATT00001.htm (246 bytes) Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

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From: "Carrie Boatwright" <boacar1996@outlook.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Feb 2018 12:08:35 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Fwd: Update on Broward Tragedy
To: "carrie.boatwright@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <carrie.boatwright@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Betty Patterson <bpatterson@neanm.org>
Date: February 15, 2018 at 3:51:47 PM MST
To: Sabina Aguilar <sabilov@hotmail.com>, "traceytaylornm@gmail.com" <traceytaylornm@gmail.com>, "Becki Hammond, NEA Lake Arthur" <beckilynch@yahoo.com>, "Becky Hotal, NEA Aztec" <vnhotabe@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Ben Steiner, NEA Rio Rancho" <bensteiner00@gmail.com>, "bethanyjar@gmail.com" <bethanyjar@gmail.com>, "Carrie Boartwright, NEA Carlsbad" <boacar1996@outlook.com>, "Charity Cheung and Susie De La Torre, NEA Deming Co-Presidents" <neademing@outlook.com>, Dana Miyamoto <d_miyamoto@yahoo.com>, "danilleyoung@yahoo.com" <danilleyoung@yahoo.com>, "dmdawson4085@gmail.com" <dmdawson4085@gmail.com>, "Dodi Eakins, Portales" <deakins@portalesschools.com>, "Dolores Sanchez, NEA Cimarron" <dsan_87714@yahoo.com>, "Garald Sauer, NEA-Magdalena" <jsauer@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "Geni Flores, ENMU Portales" <geni.flores@enmu.edu>, "Gerald Williams, NEA San Juan College" <aztfarm98765@yahoo.com>, "Gordon Mishler, NEA-T or C" <mishler@windstream.net>, Grace Mayer <mayer.grace2@gmail.com>, "Irma Valdespino, NEA Las Cruces CSEC" <ivaldespino@comcast.net>, "Jacqueline Grijalva, NEA Cobre Contact" <2j11a64@comcast.net>, "Jason Baca, NEA Roy" <jsnbaca@yahoo.com>, "Jaylyn Maestas, NEA Wagon Mound" <jaylynmaestas@hotmail.com>, "Jean Appell, Jefferson Montessori Academy-Carlsbad" <appelljacm@gmail.com>, "momof3trucan@gmail.com" <momof3trucan@gmail.com>, "Jim Sauer, NEA Magdalena" <jsauer000@gmail.com>, "Joan Henderson, Monte del Sol" <jhenderson@montedelsol.org>, "Jon Mullen, NEA NM Retired Acting President" <mullen_jon@yahoo.com>, "Kat Bustillos, Silver Consolidated" <kat.bustillos@gmail.com>, "Kathy Jenkins, HED-NM Highlands Univ" <kjenkins@nmhu.edu>, "Kathy Jenkins, HED-NM Highlands Univ" <jenks08@msn.com>, "Keith A. Rall, Hobbs Co President" <kadorall@msn.com>, "Kerry Benson, NEA Pojoaque" <kerrybenson@yahoo.com>, "Kristina Jourdan-Korte, NEA Clayton" <jourdankr@yahoo.com>, "lwvazquez@msn.com" <lwvazquez@msn.com>, "Lazarita Heather Williams, NEA T or C" <heatherpad89@gmail.com>, "Linda Casper, NEA Maxwell Contact" <lcasper@maxwellp12.com>, "Lisa Felix, Farmington EA Co-President" <mrs.felix3.1415@gmail.com>, "Lisa Vasquez, NEA Ruidoso" <vasquezruidoso@yahoo.com>, "Margaret Alire, Espanola NEA" <m_alire@yahoo.com>, "Mario Romero, HED-NM Highlands Univ-Staff Unit" <aftmrromero@gmail.com>, "Mary Sanchez, NEA Tularosa" <quiqui38@gmail.com>, Michael Moss <Mdmoss@plumbersoft.com>, "Michael Perea, NEA West Las Vegas" <ma_perea@hotmail.com>, "Monica Archuleta, NEA Questa" <monicaarchuleta@gmail.com>, "Nancy Harding, NEA Artesia Contact" <nancyharding97@gmail.com>, "Patricia Mendoza, NEA Las Vegas City" <plmendoza@hotmail.com>, "Penny Valdez, NEA Los Lunas" <penny.valdez@comcast.net>, "Raquel Montiel, NEA Lordsburg" <racaldee@hotmail.com>, "Rosa Linda Ramirez, NEA-Loving" <lr_48_hours@yahoo.com>, "Royceann Lafayette, NEA Belen" <royceann@outlook.com>, "Sandra Ledezma, NEA Gadsden" <sandylee8289@gmail.com>, "Santana Castillo, NEA-Moriarty-Edgewood" <bear12341@msn.com>, "Shasta Cordova, NEA Tucumcari" <shasta_cordova@yahoo.com>, "swrayreynol@gmail.com" <swrayreynol@gmail.com>, "Sue Holland, NEA Raton" <dueceholland@msn.com>, "Trish Ruiz, NEA-Hobbs" <gtr804pd@gmail.com>, "Wendy Alberson, NEA Las Cruces" <walberson.nea@gmail.com>, "Yazmin Izquierdo, NEA Lovington" <azinym77@hotmail.com>, "Yazmin Izquierdo, NEA-Lovington" <yazminizquierdo@lovingtonschools.net>, Ashley Ramirez <ashsamram@gmail.com>, Betty Patterson <bpatterson@neanm.org>, "bwhygles@hotmail.com" <bwhygles@hotmail.com>, Carolyn Serfin-Abeyta <csabeyta@outlook.com>, "Charles Bowyer" <cbowyer@neanm.org>, Delphina Ponce <jimenezdelphia@gmail.com>, "Diane Noblett-Trujillo" <abcread123@gmail.com>, Edie Brycelea <ebrycelea@neanm.org>, Eduardo Holguin <eholguin749@gmail.com>, Linda Moody <lmoody@neanm.org>, "Mary Parr-Sanchez" <mparrsanchez@neanm.org>, Randy Mondragon <randylori2@aol.com>, Sabina Aguilar <sabilov@hotmail.com>, Sylvia Garcia <smaestra@aol.com>, Tammie Yazzie <tami_yazi@msn.com>
Subject: FW: Update on Broward Tragedy

Information to share from NEA and Florida.

From: Kelly, Teresa [NEA] [mailto:TKelly@nea.org] **On Behalf Of** Eskelsen, Lily [NEA]

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Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 3:43 PM
To: state-presidents@list.nea.org; state-executive-directors@list.nea.org; bod@list.nea.org; ObserversEC [NEA] <observersec@list.nea.org>
Subject: Update on Broward Tragedy

Over the last 24 hours, our team has worked with the leadership and staff of the Broward Teachers Union (BTU), The Florida Education Association (FEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to ensure that the community of educators, students, parents and residents have the support they need to deal with the many challenges presented by this horrible event.

We remain in communication with BTU, FEA and AFT to ensure we all stay on the same message and that we are doing everything we can to support our members, our students and the community in the most effective way during this hour of need. Alongside them, we grieve the loss of 17 souls, including two of our own members. Our heart breaks for the injured and the entire community.

I am currently in Broward County to support the leaders and listen to our members and their students.

We know you're feeling a lot of the same emotions we are—grief, heartache, sadness, anger and frustration. Throughout the day, we have heard on social media, e-mail and voicemails from a growing chorus of members who all share that same sentiment.

Please see below for a brief synopsis of what we have been doing to support our colleagues since we learned of yesterday's events.

Communications Support:
Working with the FEA, staff provided support to the state and local affiliate to write and distribute coordinated press releases and supported those teams in dealing with the high volume of media that approached both the NEA's media team and the FEAs offices. Ongoing media requests are being coordinated with the BTU, the FEA, AFT and the NEA and we have been providing resources and strategic advice to the state and local affiliates to help them get through this difficult time.

I drafted and shared a blog post on Lily's Blackboard this morning. Our team has also provided the FEA with multiple resources they can use that give their educators and parents information on how to talk to kids about school shootings, etc.

Additional spaces for our members and the public to share their grief have been provided in various online spaces, including a NEA Today story. Links to the specific items and content are included below. Moving forward, we will continue to send the message that we must do everything we can to ensure our students and educators are safe. Emails will be going out to members and supporters with information on how they can support the effort.

Mobilizing our Members:
Shortly, a million of our activists (members, Association leaders and advocates) will all receive an e-mail asking them to contact their Members of Congress to demand that they immediately take action to address the tragic gun violence that continues to plague our nation - in our schools, our houses of worship, our theaters, at concerts, and in our neighborhoods.
Watch and listen to what one of our members who hid herself and 19 students during yesterday's attack had to say about it, cue video to the 3:30 mark.
That same call to action will be shared with all communications directors via the weekly message guidance.

Financial Support:
The team from Member Benefits has mobilized to ensure the local has all of the information they need to obtain the resources they need. They are on the ground and are alleviating the stress so people can focus on healing.
We are partnering with AFT to request donations on behalf of our sisters and brothers and their students in Florida. It is impossible to make sense of the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School. But in moments of tragedy, our union family comes together to support one another—and we ask you to join us by donating to help them.

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5 Things You Can Do Right Now

1. We are putting our resources into action to comfort members and demand action from Congress. We suggest you do as well. After your contact your members of Congress, please share our posts on your own Facebook and Twitter accounts and encourage your members and colleagues to do the same.
2. Make a donation to support the victims, and the families of those who lost loved ones in Parkland. A gift of any size is helpful. We can't take away their pain, but we can support our sisters and brothers.
3. Send condolences and encouragement to the Stoneman Douglas community.
4. Make resources for helping and healing in a time of crisis available to your members. NEA Healthy Futures School Crisis Guide – Help and Healing in a Time of Crisis This step-by-step resource created by educators for educators can make it easier for union leaders, school district administrators, and principals to keep schools safe — before, during and after a crisis.
5. Give your colleagues tools on how to help students cope. School Shootings and Other Traumatic Events: How To Talk To Students To help students who are continually hearing about senseless gun violence in or near schools and are scared about their safety, we offer advice from the National Association of School Psychologists for talking to them about violence and other national tragedies.

Additional Links:

Lily's Tweets on Twitter:

@Lily_NEA
https://twitter.com/Lily_NEA/status/963940935427125249

Also in Spanish
https://twitter.com/Lily_NEA/status/963949771470893056

You are currently subscribed to state-presidents as: bpatterson@neanm.org.

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From: "Corey Murray" <corey.murray@k12insight.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2018 11:15:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Give students and parents a voice in school safety
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

To view this email as a web page, click here



Hi Lavern,

In the aftermath of Parkland and other recent tragedies, school safety is once again in the national spotlight.

At **Klein Independent School District** in Texas, school leaders recently launched *Keep Klein Safe*, a district-wide advocacy campaign that empowers students and parents to report safety concerns and play an active role in improving physical and emotional safety in school.

If you're evaluating your safety policy this year, please join us for a free webinar, **Give your community a voice in school safety**.

Hear from district leaders and school resource officers and get practical ideas for how to amplify student, parent and staff voices. You'll also learn how to provide better service and attentiveness in your schools this year.

Details:

What: Give your community a voice in school safety

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When: April 12
Time: 1 p.m. CDT / 2 p.m. EDT

Save my seat

Thanks,



Corey Murray
Sr. Director Strategy & Engagement
K12 *Insight*

P.S. We'll send our latest report featuring the "3Ps" of school safety to all webinar attendees.

Send to a Friend
Unsubscribe

K12 *Insight*
2291 Wood Oak Drive, Suite 300, Herndon, VA 20171 US

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From: "Valdez, Dianna M" <valdez@aps.edu>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 10:05:33 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Grant request
To: "Jeannette Vigil" <leahvigil14@gmail.com>, "Bedeaux, Martha D" <bedeaux@aps.edu>, "Annette Hardin" <Annette.Hardin@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "jstokes@tba-abq.com" <jstokes@tba-abq.com>, "Catherine Kemp" <ziggym123@yahoo.com>, "Katy Hammel" <kathrynhammel@comcast.net>, "Fraga, Marisol A" <fraga@aps.edu>, "Bonnie Lee" <leebo@centralschools.org>

CRC has received a request for grant funds to support a very interesting and worthwhile project. Although it does not directly support literacy development, it does address Community Service. Please give it due consideration for all or partial funding.

They are asking for $750 for expenses… (flight, etc.)

We don't have mini=grants budgeted and must reserve $1000 in 1.2.8 Community and International Projects for the committed Regional Expo out West, although we have not received a letter of request, yet. That leaves $3000 .

Please let me know your thoughts and vote asap.

Dianna

Our idea is called "Healing by Helping." The inspiration came from two sources. Jaime and I are both seeing more of our students with trauma and in distress. (I bet you are too.) And I have been working with teams of gifted students on a Destination Imagination community service challenge.

In the DI community service challenge, teams of kids have total freedom to define how big their "community" is, decide what the community needs, and develop a project to address a community need. I have watched teams of kids over the years get really empowered by going through this process.

Our brainstorm was to do something similar with kids who have experienced trauma. We call it "Healing by Helping."

This idea -- that helping others provides ourselves with relief and comfort -- fit perfectly with the approach our school counselor has developed in his own life. Dr. Dan was a gun violence victim as an adolescent , became paralyzed, and now uses a wheelchair to get around. He developed his own code or method for recovery from trauma and it involves helping others as one of the steps.

So Jaime and I presented this idea -- along with all the obstacles to implementation -- to the NBCT Teach to Lead team and it was chosen for the Nashville summit (April 27-29). It is at this summit that we will tackle the tough logistical questions -- who will staff these teams? when can the students meet? could it possibly be during the school day? how can we make this transferable to other schools?

My lawyer bud immediately bought me the ticket to Nashville. We are seeking sponsorships for two other members of our team. Teach to Lead has told us we need to have 3-5 people there to make the process profitable.

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Thanks!!

Katy

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From: "Eric Brunnemann" <ericbrunnemann@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 17 Feb 2018 12:53:20 -0700 (MST)
Subject: How You Can Join a National Walkout For Parents, Students, and Teachers Sick of Gun Violence
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

You following this? It's trending.

https://www.popsugar.com/news/Enough-National-School-Walkout-March-14-2018-Details-44592487

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 05:31:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

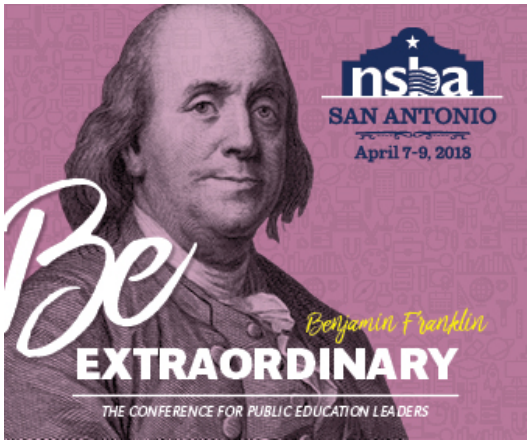
If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view

National Connection Daily
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Good morning Cindy Romero March 26, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies.

The AP (3/24, Khalil, Woodward) reports that "in a historic groundswell of youth activism, hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. against gun violence Saturday, vowing to transform fear and grief into a "vote-them-out" movement and tougher laws against weapons and ammo." The AP adds that demonstrators "took to the streets of the nation's capital and such cities as Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, in the kind of numbers seen during the Vietnam era, sweeping up activists long frustrated by stalemate in the gun debate and bringing in lots of new, young voices."

The Washington Post (3/24, A1, Jamison, Chason, Heim) in a front-page article reports that "organized by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a gunman killed 17 last month, the March for Our Lives showcased impassioned teens calling on Congress to enact stricter gun-control laws to end the nation's two-decade stretch of campus shootings." According to the Post, "hundreds of "sibling protests" took place across the world, from New York City – where demonstrators spread across 20 blocks – to Jonesboro, Ark., a small city marking the 20th anniversary of a middle-school shooting that left four students and a teacher dead."

USA Today (3/24, Hayes, Jackson, Collins, Dastagir) reports "well over 1 million students – and their supporters" took part in marches "around the globe Saturday to make a powerful statement against gun violence and call on lawmakers to pass stricter laws or face their wrath at the polls."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (3/24, Zezima) says "more than 800 events were scheduled worldwide, according to the gun-control group Everytown for Gun Safety," while "counterprotests and separate

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rallies organized by gun rights groups" also took place. In the lead ABC World News Tonight (3/24, lead story, 4:05, Llamas) segment, David Wright reported that "in Parkland, Florida, in Texas and other deep red states, in California and other blue states, the crowds exceeded expectations" while the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Hackman, Gordon, Levitz, McWhirter, Mahtani, King, Malas, Subscription Publication) live feed also recaps the large rallies that took place in Washington, DC as well as Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles.

The New York Times (3/24, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that "standing before vast crowds from Washington to Los Angeles to Parkland, Fla., the speakers – nearly all of them students, some still in elementary school – delivered an anguished and defiant message: They are 'done hiding' from gun violence, and will 'stop at nothing' to get politicians to finally prevent it." In the lead NBC Nightly News (3/24, lead story, 3:30, Diaz-Balart) segment, Kate Snow reported 1,300 children under the age of 17 "are killed by guns every year." Snow highlighted that as "gun violence is the third leading cause of death for that age group" and she added "the voices of a younger generation" on Saturday said that they have had enough.

Bloomberg News (3/24, Yang, Flatley, Shields) reports the "protesters...demand[ed] protection from gun violence, including a ban on assault weapons such as the rifle used in Parkland, a prohibition on high-capacity magazines that let killers shoot long bursts without reloading, and more effective background checks for gun purchases." On the CBS Weekend News (3/24, story 3, 1:55, Quijano), Adriana Diaz reported "students told us this isn't the culminating end of their movement. It's just the beginning. They say if they don't see legislative action, they will continue to march and they even have another walkout scheduled."

Reuters (3/24, Simpson, Johnson, Johnson, Young, Popovici, Tso, Fagenson, Chiarito, Oliphant, Hay) says that in what was "the largest March For Our Lives protest, demonstrators jammed Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue where they listened to speeches from survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School." On the lead CBS Weekend News (3/24, lead story, 2:45, Quijano) segment, Jeff Pegues reported "an expected crowd of half a million people" took part in the March For Our Lives in Washington, DC.

POLITICS & POLICY

WPost Analysis: GOP Governors Increasingly Investing In Education.

In an analysis piece, the Washington Post (3/25, Scherer) writes that in "a major turnabout for a generation of conservative leaders," cost-cutting GOP governors are now bragging about investing in public schools. The Post attributes this to "the backlash that boiled over into a teacher walkout in West Virginia" as well as teachers and the public demands for "more money after years of tight budgets and a Republican focus on tax cuts" having "forced a change in strategy." The piece reports that declining revenues in states have resulted in "educators leaving en masse for higher-wage jobs, classroom conditions deteriorating and some districts even adopting four-day school weeks."

TEACHING & LEARNING

North Carolina Nonprofit Aims To Prepare New Generation Of Pilots.

The AP (3/24, Childress) reported on the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program for high school students in Durham. The program "is open to all students," but is focused on helping "prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The story mentions that flying lessons in today's day and age "cost about $180 an hour, compared to

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the $14 an hour" students used to pay back in the '60s. The AP mentions that FAA "requires 40 hours of flight time in addition to passing the FAA Private Pilot written exam and the Private Pilot Oral and Practical (Flying) Exam to earn a pilot's license."

Carnegie Foundation Program Helps Teachers Use Motivation To Improve Math Proficiency.

The National Center for Education Statistics found that in 2015, "a mere 25 percent of high school seniors were proficient or higher" in math, underscoring for the Washington Post (3/25, Spencer) that "American students are bombing" the subject. "Efforts to improve these numbers have abounded," but a program by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching may be yielding results. Hundreds of teachers across the country are working with the foundation to test "their own ways to re-energize students plagued by past failures through merging specific emotional skills with academic ones." At KAPPA International High School in the Bronx, for example, attendance and four-year-graduation rates have climbed as more teachers sign on to the program. Additionally, the "school's overall average Algebra Regents exam score went from 60 in 2015 to 67 last year." Notably, the Post says, teachers participating in the Carnegie Foundation program at "other schools around the country have reported similar gains."

North Carolina STEM School Prepares Future Commercial Pilots.

The AP (3/24) profiled the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit STEM program that provides introductory flight training and mentoring to Durham, North Carolina high school students. Instructor Warren Hervey Wheeler, "one of the nation's first black commercial pilots," said that "the program can help students perform better in the classroom." He pointed to the practical math problems used in flight schooland said he "fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant." Wheeler added that he "believes its important to help prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The AP notes AYA helps students defray the costs of flight lessons, but it "has found that increasingly difficult to do in recent months."

Apple Poised To Announce Education-Focused Tool In Chicago.

The Seventy Four (3/25) reports that on March 27 at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago, Apple will unveil "what type of educational focus the brand has in mind for 2018 and beyond." Apple events are "almost always cloaked in vagueness to get folks talking beforehand," and so "there's no shortage of guesses as to what the big reveal will be." Still, in light of the announcement's timing and location – "Apple announced a partnership with the City of Chicago to bring its Everyone Can Code effort to 500,000 students" in December – the Seventy Four speculates that Apple's focus will be "on expanding coding in education." The company could also unveil its "rumored ClassKit," which helps teachers and students make educational apps; "a more cost-effective MacBook Air" to be used in classrooms; or an Apple Pencil 2, which is currently too costly to "have appeal inside schools."

Virginia Student Wins National Engineering Contest.

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (3/25) reports that earlier this month, Virginia eighth-grader Jason Qin won the junior division of the "Two for the Crew" challenge, a national engineering competition that encourages students "to come up with something useful for the International Space Station." The event is supported by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and "Future Engineers, an online educational platform that hosts national innovation challenges for students from kindergarten through 12th grade." Qin 's "tool combines needle-nose and lineman's pliers, as well as a set of attachable handles." He "suggested that NASA keep the heads of the pliers on the station, and astronauts use a 3-D printer in space to create custom handles that fit their hand sizes," with

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previous crew members' handles "melted down and recycled into a new set of customized handles using the 3-D printer."

Massachusetts Bill Seeks To Expand Civics, History Requirements.

The AP (3/24, Leblanc) reported the Massachusetts state Senate has approved a bill, dubbed "An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement," that "would require schools to expand on existing requirements that American history and civics education be taught." It would also mandate instruction on "the function and makeup of the branches of local, state and federal government" and electoral process, and help students "navigate an increasingly complex media environment." The measure, which is now headed to the state House, was opposed by some state "lawmakers concerned the state is dumping more requirements on schools without additional resources." Supporters of the measure, meanwhile, argue that "civics education is something schools should be expected to teach." One "supporter of the bill is Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, who linked the push for civic education to the recent rise in activism among young people pushing for stricter gun laws."

NYTimes Analysis: Concern Over Status As Professionals Drove WV Teachers' Strike.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (3/25, Scheiber, Subscription Publication) writes that the "rare statewide walkout" by West Virginia teachers was not just due to questions of pay and benefits, but "anxiety about their status as professionals," and "the anger shows little sign of dissipating." Such concerns put teachers "in the mainstream of recent labor history," with doctors, nurses, government workers, and journalists, among others. "Some of the most aggressive and successful labor actions in recent years have erupted when professionals felt their judgment, expertise and autonomy were under assault." Part of the concern arises as "technological developments like the internet have undermined claims to expertise," tight budgets reduced professionals' resources, and consolidation made then "feel like cogs in corporate machines that don't share their values."

Threat Of Teacher Walkout Looms Over Oklahoma In Week Before Deadline.

The Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) reports the Oklahoma Education Association, the "state's largest teachers union," is striving to unite and direct "a grass-roots movement for what could be an extended school shutdown and teacher walkout." Meanwhile, "the state's other large teachers union, Professional Oklahoma Educators, with its 11,000 members, has said it doesn't support a walkout." With support "from the Oklahoma City American Federation of Teachers and the Oklahoma Public Employees Association," the OEA "identified $905.7 million in recurring revenue that could fund teacher raises." The union granted state lawmakers an April 1 deadline to "fund a teacher and support personnel pay raise as well as restore common education funding." School districts across the state have already "authorized their superintendents to shut down school if" the walkout proceeds on April 2.

In an editorial, Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) says state lawmaker cannot "claim they weren't warned" about the strike, because even though the ultimatum was announced on March 6, "anyone could have seen it coming for months – years – before that." Tulsa World outlines various events over the last four years that put state lawmakers on notice about the growing demand for "better education funding." Despite those incidents, Tulsa World says, "Oklahoma's funding of public schools has gone down more than that of any other state since 2008," even though "the number of students went up."

OPERATIONS

Florida District Braces For Enrollment Growth.

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The Lakeland (FL) Ledger (3/25) reports the population in Polk County, Florida is expected to grow by 350,000 over the next 20 to 25 years. Polk County School District anticipates an enrollment surge, but already it cannot keep up with routine maintenance costs. Currently, the district spends roughly "$10 million each year just to maintain its 135 school campuses and facilities, and another $10.4 million on major projects." Because of a lack of funds, PCSD's "deferred maintenance backlog now stands at $421 million, and there's another $172 million in scheduled new construction on hold." The district is hoping voters will renew a half-cent sales tax in November, because without that "projected $40 million in sales-tax funds, the district would have only about $65 million at its disposal for annual capital needs, everything from replacing an air conditioner to building a new school from scratch."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Ohio State Lawmakers Consider Bill To Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Accessibility.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/25) reports roughly a third of Ohio's rural residents – more than one million people – "lack home access to broadband, compared with just 2 percent of urbanites, according to Federal Communications Commission estimates." Last week, a bill before state lawmakers "to establish a $50-million-per-year broadband development grant program inched forward, fueling the hopes of advocates" who caution that "the implications of an internetless life – or one where connection is slow, expensive, limited and unreliable – are far-reaching," especially for students. If the bill is passed, the program would provide "grants to private businesses, political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations and phone and internet cooperatives." It would also "expand coverage to about 14,000 Ohio households annually without raising taxes or using money from the state's General Revenue Fund."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Arizona State Lawmakers Secure $500 Million In School Funding Through Sales Tax Extension.

In what the AP (3/25, Christie) calls "an unexpected move that averts a looming 'fiscal cliff' that threatened more than 10 percent of" school funding in Arizona, the state legislature "overwhelmingly passed legislation" to extend "a sales tax that provides more than $500 million a year for K-12 education." On Thursday, only 10 of the 90 state lawmakers – "all majority Republicans" – opposed the measure, leaving "a bipartisan group of Republicans and Democrats cheering the approval, although both sides acknowledged that the state's woefully underfunded schools need more money, not just current funding levels." The bill's original sponsor, Republican state Rep. Doug Coleman, said the "Band-Aid" measure provides "$13 billion over the next 20 years that would have gone away." He conceded, however, that "much more needs to be done."

Alabama District Reimbursed $1.4 Million In Misdirected Funds.

The AP (3/24) reported the Alabama state Department of Education reimbursed $1.4 million to Montgomery Public Schools "for money that was wrongly sent to another school system in 2016." The Alabama Education Association had mentioned the misdirected funds in a lawsuit filed last month against state "Interim Superintendent Ed Richardson to block the sale of Georgia Washington Middle School to the Pike Road system," which received the funds. Richardson, who "is overseeing an intervention of Montgomery Public Schools by the state for financial and academic reasons," announced the planned middle school sale "to help shore up finances for the Montgomery system." AEA's lawsuit alleged "that Richardson had no authority to sell the school and was not acting in the best interests of Montgomery schools, noting that he had worked as a consultant for Pike Road when it separated from the Montgomery system." The funds were ultimately reimbursed to MPS through "mediation in the lawsuit."

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SAFETY & SECURITY

Many Teachers Joins Students At DC Rally.

The Washington Post (3/24, Stein, Truong) reports "the youth led the rally, but alongside them were teachers who said they witness each day how fear and violence puncture their students' lives." The Post adds "teachers said the conversation needs to go beyond mass shootings and include the violence that the nation's most vulnerable children face daily in their communities." According to Anna Fusco, president of the Broward Teachers Union, hundreds of the district's teachers "attended the rally to call for change and to honor the students and co-workers murdered on campus last month."

The Huffington Post (3/24, Fang) reports that teachers were "rallying for safer schools and better protections for their students. When asked about the subject of safety in the wake of countless school shootings, many of them vehemently opposed arming teachers," a proposal which "had gained traction in response to the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, including support from President Donald Trump."

Media Analyses: Students Sought To Make Gun Control A Key 2018 Issue.

In a brief segment, ABC World News Tonight (3/25, story 5, 0:20, Llamas) offered "an update on the March for Our Lives protests, taking place across the US and overseas [Saturday]. The global event is now considered to be the largest youth-led protest since the Vietnam War-era. The students say they're determined to stop gun violence, and will go to the polls to make it happen." On the CBS Weekend News (3/25, lead story, 2:20), DeMarco Morgan reported, "At least 4,000 young Americans reportedly registered to vote Saturday at gun control rallies across the country. About 4 million Americans will turn 18 this year."

The New York Times (3/25, Burns, Martin, Subscription Publication) reports, "The passionate gun-control rallies that brought out large crowds around the country over the weekend signaled that gun violence is not going away as an issue in the 2018 midterm elections," raising the possibility that GOP "candidates might be pushed mainly on the defensive on gun issues for the first time in decades." The Times adds that "across the landscape of midterm races, Republican and Democratic leaders say the gun issue appears to have become a potent rallying point for voters opposed to President Trump and fed up with what they see as Washington's indifference to mass shootings."

The AP (3/25, Irvine) reports, "The marches unified hundreds of thousands of people in cities across the country and have galvanized this movement," according to some students who took part. Those students "are vowing to get young voters registered and send a message in upcoming elections." USA Today (3/24, Hayes) reports that in the wake of Saturday's marches, "the question is whether these young people who call themselves 'the mass-shooting generation' will fade into the background of the debate over gun control or be the leading charge in changing the country's policies. Many of the Parkland students at the march in Washington on Saturday made it clear one of the next revolutions would be at the polls."

White House Praises "Courageous" Youths Marching Over School Shootings.

White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters issued a statement on Saturday applauding the youths participating in the nationwide "March For Our Lives" demonstrations against school shootings. While a number of articles noted the White House's remarks in a favorable context, several highlighted that President Trump's motorcade took a detour to avoid the protests as he traveled to and from his Palm Beach, Florida golf course. However, the media coverage, which included nearly 27 minutes on the network newscasts, was overall much more focused on the student speakers at the rallies and their calls for more gun control.

The Washington Times (3/24, Boyer) reports that "as hundreds of thousands of students, parents and teachers

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marched on Washington and other cities Saturday against gun violence, the White House said President Trump praised their activism." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) reports Walters said the White House "applaud[s] the many courageous young Americans exercising their First Amendment rights today." According to The Hill, Walters also "underscored efforts President Trump has taken on school safety, including support for bills strengthening the background check system for gun purchases and an anti-school violence act while also moving to ban bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to fire more rapidly." She asserted, "Keeping our children safe is a top priority of the President's, which is why he urged Congress to pass the Fix NICS [National Instant Criminal Background Check System] and STOP School Violence Acts, and signed them into law." Walters added the Department of Justice on Friday "issued the rule to ban bump stocks following through on the President's commitment to ban devices that turn legal weapons into illegal machine guns."

However, the Los Angeles Times (3/24, Megerian) reports the statement "was not issued in [Trump's] name" and states that the White House "has not responded to questions about his plans for the day." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) says that although the White House "did not say whether the president was golfing," Saturday was "the 101st day he has spent at one of his golf properties, and the 135th he has spent at one of his properties since taking office."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Analysis: South-Central Idaho Grapples With Special Education Growth.

In a more than 3,000-word article, the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/25, Wootton-Greener) examines how south-central Idaho schools are accommodating a nationwide increase in students in need of special education services. The region has seen the largest increase in the state, and its schools face "a multitude of challenges with educating students who have special needs." There is "no shortage of theories for why local schools are seeing more special education students," especially "those with severe needs and behavioral issues," and teachers "don't have a firm answer for the cause of those trends." The region is already struggling with "a shortage of federal funding," meaning "school districts are dipping more into their general fund to pay for services they're required by law to provide." Furthermore, the region is "being hit the hardest of any region in the state by a teacher shortage" – a "monumental challenge" rendering it "especially tough to find teachers and other support professionals, such as occupational and speech therapists."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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- **New Project Aims To Promote Digital Media Literacy To Arm Students Against Fake News.**
- **Success Academy Charters Show High Success Rate.**
- **Kansas Senate Advances First Part Of School Funding Fix.**
- **Parkland Superintendent Introduces New Security Measures Including Clear Backpacks.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 05:32:21 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, March 26, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement



Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies.

The AP (3/24, Khalil, Woodward) reports that "in a historic groundswell of youth activism, hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. against gun violence Saturday, vowing to transform fear and grief into a "vote-them-out" movement and tougher laws against weapons and ammo." The AP adds that demonstrators "took to the streets of the nation's capital and such cities as Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, in the kind of numbers seen during the Vietnam era, sweeping up activists long frustrated by stalemate in the gun debate and bringing in lots of new, young voices."

The Washington Post (3/24, A1, Jamison, Chason, Heim) in a front-page article reports that "organized by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a gunman killed 17 last month, the March for Our Lives showcased impassioned teens calling on Congress to enact stricter gun-control laws to end the nation's two-decade stretch of campus shootings." According to the Post, "hundreds of "sibling protests" took place across the world, from New York City – where demonstrators spread across 20 blocks – to Jonesboro, Ark., a small city marking the 20th anniversary of a middle-school shooting that left four students and a teacher dead."

USA Today (3/24, Hayes, Jackson, Collins, Dastagir) reports "well over 1 million students – and their supporters" took part in marches "around the globe Saturday to make a powerful statement against gun violence and call on lawmakers to pass stricter laws or face their wrath at the polls."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (3/24, Zezima) says "more than 800 events were scheduled

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worldwide, according to the gun-control group Everytown for Gun Safety," while "counterprotests and separate rallies organized by gun rights groups" also took place. In the lead ABC World News Tonight (3/24, lead story, 4:05, Llamas) segment, David Wright reported that "in Parkland, Florida, in Texas and other deep red states, in California and other blue states, the crowds exceeded expectations" while the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Hackman, Gordon, Levitz, McWhirter, Mahtani, King, Malas, Subscription Publication) live feed also recaps the large rallies that took place in Washington, DC as well as Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles.

The New York Times (3/24, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that "standing before vast crowds from Washington to Los Angeles to Parkland, Fla., the speakers – nearly all of them students, some still in elementary school – delivered an anguished and defiant message: They are 'done hiding' from gun violence, and will 'stop at nothing' to get politicians to finally prevent it." In the lead NBC Nightly News (3/24, lead story, 3:30, Diaz-Balart) segment, Kate Snow reported 1,300 children under the age of 17 "are killed by guns every year." Snow highlighted that as "gun violence is the third leading cause of death for that age group" and she added "the voices of a younger generation" on Saturday said that they have had enough.

Bloomberg News (3/24, Yang, Flatley, Shields) reports the "protesters...demand[ed] protection from gun violence, including a ban on assault weapons such as the rifle used in Parkland, a prohibition on high-capacity magazines that let killers shoot long bursts without reloading, and more effective background checks for gun purchases." On the CBS Weekend News (3/24, story 3, 1:55, Quijano), Adriana Diaz reported "students told us this isn't the culminating end of their movement. It's just the beginning. They say if they don't see legislative action, they will continue to march and they even have another walkout scheduled."

Reuters (3/24, Simpson, Johnson, Johnson, Young, Popovici, Tso, Fagenson, Chiarito, Oliphant, Hay) says that in what was "the largest March For Our Lives protest, demonstrators jammed Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue where they listened to speeches from survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School." On the lead CBS Weekend News (3/24, lead story, 2:45, Quijano) segment, Jeff Pegues reported "an expected crowd of half a million people" took part in the March For Our Lives in Washington, DC.

Many Teachers Joins Students At DC Rally.

The Washington Post (3/24, Stein, Truong) reports "the youth led the rally, but alongside them were teachers who said they witness each day how fear and violence puncture their students' lives." The Post adds "teachers said the conversation needs to go beyond mass shootings and include the violence that the nation's most vulnerable children face daily in their communities." According to Anna Fusco, president of the Broward Teachers Union, hundreds of the district's teachers "attended the rally to call for change and to honor the students and co-workers murdered on campus last month."

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FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies will present a comprehensive guide to the entire college search process as the final college admission and planning webinar of the 2017–18 academic year. **"Getting Started with Your College Search"** will air Wednesday, April 18, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (ET). Expert panelists will cover a wide range of needs related to the search process—from developing a college wish list to meeting with admissions officers to submitting an application. The webinar is offered exclusively for NHS and NJHS members and their parents, as well as faculty/staff of NHS and NJHS affiliated schools. Registration is now open at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

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EDUCATION POLICY

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Harvard University Will Allow Students To Report Offensive Professors.

The Washington Times (3/23, Richardson) says Harvard University on Thursday night announced an update to its online course evaluation system, which will "allow students to report professors who say 'offensive' things in class or make them feel 'uncomfortable.'" Dean of Undergraduate Education Jay Harris made the announcement at "a town hall convened to discuss the power dynamic between students and professors." Attendees at the town hall "expressed fear that reporting misbehavior could result in academic or professional retaliation." Harris said the school was working to revise the evaluations, saying "There will be a question of some kind that at least is trying to get at that."

Community Colleges, Trade Schools Looking To Attract More Adult Students.

The Wall Street Journal (3/25, Ward, Subscription Publication) reports that community colleges and technical schools across the country are hoping to attract more adult students by lowering costs and shortening the amount of time needed to earn a degree or credential. Several state governments are supporting the effort in an attempt to improve their pools of skilled workers.

Report: New York For-Profit Colleges Fail To Serve Students.

Diverse Education (3/25) reports according to a study published by think tank The Century Foundation, "New York's for-profit colleges leave students with huge debt and have little impact on earning potential." The study "compared student outcomes at 427 colleges and universities, including 112 public, 196 nonprofit and 119 for-profit institutions," finding that "for-profit schools display a pattern of failing to meaningfully serve their students, especially African-Americans and first-generation students." Moreover, "many for-profit schools show high default rates on student loans."

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Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 05:31:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

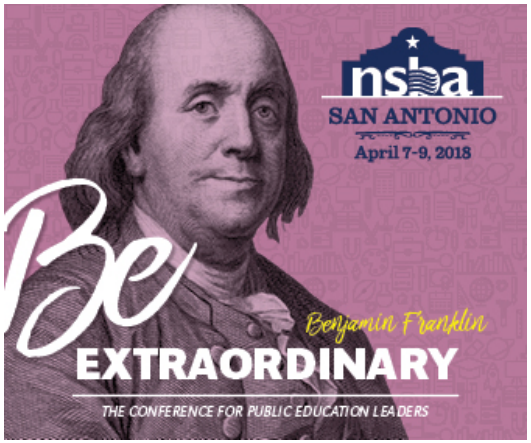
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LEADING THE NEWS

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POLITICS & POLICY

WPost Analysis: GOP Governors Increasingly Investing In Education.

In an analysis piece, the Washington Post (3/25, Scherer) writes that in "a major turnabout for a generation of conservative leaders," cost-cutting GOP governors are now bragging about investing in public schools. The Post attributes this to "the backlash that boiled over into a teacher walkout in West Virginia" as well as teachers and the public demands for "more money after years of tight budgets and a Republican focus on tax cuts" having "forced a change in strategy." The piece reports that declining revenues in states have resulted in "educators leaving en masse for higher-wage jobs, classroom conditions deteriorating and some districts even adopting four-day school weeks."

TEACHING & LEARNING

North Carolina Nonprofit Aims To Prepare New Generation Of Pilots.

The AP (3/24, Childress) reported on the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program for high school students in Durham. The program "is open to all students," but is focused on helping "prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The story mentions that flying lessons in today's day and age "cost about $180 an hour, compared to

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the $14 an hour" students used to pay back in the '60s. The AP mentions that FAA "requires 40 hours of flight time in addition to passing the FAA Private Pilot written exam and the Private Pilot Oral and Practical (Flying) Exam to earn a pilot's license."

Carnegie Foundation Program Helps Teachers Use Motivation To Improve Math Proficiency.

The National Center for Education Statistics found that in 2015, "a mere 25 percent of high school seniors were proficient or higher" in math, underscoring for the Washington Post (3/25, Spencer) that "American students are bombing" the subject. "Efforts to improve these numbers have abounded," but a program by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching may be yielding results. Hundreds of teachers across the country are working with the foundation to test "their own ways to re-energize students plagued by past failures through merging specific emotional skills with academic ones." At KAPPA International High School in the Bronx, for example, attendance and four-year-graduation rates have climbed as more teachers sign on to the program. Additionally, the "school's overall average Algebra Regents exam score went from 60 in 2015 to 67 last year." Notably, the Post says, teachers participating in the Carnegie Foundation program at "other schools around the country have reported similar gains."

North Carolina STEM School Prepares Future Commercial Pilots.

The AP (3/24) profiled the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit STEM program that provides introductory flight training and mentoring to Durham, North Carolina high school students. Instructor Warren Hervey Wheeler, "one of the nation's first black commercial pilots," said that "the program can help students perform better in the classroom." He pointed to the practical math problems used in flight schooland said he "fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant." Wheeler added that he "believes its important to help prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The AP notes AYA helps students defray the costs of flight lessons, but it "has found that increasingly difficult to do in recent months."

Apple Poised To Announce Education-Focused Tool In Chicago.

The Seventy Four (3/25) reports that on March 27 at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago, Apple will unveil "what type of educational focus the brand has in mind for 2018 and beyond." Apple events are "almost always cloaked in vagueness to get folks talking beforehand," and so "there's no shortage of guesses as to what the big reveal will be." Still, in light of the announcement's timing and location – "Apple announced a partnership with the City of Chicago to bring its Everyone Can Code effort to 500,000 students" in December – the Seventy Four speculates that Apple's focus will be "on expanding coding in education." The company could also unveil its "rumored ClassKit," which helps teachers and students make educational apps; "a more cost-effective MacBook Air" to be used in classrooms; or an Apple Pencil 2, which is currently too costly to "have appeal inside schools."

Virginia Student Wins National Engineering Contest.

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (3/25) reports that earlier this month, Virginia eighth-grader Jason Qin won the junior division of the "Two for the Crew" challenge, a national engineering competition that encourages students "to come up with something useful for the International Space Station." The event is supported by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and "Future Engineers, an online educational platform that hosts national innovation challenges for students from kindergarten through 12th grade." Qin 's "tool combines needle-nose and lineman's pliers, as well as a set of attachable handles." He "suggested that NASA keep the heads of the pliers on the station, and astronauts use a 3-D printer in space to create custom handles that fit their hand sizes," with

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previous crew members' handles "melted down and recycled into a new set of customized handles using the 3-D printer."

Massachusetts Bill Seeks To Expand Civics, History Requirements.

The AP (3/24, Leblanc) reported the Massachusetts state Senate has approved a bill, dubbed "An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement," that "would require schools to expand on existing requirements that American history and civics education be taught." It would also mandate instruction on "the function and makeup of the branches of local, state and federal government" and electoral process, and help students "navigate an increasingly complex media environment." The measure, which is now headed to the state House, was opposed by some state "lawmakers concerned the state is dumping more requirements on schools without additional resources." Supporters of the measure, meanwhile, argue that "civics education is something schools should be expected to teach." One "supporter of the bill is Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, who linked the push for civic education to the recent rise in activism among young people pushing for stricter gun laws."

NYTimes Analysis: Concern Over Status As Professionals Drove WV Teachers' Strike.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (3/25, Scheiber, Subscription Publication) writes that the "rare statewide walkout" by West Virginia teachers was not just due to questions of pay and benefits, but "anxiety about their status as professionals," and "the anger shows little sign of dissipating." Such concerns put teachers "in the mainstream of recent labor history," with doctors, nurses, government workers, and journalists, among others. "Some of the most aggressive and successful labor actions in recent years have erupted when professionals felt their judgment, expertise and autonomy were under assault." Part of the concern arises as "technological developments like the internet have undermined claims to expertise," tight budgets reduced professionals' resources, and consolidation made then "feel like cogs in corporate machines that don't share their values."

Threat Of Teacher Walkout Looms Over Oklahoma In Week Before Deadline.

The Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) reports the Oklahoma Education Association, the "state's largest teachers union," is striving to unite and direct "a grass-roots movement for what could be an extended school shutdown and teacher walkout." Meanwhile, "the state's other large teachers union, Professional Oklahoma Educators, with its 11,000 members, has said it doesn't support a walkout." With support "from the Oklahoma City American Federation of Teachers and the Oklahoma Public Employees Association," the OEA "identified $905.7 million in recurring revenue that could fund teacher raises." The union granted state lawmakers an April 1 deadline to "fund a teacher and support personnel pay raise as well as restore common education funding." School districts across the state have already "authorized their superintendents to shut down school if" the walkout proceeds on April 2.

In an editorial, Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) says state lawmaker cannot "claim they weren't warned" about the strike, because even though the ultimatum was announced on March 6, "anyone could have seen it coming for months – years – before that." Tulsa World outlines various events over the last four years that put state lawmakers on notice about the growing demand for "better education funding." Despite those incidents, Tulsa World says, "Oklahoma's funding of public schools has gone down more than that of any other state since 2008," even though "the number of students went up."

OPERATIONS

Florida District Braces For Enrollment Growth.

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The Lakeland (FL) Ledger (3/25) reports the population in Polk County, Florida is expected to grow by 350,000 over the next 20 to 25 years. Polk County School District anticipates an enrollment surge, but already it cannot keep up with routine maintenance costs. Currently, the district spends roughly "$10 million each year just to maintain its 135 school campuses and facilities, and another $10.4 million on major projects." Because of a lack of funds, PCSD's "deferred maintenance backlog now stands at $421 million, and there's another $172 million in scheduled new construction on hold." The district is hoping voters will renew a half-cent sales tax in November, because without that "projected $40 million in sales-tax funds, the district would have only about $65 million at its disposal for annual capital needs, everything from replacing an air conditioner to building a new school from scratch."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Ohio State Lawmakers Consider Bill To Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Accessibility.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (3/25) reports roughly a third of Ohio's rural residents – more than one million people – "lack home access to broadband, compared with just 2 percent of urbanites, according to Federal Communications Commission estimates." Last week, a bill before state lawmakers "to establish a $50-million-per-year broadband development grant program inched forward, fueling the hopes of advocates" who caution that "the implications of an internetless life – or one where connection is slow, expensive, limited and unreliable – are far-reaching," especially for students. If the bill is passed, the program would provide "grants to private businesses, political subdivisions, nonprofit organizations and phone and internet cooperatives." It would also "expand coverage to about 14,000 Ohio households annually without raising taxes or using money from the state's General Revenue Fund."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Arizona State Lawmakers Secure $500 Million In School Funding Through Sales Tax Extension.

In what the AP (3/25, Christie) calls "an unexpected move that averts a looming 'fiscal cliff' that threatened more than 10 percent of" school funding in Arizona, the state legislature "overwhelmingly passed legislation" to extend "a sales tax that provides more than $500 million a year for K-12 education." On Thursday, only 10 of the 90 state lawmakers – "all majority Republicans" – opposed the measure, leaving "a bipartisan group of Republicans and Democrats cheering the approval, although both sides acknowledged that the state's woefully underfunded schools need more money, not just current funding levels." The bill's original sponsor, Republican state Rep. Doug Coleman, said the "Band-Aid" measure provides "$13 billion over the next 20 years that would have gone away." He conceded, however, that "much more needs to be done."

Alabama District Reimbursed $1.4 Million In Misdirected Funds.

The AP (3/24) reported the Alabama state Department of Education reimbursed $1.4 million to Montgomery Public Schools "for money that was wrongly sent to another school system in 2016." The Alabama Education Association had mentioned the misdirected funds in a lawsuit filed last month against state "Interim Superintendent Ed Richardson to block the sale of Georgia Washington Middle School to the Pike Road system," which received the funds. Richardson, who "is overseeing an intervention of Montgomery Public Schools by the state for financial and academic reasons," announced the planned middle school sale "to help shore up finances for the Montgomery system." AEA's lawsuit alleged "that Richardson had no authority to sell the school and was not acting in the best interests of Montgomery schools, noting that he had worked as a consultant for Pike Road when it separated from the Montgomery system." The funds were ultimately reimbursed to MPS through "mediation in the lawsuit."

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SAFETY & SECURITY

Many Teachers Joins Students At DC Rally.

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The Huffington Post (3/24, Fang) reports that teachers were "rallying for safer schools and better protections for their students. When asked about the subject of safety in the wake of countless school shootings, many of them vehemently opposed arming teachers," a proposal which "had gained traction in response to the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, including support from President Donald Trump."

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White House Praises "Courageous" Youths Marching Over School Shootings.

White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters issued a statement on Saturday applauding the youths participating in the nationwide "March For Our Lives" demonstrations against school shootings. While a number of articles noted the White House's remarks in a favorable context, several highlighted that President Trump's motorcade took a detour to avoid the protests as he traveled to and from his Palm Beach, Florida golf course. However, the media coverage, which included nearly 27 minutes on the network newscasts, was overall much more focused on the student speakers at the rallies and their calls for more gun control.

The Washington Times (3/24, Boyer) reports that "as hundreds of thousands of students, parents and teachers

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marched on Washington and other cities Saturday against gun violence, the White House said President Trump praised their activism." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) reports Walters said the White House "applaud[s] the many courageous young Americans exercising their First Amendment rights today." According to The Hill, Walters also "underscored efforts President Trump has taken on school safety, including support for bills strengthening the background check system for gun purchases and an anti-school violence act while also moving to ban bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to fire more rapidly." She asserted, "Keeping our children safe is a top priority of the President's, which is why he urged Congress to pass the Fix NICS [National Instant Criminal Background Check System] and STOP School Violence Acts, and signed them into law." Walters added the Department of Justice on Friday "issued the rule to ban bump stocks following through on the President's commitment to ban devices that turn legal weapons into illegal machine guns."

However, the Los Angeles Times (3/24, Megerian) reports the statement "was not issued in [Trump's] name" and states that the White House "has not responded to questions about his plans for the day." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) says that although the White House "did not say whether the president was golfing," Saturday was "the 101st day he has spent at one of his golf properties, and the 135th he has spent at one of his properties since taking office."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Analysis: South-Central Idaho Grapples With Special Education Growth.

In a more than 3,000-word article, the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/25, Wootton-Greener) examines how south-central Idaho schools are accommodating a nationwide increase in students in need of special education services. The region has seen the largest increase in the state, and its schools face "a multitude of challenges with educating students who have special needs." There is "no shortage of theories for why local schools are seeing more special education students," especially "those with severe needs and behavioral issues," and teachers "don't have a firm answer for the cause of those trends." The region is already struggling with "a shortage of federal funding," meaning "school districts are dipping more into their general fund to pay for services they're required by law to provide." Furthermore, the region is "being hit the hardest of any region in the state by a teacher shortage" – a "monumental challenge" rendering it "especially tough to find teachers and other support professionals, such as occupational and speech therapists."

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- **Success Academy Charters Show High Success Rate.**
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- **Parkland Superintendent Introduces New Security Measures Including Clear Backpacks.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
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To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, March 26, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies will present a comprehensive guide to the entire college search process as the final college admission and planning webinar of the 2017–18 academic year. **"Getting Started with Your College Search"** will air Wednesday, April 18, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (ET). Expert panelists will cover a wide range of needs related to the search process—from developing a college wish list to meeting with admissions officers to submitting an application. The webinar is offered exclusively for NHS and NJHS members and their parents, as well as faculty/staff of NHS and NJHS affiliated schools. Registration is now open at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

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EDUCATION POLICY

WPost Analysis: GOP Governors Increasingly Investing In Education.

In an analysis piece, the Washington Post (3/25, Scherer) writes that in "a major turnabout for a generation of conservative leaders," cost-cutting GOP governors are now bragging about investing in public schools. The Post attributes this to "the backlash that boiled over into a teacher walkout in West Virginia" as well as teachers and the public demands for "more money after years of tight budgets and a Republican focus on tax cuts" having "forced a change in strategy." The piece reports that declining revenues in states have resulted in "educators leaving en masse for higher-wage jobs, classroom conditions deteriorating and some districts even adopting four-day school weeks."

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DIGITAL LEARNING

Ohio State Lawmakers Consider Bill To Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Accessibility.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Harvard University Will Allow Students To Report Offensive Professors.

The Washington Times (3/23, Richardson) says Harvard University on Thursday night announced an update to its online course evaluation system, which will "allow students to report professors who say 'offensive' things in class or make them feel 'uncomfortable.'" Dean of Undergraduate Education Jay Harris made the announcement at "a town hall convened to discuss the power dynamic between students and professors." Attendees at the town hall "expressed fear that reporting misbehavior could result in academic or professional retaliation." Harris said the school was working to revise the evaluations, saying "There will be a question of some kind that at least is trying to get at that."

Community Colleges, Trade Schools Looking To Attract More Adult Students.

The Wall Street Journal (3/25, Ward, Subscription Publication) reports that community colleges and technical schools across the country are hoping to attract more adult students by lowering costs and shortening the amount of time needed to earn a degree or credential. Several state governments are supporting the effort in an attempt to improve their pools of skilled workers.

Report: New York For-Profit Colleges Fail To Serve Students.

Diverse Education (3/25) reports according to a study published by think tank The Century Foundation, "New York's for-profit colleges leave students with huge debt and have little impact on earning potential." The study "compared student outcomes at 427 colleges and universities, including 112 public, 196 nonprofit and 119 for-profit institutions," finding that "for-profit schools display a pattern of failing to meaningfully serve their students, especially African-Americans and first-generation students." Moreover, "many for-profit schools show high default rates on student loans."

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FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Parkland Superintendent Introduces New Security Measures Including Clear Backpacks.**
- **Spending Bill Omits Administration Education Proposals.**
- **WSJournal Analysis: Companies Decreasing Reliance On Degrees In Hiring.**

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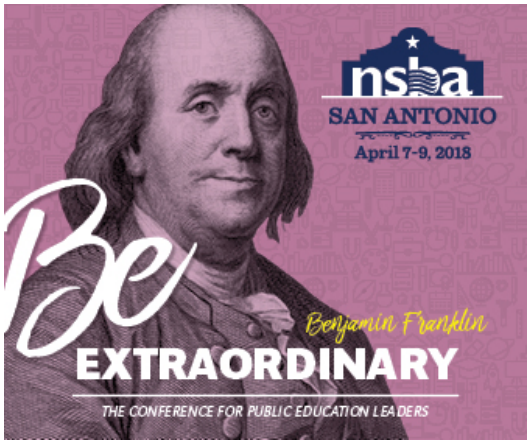
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LEADING THE NEWS

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Hundreds Of Thousands Gather To Protest Gun Violence At Parkland-Inspired Rallies.

The AP (3/24, Khalil, Woodward) reports that "in a historic groundswell of youth activism, hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. against gun violence Saturday, vowing to transform fear and grief into a "vote-them-out" movement and tougher laws against weapons and ammo." The AP adds that demonstrators "took to the streets of the nation's capital and such cities as Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, in the kind of numbers seen during the Vietnam era, sweeping up activists long frustrated by stalemate in the gun debate and bringing in lots of new, young voices."

The Washington Post (3/24, A1, Jamison, Chason, Heim) in a front-page article reports that "organized by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where a gunman killed 17 last month, the March for Our Lives showcased impassioned teens calling on Congress to enact stricter gun-control laws to end the nation's two-decade stretch of campus shootings." According to the Post, "hundreds of "sibling protests" took place across the world, from New York City – where demonstrators spread across 20 blocks – to Jonesboro, Ark., a small city marking the 20th anniversary of a middle-school shooting that left four students and a teacher dead."

USA Today (3/24, Hayes, Jackson, Collins, Dastagir) reports "well over 1 million students – and their supporters" took part in marches "around the globe Saturday to make a powerful statement against gun violence and call on lawmakers to pass stricter laws or face their wrath at the polls."

In a separate article, the Washington Post (3/24, Zezima) says "more than 800 events were scheduled worldwide, according to the gun-control group Everytown for Gun Safety," while "counterprotests and separate

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rallies organized by gun rights groups" also took place. In the lead ABC World News Tonight (3/24, lead story, 4:05, Llamas) segment, David Wright reported that "in Parkland, Florida, in Texas and other deep red states, in California and other blue states, the crowds exceeded expectations" while the Wall Street Journal (3/24, Hackman, Gordon, Levitz, McWhirter, Mahtani, King, Malas, Subscription Publication) live feed also recaps the large rallies that took place in Washington, DC as well as Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles.

The New York Times (3/24, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication) in a front-page article reports that "standing before vast crowds from Washington to Los Angeles to Parkland, Fla., the speakers – nearly all of them students, some still in elementary school – delivered an anguished and defiant message: They are 'done hiding' from gun violence, and will 'stop at nothing' to get politicians to finally prevent it." In the lead NBC Nightly News (3/24, lead story, 3:30, Diaz-Balart) segment, Kate Snow reported 1,300 children under the age of 17 "are killed by guns every year." Snow highlighted that as "gun violence is the third leading cause of death for that age group" and she added "the voices of a younger generation" on Saturday said that they have had enough.

Bloomberg News (3/24, Yang, Flatley, Shields) reports the "protesters...demand[ed] protection from gun violence, including a ban on assault weapons such as the rifle used in Parkland, a prohibition on high-capacity magazines that let killers shoot long bursts without reloading, and more effective background checks for gun purchases." On the CBS Weekend News (3/24, story 3, 1:55, Quijano), Adriana Diaz reported "students told us this isn't the culminating end of their movement. It's just the beginning. They say if they don't see legislative action, they will continue to march and they even have another walkout scheduled."

Reuters (3/24, Simpson, Johnson, Johnson, Young, Popovici, Tso, Fagenson, Chiarito, Oliphant, Hay) says that in what was "the largest March For Our Lives protest, demonstrators jammed Washington's Pennsylvania Avenue where they listened to speeches from survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School." On the lead CBS Weekend News (3/24, lead story, 2:45, Quijano) segment, Jeff Pegues reported "an expected crowd of half a million people" took part in the March For Our Lives in Washington, DC.

POLITICS & POLICY

WPost Analysis: GOP Governors Increasingly Investing In Education.

In an analysis piece, the Washington Post (3/25, Scherer) writes that in "a major turnabout for a generation of conservative leaders," cost-cutting GOP governors are now bragging about investing in public schools. The Post attributes this to "the backlash that boiled over into a teacher walkout in West Virginia" as well as teachers and the public demands for "more money after years of tight budgets and a Republican focus on tax cuts" having "forced a change in strategy." The piece reports that declining revenues in states have resulted in "educators leaving en masse for higher-wage jobs, classroom conditions deteriorating and some districts even adopting four-day school weeks."

TEACHING & LEARNING

North Carolina Nonprofit Aims To Prepare New Generation Of Pilots.

The AP (3/24, Childress) reported on the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program for high school students in Durham. The program "is open to all students," but is focused on helping "prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The story mentions that flying lessons in today's day and age "cost about $180 an hour, compared to

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the $14 an hour" students used to pay back in the '60s. The AP mentions that FAA "requires 40 hours of flight time in addition to passing the FAA Private Pilot written exam and the Private Pilot Oral and Practical (Flying) Exam to earn a pilot's license."

Carnegie Foundation Program Helps Teachers Use Motivation To Improve Math Proficiency.

The National Center for Education Statistics found that in 2015, "a mere 25 percent of high school seniors were proficient or higher" in math, underscoring for the Washington Post (3/25, Spencer) that "American students are bombing" the subject. "Efforts to improve these numbers have abounded," but a program by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching may be yielding results. Hundreds of teachers across the country are working with the foundation to test "their own ways to re-energize students plagued by past failures through merging specific emotional skills with academic ones." At KAPPA International High School in the Bronx, for example, attendance and four-year-graduation rates have climbed as more teachers sign on to the program. Additionally, the "school's overall average Algebra Regents exam score went from 60 in 2015 to 67 last year." Notably, the Post says, teachers participating in the Carnegie Foundation program at "other schools around the country have reported similar gains."

North Carolina STEM School Prepares Future Commercial Pilots.

The AP (3/24) profiled the Airolina Young Aviators Program (AYA), a nonprofit STEM program that provides introductory flight training and mentoring to Durham, North Carolina high school students. Instructor Warren Hervey Wheeler, "one of the nation's first black commercial pilots," said that "the program can help students perform better in the classroom." He pointed to the practical math problems used in flight schooland said he "fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant." Wheeler added that he "believes its important to help prepare the next generation of black aviators for the opportunities that will present themselves over the next two decades as thousands of commercial pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65." The AP notes AYA helps students defray the costs of flight lessons, but it "has found that increasingly difficult to do in recent months."

Apple Poised To Announce Education-Focused Tool In Chicago.

The Seventy Four (3/25) reports that on March 27 at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago, Apple will unveil "what type of educational focus the brand has in mind for 2018 and beyond." Apple events are "almost always cloaked in vagueness to get folks talking beforehand," and so "there's no shortage of guesses as to what the big reveal will be." Still, in light of the announcement's timing and location – "Apple announced a partnership with the City of Chicago to bring its Everyone Can Code effort to 500,000 students" in December – the Seventy Four speculates that Apple's focus will be "on expanding coding in education." The company could also unveil its "rumored ClassKit," which helps teachers and students make educational apps; "a more cost-effective MacBook Air" to be used in classrooms; or an Apple Pencil 2, which is currently too costly to "have appeal inside schools."

Virginia Student Wins National Engineering Contest.

The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (3/25) reports that earlier this month, Virginia eighth-grader Jason Qin won the junior division of the "Two for the Crew" challenge, a national engineering competition that encourages students "to come up with something useful for the International Space Station." The event is supported by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and "Future Engineers, an online educational platform that hosts national innovation challenges for students from kindergarten through 12th grade." Qin 's "tool combines needle-nose and lineman's pliers, as well as a set of attachable handles." He "suggested that NASA keep the heads of the pliers on the station, and astronauts use a 3-D printer in space to create custom handles that fit their hand sizes," with

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previous crew members' handles "melted down and recycled into a new set of customized handles using the 3-D printer."

Massachusetts Bill Seeks To Expand Civics, History Requirements.

The AP (3/24, Leblanc) reported the Massachusetts state Senate has approved a bill, dubbed "An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement," that "would require schools to expand on existing requirements that American history and civics education be taught." It would also mandate instruction on "the function and makeup of the branches of local, state and federal government" and electoral process, and help students "navigate an increasingly complex media environment." The measure, which is now headed to the state House, was opposed by some state "lawmakers concerned the state is dumping more requirements on schools without additional resources." Supporters of the measure, meanwhile, argue that "civics education is something schools should be expected to teach." One "supporter of the bill is Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, who linked the push for civic education to the recent rise in activism among young people pushing for stricter gun laws."

NYTimes Analysis: Concern Over Status As Professionals Drove WV Teachers' Strike.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times (3/25, Scheiber, Subscription Publication) writes that the "rare statewide walkout" by West Virginia teachers was not just due to questions of pay and benefits, but "anxiety about their status as professionals," and "the anger shows little sign of dissipating." Such concerns put teachers "in the mainstream of recent labor history," with doctors, nurses, government workers, and journalists, among others. "Some of the most aggressive and successful labor actions in recent years have erupted when professionals felt their judgment, expertise and autonomy were under assault." Part of the concern arises as "technological developments like the internet have undermined claims to expertise," tight budgets reduced professionals' resources, and consolidation made then "feel like cogs in corporate machines that don't share their values."

Threat Of Teacher Walkout Looms Over Oklahoma In Week Before Deadline.

The Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) reports the Oklahoma Education Association, the "state's largest teachers union," is striving to unite and direct "a grass-roots movement for what could be an extended school shutdown and teacher walkout." Meanwhile, "the state's other large teachers union, Professional Oklahoma Educators, with its 11,000 members, has said it doesn't support a walkout." With support "from the Oklahoma City American Federation of Teachers and the Oklahoma Public Employees Association," the OEA "identified $905.7 million in recurring revenue that could fund teacher raises." The union granted state lawmakers an April 1 deadline to "fund a teacher and support personnel pay raise as well as restore common education funding." School districts across the state have already "authorized their superintendents to shut down school if" the walkout proceeds on April 2.

In an editorial, Tulsa (OK) World (3/25) says state lawmaker cannot "claim they weren't warned" about the strike, because even though the ultimatum was announced on March 6, "anyone could have seen it coming for months – years – before that." Tulsa World outlines various events over the last four years that put state lawmakers on notice about the growing demand for "better education funding." Despite those incidents, Tulsa World says, "Oklahoma's funding of public schools has gone down more than that of any other state since 2008," even though "the number of students went up."

OPERATIONS

Florida District Braces For Enrollment Growth.

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The Lakeland (FL) Ledger (3/25) reports the population in Polk County, Florida is expected to grow by 350,000 over the next 20 to 25 years. Polk County School District anticipates an enrollment surge, but already it cannot keep up with routine maintenance costs. Currently, the district spends roughly "$10 million each year just to maintain its 135 school campuses and facilities, and another $10.4 million on major projects." Because of a lack of funds, PCSD's "deferred maintenance backlog now stands at $421 million, and there's another $172 million in scheduled new construction on hold." The district is hoping voters will renew a half-cent sales tax in November, because without that "projected $40 million in sales-tax funds, the district would have only about $65 million at its disposal for annual capital needs, everything from replacing an air conditioner to building a new school from scratch."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Ohio State Lawmakers Consider Bill To Expand Rural High-Speed Internet Accessibility.

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Arizona State Lawmakers Secure $500 Million In School Funding Through Sales Tax Extension.

In what the AP (3/25, Christie) calls "an unexpected move that averts a looming 'fiscal cliff' that threatened more than 10 percent of" school funding in Arizona, the state legislature "overwhelmingly passed legislation" to extend "a sales tax that provides more than $500 million a year for K-12 education." On Thursday, only 10 of the 90 state lawmakers – "all majority Republicans" – opposed the measure, leaving "a bipartisan group of Republicans and Democrats cheering the approval, although both sides acknowledged that the state's woefully underfunded schools need more money, not just current funding levels." The bill's original sponsor, Republican state Rep. Doug Coleman, said the "Band-Aid" measure provides "$13 billion over the next 20 years that would have gone away." He conceded, however, that "much more needs to be done."

Alabama District Reimbursed $1.4 Million In Misdirected Funds.

The AP (3/24) reported the Alabama state Department of Education reimbursed $1.4 million to Montgomery Public Schools "for money that was wrongly sent to another school system in 2016." The Alabama Education Association had mentioned the misdirected funds in a lawsuit filed last month against state "Interim Superintendent Ed Richardson to block the sale of Georgia Washington Middle School to the Pike Road system," which received the funds. Richardson, who "is overseeing an intervention of Montgomery Public Schools by the state for financial and academic reasons," announced the planned middle school sale "to help shore up finances for the Montgomery system." AEA's lawsuit alleged "that Richardson had no authority to sell the school and was not acting in the best interests of Montgomery schools, noting that he had worked as a consultant for Pike Road when it separated from the Montgomery system." The funds were ultimately reimbursed to MPS through "mediation in the lawsuit."

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SAFETY & SECURITY

Many Teachers Joins Students At DC Rally.

The Washington Post (3/24, Stein, Truong) reports "the youth led the rally, but alongside them were teachers who said they witness each day how fear and violence puncture their students' lives." The Post adds "teachers said the conversation needs to go beyond mass shootings and include the violence that the nation's most vulnerable children face daily in their communities." According to Anna Fusco, president of the Broward Teachers Union, hundreds of the district's teachers "attended the rally to call for change and to honor the students and co-workers murdered on campus last month."

The Huffington Post (3/24, Fang) reports that teachers were "rallying for safer schools and better protections for their students. When asked about the subject of safety in the wake of countless school shootings, many of them vehemently opposed arming teachers," a proposal which "had gained traction in response to the Parkland, Florida, school shooting, including support from President Donald Trump."

Media Analyses: Students Sought To Make Gun Control A Key 2018 Issue.

In a brief segment, ABC World News Tonight (3/25, story 5, 0:20, Llamas) offered "an update on the March for Our Lives protests, taking place across the US and overseas [Saturday]. The global event is now considered to be the largest youth-led protest since the Vietnam War-era. The students say they're determined to stop gun violence, and will go to the polls to make it happen." On the CBS Weekend News (3/25, lead story, 2:20), DeMarco Morgan reported, "At least 4,000 young Americans reportedly registered to vote Saturday at gun control rallies across the country. About 4 million Americans will turn 18 this year."

The New York Times (3/25, Burns, Martin, Subscription Publication) reports, "The passionate gun-control rallies that brought out large crowds around the country over the weekend signaled that gun violence is not going away as an issue in the 2018 midterm elections," raising the possibility that GOP "candidates might be pushed mainly on the defensive on gun issues for the first time in decades." The Times adds that "across the landscape of midterm races, Republican and Democratic leaders say the gun issue appears to have become a potent rallying point for voters opposed to President Trump and fed up with what they see as Washington's indifference to mass shootings."

The AP (3/25, Irvine) reports, "The marches unified hundreds of thousands of people in cities across the country and have galvanized this movement," according to some students who took part. Those students "are vowing to get young voters registered and send a message in upcoming elections." USA Today (3/24, Hayes) reports that in the wake of Saturday's marches, "the question is whether these young people who call themselves 'the mass-shooting generation' will fade into the background of the debate over gun control or be the leading charge in changing the country's policies. Many of the Parkland students at the march in Washington on Saturday made it clear one of the next revolutions would be at the polls."

White House Praises "Courageous" Youths Marching Over School Shootings.

White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters issued a statement on Saturday applauding the youths participating in the nationwide "March For Our Lives" demonstrations against school shootings. While a number of articles noted the White House's remarks in a favorable context, several highlighted that President Trump's motorcade took a detour to avoid the protests as he traveled to and from his Palm Beach, Florida golf course. However, the media coverage, which included nearly 27 minutes on the network newscasts, was overall much more focused on the student speakers at the rallies and their calls for more gun control.

The Washington Times (3/24, Boyer) reports that "as hundreds of thousands of students, parents and teachers

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marched on Washington and other cities Saturday against gun violence, the White House said President Trump praised their activism." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) reports Walters said the White House "applaud[s] the many courageous young Americans exercising their First Amendment rights today." According to The Hill, Walters also "underscored efforts President Trump has taken on school safety, including support for bills strengthening the background check system for gun purchases and an anti-school violence act while also moving to ban bump stocks, which allow semi-automatic weapons to fire more rapidly." She asserted, "Keeping our children safe is a top priority of the President's, which is why he urged Congress to pass the Fix NICS [National Instant Criminal Background Check System] and STOP School Violence Acts, and signed them into law." Walters added the Department of Justice on Friday "issued the rule to ban bump stocks following through on the President's commitment to ban devices that turn legal weapons into illegal machine guns."

However, the Los Angeles Times (3/24, Megerian) reports the statement "was not issued in [Trump's] name" and states that the White House "has not responded to questions about his plans for the day." The Hill (3/24, Anapol) says that although the White House "did not say whether the president was golfing," Saturday was "the 101st day he has spent at one of his golf properties, and the 135th he has spent at one of his properties since taking office."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Analysis: South-Central Idaho Grapples With Special Education Growth.

In a more than 3,000-word article, the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (3/25, Wootton-Greener) examines how south-central Idaho schools are accommodating a nationwide increase in students in need of special education services. The region has seen the largest increase in the state, and its schools face "a multitude of challenges with educating students who have special needs." There is "no shortage of theories for why local schools are seeing more special education students," especially "those with severe needs and behavioral issues," and teachers "don't have a firm answer for the cause of those trends." The region is already struggling with "a shortage of federal funding," meaning "school districts are dipping more into their general fund to pay for services they're required by law to provide." Furthermore, the region is "being hit the hardest of any region in the state by a teacher shortage" – a "monumental challenge" rendering it "especially tough to find teachers and other support professionals, such as occupational and speech therapists."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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- **New Project Aims To Promote Digital Media Literacy To Arm Students Against Fake News.**
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“Who doesn't love the ‘90s?” EdSurge’s research project manager Marisa Kaplan recently asked in Slack, our 21st century buddy list. This week, we’re certainly feeling the love as a pair of stories takes us back to the time of dial-up internet, boy band battles and Palm Pilots.

First, a current teacher shares how her ‘90s obsessions with GeoCities and Hanson **inspired a student-powered conference** that is helping kids see how their interests can someday become careers. Then, a retiring educator **checks in with her science research students** from 20 years ago to see if that theory holds water (or Crystal Pepsi). So join us on our little nostalgia trip—we promise there’s no **ultimate ‘90s quizzes** or lists lurking about. (**Oh, wait...**)

LIVE FROM THE FIELD

STUDENT HIT THE STREETS: Outside the White House, hundreds of students participated in a walkout to protest gun violence. On the scene, EdSurge reporter Jenny Abamu interviewed students to learn how gun violence has impacted their lives. **Hear their stories in a unique audio and visual format.**

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WALKOUT, SPEAK UP: Yesterday marked the first in a series of planned student walkouts protesting gun violence. Here's how one school merged protest with action, and **what every school needs to know about students' rights and free speech both on campus and online**.

—Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools in Florida, joins education leaders from across the country in supporting students' standing up and their role in the #NeverAgain movement. **Here's their letter** .

PRIVACY REGULATOR SHAKEUP: The U.S. Department of Education's first chief privacy officer may be its last. In a surprising shakeup, the department has reassigned Kathleen Styles, who had served that role since 2011. The change leaves advocates **concerned about the future of federal student privacy rules like FERPA**.

PRIVATE MESSAGE: Last fall Connecticut told edtech vendors to comply new data privacy requirements or quit doing business in the state. Elsewhere, new laws have similarly restricted how and when student information can be shared. Advocates have applauded the measures, but stricter privacy regulations **can create headaches for both vendors and districts looking to stay on the right side of the law.**

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HELP FOR HATERS: What does a school leader to do when teachers hate to teach writing? eSpark Learning's Priya Mathew interviewed hundreds of educators about the challenges—from disengaged students to a lack of PD. She also discovered the " **creative ways that districts are tackling these challenges and supporting effective writing instruction**," from "book tastings" to "cold writes", and digital lessons to feedback reports.

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“Who doesn't love the ‘90s?” EdSurge’s research project manager Marisa Kaplan recently asked in Slack, our 21st century buddy list. This week, we’re certainly feeling the love as a pair of stories takes us back to the time of dial-up internet, boy band battles and Palm Pilots.

First, a current teacher shares how her ‘90s obsessions with GeoCities and Hanson **inspired a student-powered conference** that is helping kids see how their interests can someday become careers. Then, a retiring educator **checks in with her science research students** from 20 years ago to see if that theory holds water (or Crystal Pepsi). So join us on our little nostalgia trip—we promise there’s no **ultimate ‘90s quizzes** or lists lurking about. (**Oh, wait...**)

LIVE FROM THE FIELD

STUDENT HIT THE STREETS: Outside the White House, hundreds of students participated in a walkout to protest gun violence. On the scene, EdSurge reporter Jenny Abamu interviewed students to learn how gun violence has impacted their lives. **Hear their stories in a unique audio and visual format.**

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WALKOUT, SPEAK UP: Yesterday marked the first in a series of planned student walkouts protesting gun violence. Here's how one school merged protest with action, and **what every school needs to know about students' rights and free speech both on campus and online**.

—Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools in Florida, joins education leaders from across the country in supporting students' standing up and their role in the #NeverAgain movement. **Here's their letter** .

PRIVACY REGULATOR SHAKEUP: The U.S. Department of Education's first chief privacy officer may be its last. In a surprising shakeup, the department has reassigned Kathleen Styles, who had served that role since 2011. The change leaves advocates **concerned about the future of federal student privacy rules like FERPA**.

PRIVATE MESSAGE: Last fall Connecticut told edtech vendors to comply new data privacy requirements or quit doing business in the state. Elsewhere, new laws have similarly restricted how and when student information can be shared. Advocates have applauded the measures, but stricter privacy regulations **can create headaches for both vendors and districts looking to stay on the right side of the law.**

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Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 05:36:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, March 12, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement



Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.

The Oklahoman (3/11) recalls a teacher strike "over low school funding and teacher pay" that was organized by the Oklahoma Education Association in 1990, and says after a "four-day showdown," the state Legislature approved "a series of tax increases that sent new money to teacher salaries and school budgets, along with establishing a variety of education reforms." Nearly three decades later, "Oklahoma educators again face funding and pay challenges that have teachers threatening an April 2 walkout if lawmakers fail to provide more than $800 million in new funding for public schools and state employees next fiscal year." The Oklahoman outlines "key differences" in the strike teachers are preparing for this April and the one in 1990, and examines the "unique challenges, along with unique opportunities," presented by the latest walkout.

In a separate piece, the Oklahoman (3/11, Willert) reports Oklahoma City Public Schools spokeswoman Beth Harrison said if state lawmakers do not approve the new funding and at least 520 of the 2,600 teachers in the district walk out, then OCPS would be compelled to close its doors to students. Harrison explained that "we don't have enough substitutes to ensure there are enough adults in the building to be sure that we have a safe environment for students." That outcome "could mean hardship for parents who work and can't afford day care or rely on nutrition provided by schools." In the meantime, OCPS "and other metro-area districts are working on contingency plans in the event of a walkout." Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy also "announced Friday that it is working with community leaders from across the state to compile a list of organizations that will provide child care and meals during the planned walkout."

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Massachusetts High School Awarded STEM Grant.

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/11) reports Nashoba Valley Technical High School was awarded a $20,000 Project Lead the Way grant "to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math programs." It is one of 73 schools in Massachusetts to receive the grant, "which is supported by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as well as the One8 Foundation and Mass STEM Hub." Nashoba Tech is planning to "use the grant to strengthen its existing Programming and Web technical programming by incorporating Project Lead the Way Computer Science." It will also use the funds to "support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based courses."

"Robo Moms" Discuss Involvement In Students' After-School Robotics Activities.

The AP (3/11, Hammerschlag) reports after-school robotics activities have "been credited with drawing children to science and technology fields; mothers tell of little ones staying up into the early morning hours programming and building robots." VEX Robotics and other companies "have cashed in on the trend, selling assembly kits and organizing regional competitions." The AP interviews several mothers of robotics students, with one mother saying she is like a soccer mom, but with more demanding duties. Other so-called "robo moms" told the AP "that in addition to encouraging their children to pursue careers in science and technology, robotics has taught them time management skills and how to solve problems under pressure; they have learned how to be leaders but also how to work as a team."

Nebraska To Implement Computer-Adaptive Assessments This Spring.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/11) reports the Nebraska state Department of Education is replacing the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments with the new, computer-adaptive Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) tests during the spring testing season, which begins on March 19. The use of computer-adaptive math and English language arts questions is a first for Nebraska, and it constitutes the "latest attempt to find a testing system" that "complies with state and federal testing mandates without burdening students and teachers with excessive testing." State assessment director Valorie Foy said the new format may challenge high-performing students, but "engages our struggling learners, who may have more trouble encountering those very, very difficult test items and may be more frustrated and thus engage in the test less." The test results, which may not be released until this fall, "will still be used for accountability, including the identification of low-performing schools for assistance and intervention."

FROM NASSP

Creating a College-Going Culture

Leading Success, a free online toolkit for school leaders and their staff, consists of 11 modules, each offering a comprehensive set of activities and discussions of best practices used in a diverse array of schools around the country. In **Module 3: Creating a College-Going Culture**, learn how it takes a whole school to create a culture of college readiness. The module covers designing a college and career readiness program, and discusses academic rigor and student preparation. Begin Module 3 and the rest of Leading Success today!

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Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.

The Washington Post (3/8, Berman) reports, "there are many unanswered questions about how law enforcement officials handled warnings about the suspected attacker and the way they responded to the Feb. 14 massacre" at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. There are also "numerous ongoing inquiries from local, state and federal officials." The Post adds, "authorities have acknowledged receiving multiple warnings about Nikolas Cruz," 19, and that has "prompted intense scrutiny of how law enforcement officials handled the red flags." FBI acting deputy director David Bowdich, has "acknowledge[d] that the bureau made a mistake by not investigating a January warning that Cruz could 'get into a school and just shoot the place up.'" The Post adds, "The FBI is still reviewing its handling of" two tips related to Cruz. Fox News (3/9, Diaz) reports on the question of "how the FBI unit that received a tip about the potential shooter in early January failed to pass it along." Fox adds, "Bowdich admitted in a March 6 briefing that 'the caller provided sufficient information to the tip line for the FBI to launch a probe.'"

School Resource Officer Radioed Shots Coming From Inside Building. The AP (3/9, Spencer, Pane) reports, "the school's armed resource officer radioed that shots were coming from the freshman building, but he advised officers to stay back – a seeming failure to follow widely established guidelines to immediately confront the attacker in active shooter situations." The AP adds that the radio message indicates "he almost immediately realized gunshots were being fired inside" the school. The AP also reports, "Broward County Sheriff's Office mass shooting guidelines required him to enter the building and kill or stop the gunman."

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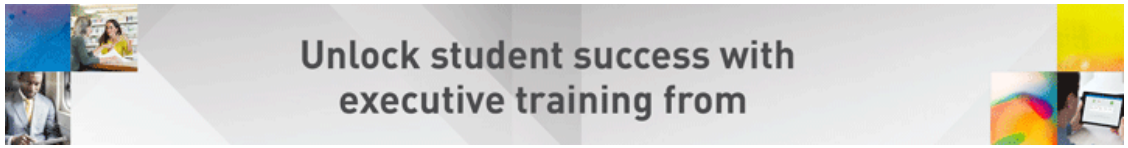
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Summer Trial Possible For Lawsuit Accusing Harvard Of Diversity Admissions Caps.

On its website, CNN (3/10, Biskupic, Analyst, Biographer) reported a lawsuit filed by Students for Fair Admissions in 2014 alleging that Harvard University "caps the number of high achieving Asian-Americans it admits could go to trial in Boston as early as this summer, according to a new filing in the case." The ruling could not only "affect who gets a place on the selective Ivy League campus," but also "have even greater consequences nationwide." Students for Fair Admissions founder Edward Blum "has devised a series of US Supreme Court battles over racial remedies, typically enlisting white plaintiffs to challenge policies that give a boost to blacks and Hispanics," and the current lawsuit "was devised ultimately to topple a 1978 US Supreme Court decision that first endorsed college affirmative action, Regents of the University of California v. Bakke." Harvard, for its part, has repeatedly "rejected the assertion that it sets Asian-American caps, and its officials emphasize the college's goal of broad student diversity."

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- **Former Baltimore County Superintendent Pleads Guilty To Perjury.**
- **California Officials Say They're Nearing Compromise With ED Over ESSA Plan.**
- **Senate Could Include Student Loan Changes In Bank Deregulation Bill.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 05:36:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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in affiliation with Bulletin MEDIA

Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, March 12, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.

The Oklahoman (3/11) recalls a teacher strike "over low school funding and teacher pay" that was organized by the Oklahoma Education Association in 1990, and says after a "four-day showdown," the state Legislature approved "a series of tax increases that sent new money to teacher salaries and school budgets, along with establishing a variety of education reforms." Nearly three decades later, "Oklahoma educators again face funding and pay challenges that have teachers threatening an April 2 walkout if lawmakers fail to provide more than $800 million in new funding for public schools and state employees next fiscal year." The Oklahoman outlines "key differences" in the strike teachers are preparing for this April and the one in 1990, and examines the "unique challenges, along with unique opportunities," presented by the latest walkout.

In a separate piece, the Oklahoman (3/11, Willert) reports Oklahoma City Public Schools spokeswoman Beth Harrison said if state lawmakers do not approve the new funding and at least 520 of the 2,600 teachers in the district walk out, then OCPS would be compelled to close its doors to students. Harrison explained that "we don't have enough substitutes to ensure there are enough adults in the building to be sure that we have a safe environment for students." That outcome "could mean hardship for parents who work and can't afford day care or rely on nutrition provided by schools." In the meantime, OCPS "and other metro-area districts are working on contingency plans in the event of a walkout." Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy also "announced Friday that it is working with community leaders from across the state to compile a list of organizations that will provide child care and meals during the planned walkout."

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Massachusetts High School Awarded STEM Grant.

The Lowell (MA) Sun (3/11) reports Nashoba Valley Technical High School was awarded a $20,000 Project Lead the Way grant "to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math programs." It is one of 73 schools in Massachusetts to receive the grant, "which is supported by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as well as the One8 Foundation and Mass STEM Hub." Nashoba Tech is planning to "use the grant to strengthen its existing Programming and Web technical programming by incorporating Project Lead the Way Computer Science." It will also use the funds to "support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project- and problem-based courses."

"Robo Moms" Discuss Involvement In Students' After-School Robotics Activities.

The AP (3/11, Hammerschlag) reports after-school robotics activities have "been credited with drawing children to science and technology fields; mothers tell of little ones staying up into the early morning hours programming and building robots." VEX Robotics and other companies "have cashed in on the trend, selling assembly kits and organizing regional competitions." The AP interviews several mothers of robotics students, with one mother saying she is like a soccer mom, but with more demanding duties. Other so-called "robo moms" told the AP "that in addition to encouraging their children to pursue careers in science and technology, robotics has taught them time management skills and how to solve problems under pressure; they have learned how to be leaders but also how to work as a team."

Nebraska To Implement Computer-Adaptive Assessments This Spring.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/11) reports the Nebraska state Department of Education is replacing the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessments with the new, computer-adaptive Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) tests during the spring testing season, which begins on March 19. The use of computer-adaptive math and English language arts questions is a first for Nebraska, and it constitutes the "latest attempt to find a testing system" that "complies with state and federal testing mandates without burdening students and teachers with excessive testing." State assessment director Valorie Foy said the new format may challenge high-performing students, but "engages our struggling learners, who may have more trouble encountering those very, very difficult test items and may be more frustrated and thus engage in the test less." The test results, which may not be released until this fall, "will still be used for accountability, including the identification of low-performing schools for assistance and intervention."

FROM NASSP

Creating a College-Going Culture

Leading Success, a free online toolkit for school leaders and their staff, consists of 11 modules, each offering a comprehensive set of activities and discussions of best practices used in a diverse array of schools around the country. In **Module 3: Creating a College-Going Culture**, learn how it takes a whole school to create a culture of college readiness. The module covers designing a college and career readiness program, and discusses academic rigor and student preparation. Begin Module 3 and the rest of Leading Success today!

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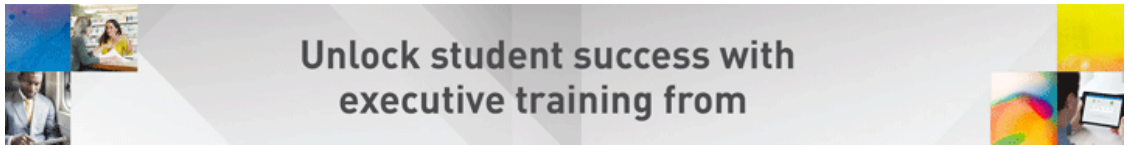
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Colorado State University-Pueblo Using $6 Million ED Grant For STEM Students.

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (3/10, Mestas) reports, "Colorado State University-Pueblo is adding three post-doctoral researchers as part of a five-year, $6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education that it received in 2016." The grant, which "is designed to increase the number of Hispanic and first-generation low-income students earning degrees" in STEM subject, is one of only two HSI STEM and Articulation Program grants to go to colleges in the state.

Summer Trial Possible For Lawsuit Accusing Harvard Of Diversity Admissions Caps.

On its website, CNN (3/10, Biskupic, Analyst, Biographer) reported a lawsuit filed by Students for Fair Admissions in 2014 alleging that Harvard University "caps the number of high achieving Asian-Americans it admits could go to trial in Boston as early as this summer, according to a new filing in the case." The ruling could not only "affect who gets a place on the selective Ivy League campus," but also "have even greater consequences nationwide." Students for Fair Admissions founder Edward Blum "has devised a series of US Supreme Court battles over racial remedies, typically enlisting white plaintiffs to challenge policies that give a boost to blacks and Hispanics," and the current lawsuit "was devised ultimately to topple a 1978 US Supreme Court decision that first endorsed college affirmative action, Regents of the University of California v. Bakke." Harvard, for its part, has repeatedly "rejected the assertion that it sets Asian-American caps, and its officials emphasize the college's goal of broad student diversity."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Former Baltimore County Superintendent Pleads Guilty To Perjury.**
- **California Officials Say They're Nearing Compromise With ED Over ESSA Plan.**
- **Senate Could Include Student Loan Changes In Bank Deregulation Bill.**

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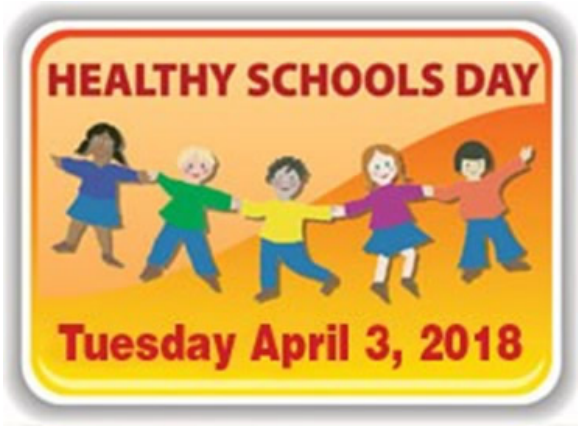
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From: "AASA Communications" <communications@aasa.org>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2018 19:05:59 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Join AASA on National Healthy Schools Day on April 3!
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

AASA
THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
1615 Duke Street | Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.528.0700 | Fax: 703.841.1543
www.aasa.org

On Tuesday April 3rd, AASA Children's Programs Department will spearhead two school safety activities for National Healthy Schools Day with a *Blog Tour* and a *social media photo/video sharing event.*



Participants can share their photos, videos and blog posts on social media using #HealthySchoolsDay and by tagging @AASATotalChild on twitter.

Organizations and school system leaders will have the opportunity to answer one or both of the following questions on their blog:

1. Considering the continued threat of gun violence in our schools, what does a healthy school look like to you today? Have school shootings altered your view of what it means to be a healthy school?
2. How can school system leaders help children in their district feel safe, as well as have their physical and social-emotional needs met in a healthy school environment.

Email Rebecca Shaw at rshaw@aasa.org to let us know if you plan to participate in these events. Blogs should be posted on April 3rd. Learn more.

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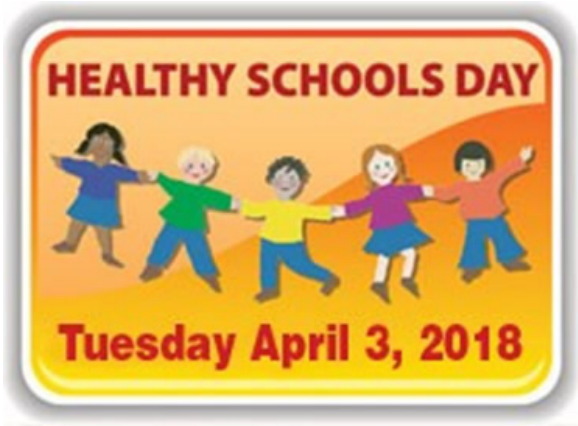
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Subject: Join AASA on National Healthy Schools Day on April 3!
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill
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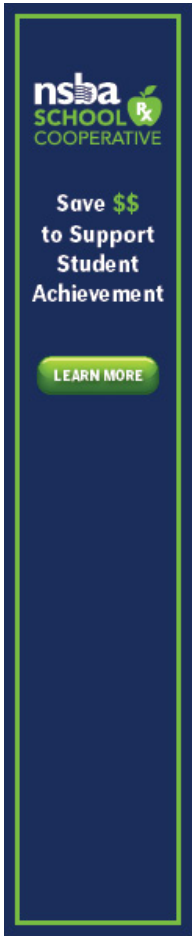
Kentucky Schools Chief Steps Down Under Pressure.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (4/17) reports the Kentucky Board of Education announced Tuesday that Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt "has agreed to immediately resign his position." The board conceded that it "did not have 'cause' to fire Pruitt." The move "came during a special meeting of the board in Frankfort after seven members were appointed Monday by Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican who already had appointed the other four current members." Bevin "was critical Tuesday of how Kentucky students have fared during Pruitt's tenure, citing concerns about a lack of improvement in closing the achievement gap."

The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (4/17) reports Pruitt resigned "after a four-hour, closed-door meeting by the state board of education, whose members were all appointed by Republican Gov. Matt Bevin." The board "appointed Wayne Lewis, chair of the Kentucky Charter Schools Advisory Council, as an interim leader at an annual salary of $150,000 a year." The paper notes that the Kentucky Education Association supported Pruitt and spoke out against his departure, while House Democratic Leader Rocky Adkins "said that it was 'a sad day for public education and the children of Kentucky. This is just another attempt by Governor Bevin to weaken and dismantle Kentucky's education system and implement his agenda of charter schools.'"

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POLITICS & POLICY

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply For ESSA Testing Pilot.

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Op-Ed: 2017 NAEP Report Demonstrates Common Core's Continued Failure.

The Hill (4/17, Robbins, McGroarty) Jane Robbins and Emmett McGroarty, senior fellows at American Principles Project, argue against the current Common Core standards, noting that the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress scores show "bad news" that backs up "parental concerns about" Common Core's effects on education. The duo point to the four categories that NAEP tested, three of which "showed flat scores from the last assessment in 2015." They say that the 2015 NAEP results were "dismal," as "for the first time since the early 1990's, scores" indicated lower "math performance across the board, and either flatlining or decline in reading scores." They argue that "our Founders understood that, in most areas, the best policy comes not from centralized control but from the knowledge and participation of millions of American citizens acting in their local communities and states," but that "the Common Core experiment denied that reality" by allowing "a small cadre of elites" to craft education policy.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study Finds CTE Students Less Likely To Skip Class, More Likely To Graduate.

Education Week (4/17, Gewertz) reports on a study from the American Enterprise Institute finding that "students who take a lot of career-and-technical-education classes in high school are hard workers who are less likely than their peers to skip class." The study also found that students who take CTE courses "have stronger 'noncognitive' skills." The study was based on data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002, tracing "15,000 10th grade students from 2002 to 2012." It found that students who took five or more CTE classes "are much less likely to skip class" are "more likely to graduate from high school" and "earn more by their mid 20s than their non-CTE peers."

New Jersey Students Win Samsung Prize For Concussion Detection Device.

The New York Post (4/17, Fleming) reports on an idea from New Jersey eighth-graders "that could help instantaneously detect concussions right on the field of play." The idea, called Head Safe, from students at Cavallini Middle School won them "a top prize in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest." Teacher Jonathan Harvey said the students "consulted with a doctor, a high school official and a software engineer" in order to develop "a sensor that is placed inside a football helmet and uses an accelerometer to detect a possible concussion based on the force of the hit." The sensor, by means of Bluetooth and a smartphone app "alerts a coach when there is a potentially dangerous blow to the player's head." The students' idea "won $150,000 in Samsung technology" for Cavallini Middle School.

Iowa FIRST Team Going To Detroit Based On Work Promoting STEM To Others.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier (4/17, Wind) reports on Valley Lutheran School's FIRST Tech Competition team which qualified for the World Championship in Detroit. They were working on an arm for their robot to "allow it to drop a plastic relic figure on a mat as far as possible outside of the nearly 12-foot square playing field." The team is advancing to Detroit, based not on robot work, but for awards for teams that are "role models to others, connect to the local engineering community and demonstrate enthusiasm for the program." The students taught a curriculum one of them wrote to three preschools, and have held STEM camps for elementary and middle school students.

Ohio Representative, State School Board Panel Propose Changes To Schools' Report Cards.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (4/17) reports on potential changes to Ohio's school report cards. State Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) has proposed HB 591, which would "create a new report card" for state schools that would remove the A-F grades, as they "produce a particularly visceral emotional response from parents," Duffey said that

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could “doom tax votes for schools, even when a school is doing well.” Instead, Duffey is proposing “a report card that compares districts to those with similar demographics, has easy-to-understand measures, and that also highlight special course offerings or extracurricular activities schools offer.” Meanwhile, Ohio’s school board members have been reviewing the school report card policy and plan to “have a recommendation in June.”

Achieve Provides States With Guidance On Crafting Science Assessments.

THE Journal (4/17) reports that Achieve, an organization behind the Next Generation Science Standards, “recently released criteria that can be used by states to develop” grade-level science assessments while meeting Federal guidelines. The report advised the use of “intentional design” so that the assessment meets “the priorities set by the individual state” as well as the Federal government, making sure to document “the assessment development process,” and ensuring that assessment questions “touch on all or parts of multiple standards” rather than just “one test question per learning standard.”

Vermont NEA Seeks Half Of Seats On Commission To Decide Health Benefits Fro School Employees.

The AP (4/17) reports the Vermont chapter of the National Education Association is seeking to have “50 percent of the seats” on a commission “that would decide health benefits for all public school employees.” The rest of the seats would be chosen by the governor “to represent school boards.”

California Federation Of Teachers Approves Resolutions Regarding Teachers Retirement System.

The Los Angeles School Report (4/17, Antonucci) reports that at the California Federation of Teachers annual convention in Costa Mesa March 23-25, “One topic seemed to occupy the delegates more than any other: the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS).” The union wants to require charter schools to participate in CalSTRS. At present 85 percent of charter schools do participate in CalSTRS. The union also resolved to get CalSTRS to divest from companies “that enable privatizers of public education.” Another resolution it approved stated that “current pension contributions place ‘a heavy burden on employers.’” The union says that the contributions have “already resulted in the stagnation or reduction of employee compensation.” To reduce the burden the union would favor a goal of CalSTRS being “80 percent funded by 2046” instead of 100 percent funded.

South Carolina Airing Ads As Part Of Teacher Recruiting Effort.

Education Week (4/17, Iasevoli) reports, “South Carolina is facing a teacher shortage,” and so it is planning “a half-million-dollars worth of TV and Internet ads” in an effort to recruit more teachers. South Carolina “estimates it will need more than 5,000 new teachers each year,” while the state’s “teacher-preparation programs graduate about 2,000 candidates a year.” The ad campaign “will appear on broadcast and cable TV, streaming sites like Hulu, as well as on Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram.” One critic says the ads “promote department of education accomplishments more than try to attract new teachers.” The state is planning “a second wave of ads” that will be “aimed at inspiring high schoolers and career changers to become teachers.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

Education Week Runs Package On Principals’ Education Technology Challenges.

Education Week (4/18) runs a package of articles called “Technology Counts” about school principals’ education

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technology issues, including whether students are getting too much screen time, whether personalized learning is efficacious, and students' social media use. Education Week says its Research Center "conducted a nationally representative survey of 500 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders." The series "incorporates that data in the report, while taking a hard look at what principals are thinking and doing about some of the most vexing technology issues in their schools." Topics include principals' challenges (4/18) to manage school technology issues, principals' concerns about screen time (4/18), principals' growing enthusiasm for computer science instruction (4/18), principals' broad support for personalized learning (4/18), and the difficulty principals face in keeping up with students' use of social media.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill.

The Lawrence (KS) Journal World (4/17) reports Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer has signed a $500 million school funding bill "despite a multimillion-dollar flaw in the bill's language." The paper quotes Colyer saying, "Kansas wants to lead the way in education. I'm very proud to sign this legislation as it means more money in the classroom, more accountability measures and a focus on student outcomes. Most importantly, it keeps our schools open without raising taxes on hard working Kansas families."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/17) reports the bill "barely passed the Kansas Legislature" and says Colyer insists "that fixes be made to the legislation when lawmakers return later this month." The Star reports the bill "was intended to boost school funding by more than $500 million over five years," and says Colyer "called on lawmakers to pass a trailer bill once they return on April 26 from their break to fix an issue discovered in the days after lawmakers approved the funding plan. Officials realized last week that the legislation included an $80 million error." Democrats criticized the bill "for not increasing school funding more," while Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R), who is challenging Colyer in the gubernatorial primary, "denounced Colyer's decision to sign the school funding bill. Echoing conservative concerns about the added spending, Kobach called it 'a disaster.'"

The AP (4/17) reports the bill "is aimed at addressing a state Supreme Court's ruling that funding for schools is inadequate. A lawyer for the school districts that sued the state said the bill doesn't do enough to address that problem." The Hays (KS) Post (4/17) also covers this story.

Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.

The Chicago Tribune (4/17) reports that Chicago Public Schools announced Tuesday that schools will receive $3.1 billion in the 2018-19 school year, an increase of $60 million. CPS officials say the funding "will largely finance unionized teacher salary increases and some new programs." The increase amounts to a 2.5% increase in per-student spending, and "corresponds with a cost-of-living salary increase in the latest Chicago Teachers Union contract." CPS "also was boosting funding for low-income students and creating a fund to support schools that have been battered by dwindling enrollment."

The Chicago Sun-Times (4/17) reports district principals "were receiving budgets Tuesday for individual schools that include increases for teacher raises, allowing school leaders to maintain steady staffing levels." The Sun-Times reports the school budgets "are being released unusually early for CPS, which in recent years didn't give numbers to principals until deep into the summer as officials scrambled to find money they had counted on from Springfield. Lawmakers finally approved a new evidence-based state school funding formula that benefits Chicago's schools."

With STEM Jobs Growing, Arizona Educators Lack Funding To Train Next Generation Of Workers.

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The Arizona Republic (4/17, Castle) reports that the National Forum on Education, Policy and Education Commission of the States finds that in Arizona, STEM-related jobs are projected to grow by 21% over the next decade. The Republic writes that “Arizona educators worry that a lack of support for STEM programs and teachers in K-12 schools will impact the state’s ability to provide the quality workforce these companies will require,” adding that “some teachers believe more resources in the classroom can help the state attract more companies, and provide a better-prepared workforce.” According to the article, “Teachers across the state are advocating for more funding, including STEM teachers,” but, “it can be hard for schools to attract and retain STEM teachers due to low salaries, lower than average state education funding and a lack of collaboration among school STEM programs.”

Broward County May Ask For Tax Increase To Provide Teachers With Raises.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/16, Travis) reports Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie on Tuesday said that in order to provide a raise for teachers it would be necessary to seek a tax increase and is suggesting “an additional half mil,” in order to raise “about $93 million.” Otherwise the district will have a “$14.9 million deficit.” CFO Judith Marte said without a tax increase, “To give some people raises we’d have to lay people off.”

New Studies Reaffirm Findings Of Little Or No Improvement From de Blasio’s Improvement Program.

Chalkbeat (4/17, Zimmerman) reports that two new studies indicate that three years after New York Mayor Bill de Blasio started his Renewal program, an “aggressive and expensive campaign to turn around the city’s lowest performing schools,” which has been “flooding 78 schools with more than $386 million,” there have been “gains in student learning.” The studies are from Marcus Winters of the Manhattan Institute, and Aaron Pallas, a professor at Teachers College. The improvements, they say, “are modest — when they exist at all — and don’t yet match the mayor’s lofty promises.” A year ago, “Winters found a positive effect on test scores, while Pallas generally found little to no effect.” An additional year of data, adds Chalkbeat, “largely reaffirmed their earlier conclusions.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

NASP Holds Panel On School Safety; Officials Address Schools’ Needs To Prepare For Gun Violence.

Education Week (4/17) reports that during a Tuesday panel on school safety hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, principals and superintendents who have first-hand experience with school shootings provided suggestions for legislators on how to address gun violence in schools. Suggestions included additional “funding for mental health and behavioral training for teachers and school employees,” additional funds to aid districts in recovery following school shootings, “the creation of a central entity on the state level to oversee school safety,” and bringing law enforcement and schools together to make preparations in the event of a school shooting.

Former Principal, Four Other East High School Staffers Charged With Failing To Report Sexual Assault Of Student.

The Denver Post (4/17) reports, “Denver prosecutors have filed criminal charges against five current or former East High School staff members, including the former principal, for failing to report to law enforcement an alleged sexual assault by a student on another student.” In addition to charges against the former principal, two deans, a vice principal, and a counselor were also “charged with third-degree misdemeanor violations of persons required to

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report." The incident allegedly occurred off campus in March 2016, and "state law requires certain people, including school officials or employees, to report or cause a report to be made to the local child-welfare or law enforcement agency any incident of alleged child abuse or neglect after receiving information about it."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Report Identifies Keys To Improving Math Instruction For ELLs.

EdSource (4/16, Hopkinson) reports on a recent report by Education Trust–West, titled, "Unlocking Learning II: Math as a Lever for English Learner Equity," arguing that a focus on improving "language development of students whose first language is not English is critical if California is to narrow the wide and persistent gaps in math test scores." The report "highlights the successful strategies that five California districts implemented." They found "four key practices that support English learners and math education." Those are "upholding students' languages, cultures and backgrounds as assets in math classrooms; integrating more English language development with math content; increasing professional development for teachers, specifically around language and math; and providing academic support in students' primary languages."

Some Grand Rapids Parents Seek Removal Of Superintendent, Special Education Director.

MLive (MI) (4/17, Scott) reports that some "Grand Rapids Public Schools special education parents and teachers," are seeking the removal of Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal. They argue that "special education students are being betrayed, neglected and denied a proper education." They want Neal removed because she has not removed Laura LaMore, executive director for special education and early intervention services. Neal said that LaMore "won't be removed" and that the school district must "be in full compliance with state and federal law and implementing best practice initiatives."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.**
- **California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.**
- **California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.**
- **WPost: DC Schools Spend Little Effort Investigating Residency Fraud.**
- **Alaska Legislature At Odds Over Additional School Funding.**

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Sent Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2018 05:28:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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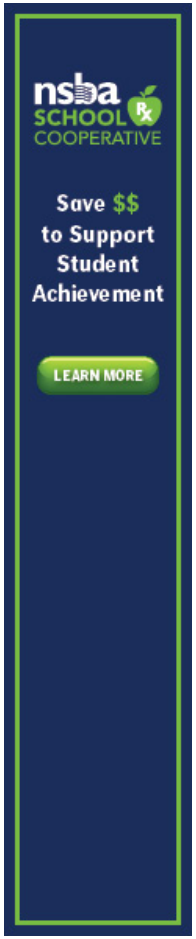
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SAFETY & SECURITY

NASP Holds Panel On School Safety; Officials Address Schools’ Needs To Prepare For Gun Violence.

Education Week (4/17) reports that during a Tuesday panel on school safety hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, principals and superintendents who have first-hand experience with school shootings provided suggestions for legislators on how to address gun violence in schools. Suggestions included additional “funding for mental health and behavioral training for teachers and school employees,” additional funds to aid districts in recovery following school shootings, “the creation of a central entity on the state level to oversee school safety,” and bringing law enforcement and schools together to make preparations in the event of a school shooting.

Former Principal, Four Other East High School Staffers Charged With Failing To Report Sexual Assault Of Student.

The Denver Post (4/17) reports, “Denver prosecutors have filed criminal charges against five current or former East High School staff members, including the former principal, for failing to report to law enforcement an alleged sexual assault by a student on another student.” In addition to charges against the former principal, two deans, a vice principal, and a counselor were also “charged with third-degree misdemeanor violations of persons required to

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report." The incident allegedly occurred off campus in March 2016, and "state law requires certain people, including school officials or employees, to report or cause a report to be made to the local child-welfare or law enforcement agency any incident of alleged child abuse or neglect after receiving information about it."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Report Identifies Keys To Improving Math Instruction For ELLs.

EdSource (4/16, Hopkinson) reports on a recent report by Education Trust–West, titled, "Unlocking Learning II: Math as a Lever for English Learner Equity," arguing that a focus on improving "language development of students whose first language is not English is critical if California is to narrow the wide and persistent gaps in math test scores." The report "highlights the successful strategies that five California districts implemented." They found "four key practices that support English learners and math education." Those are "upholding students' languages, cultures and backgrounds as assets in math classrooms; integrating more English language development with math content; increasing professional development for teachers, specifically around language and math; and providing academic support in students' primary languages."

Some Grand Rapids Parents Seek Removal Of Superintendent, Special Education Director.

MLive (MI) (4/17, Scott) reports that some "Grand Rapids Public Schools special education parents and teachers," are seeking the removal of Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal. They argue that "special education students are being betrayed, neglected and denied a proper education." They want Neal removed because she has not removed Laura LaMore, executive director for special education and early intervention services. Neal said that LaMore "won't be removed" and that the school district must "be in full compliance with state and federal law and implementing best practice initiatives."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.**
- **California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.**
- **California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.**
- **WPost: DC Schools Spend Little Effort Investigating Residency Fraud.**
- **Alaska Legislature At Odds Over Additional School Funding.**

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Sent Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2018 05:28:29 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez April 18, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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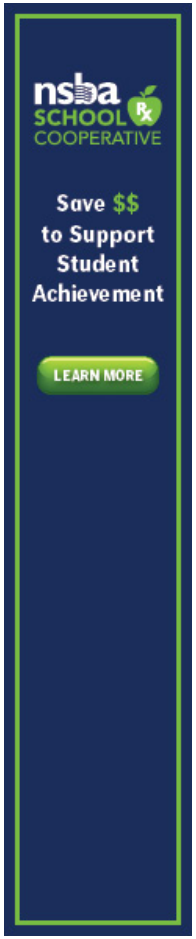
Kentucky Schools Chief Steps Down Under Pressure.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (4/17) reports the Kentucky Board of Education announced Tuesday that Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt "has agreed to immediately resign his position." The board conceded that it "did not have 'cause' to fire Pruitt." The move "came during a special meeting of the board in Frankfort after seven members were appointed Monday by Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican who already had appointed the other four current members." Bevin "was critical Tuesday of how Kentucky students have fared during Pruitt's tenure, citing concerns about a lack of improvement in closing the achievement gap."

The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (4/17) reports Pruitt resigned "after a four-hour, closed-door meeting by the state board of education, whose members were all appointed by Republican Gov. Matt Bevin." The board "appointed Wayne Lewis, chair of the Kentucky Charter Schools Advisory Council, as an interim leader at an annual salary of $150,000 a year." The paper notes that the Kentucky Education Association supported Pruitt and spoke out against his departure, while House Democratic Leader Rocky Adkins "said that it was 'a sad day for public education and the children of Kentucky. This is just another attempt by Governor Bevin to weaken and dismantle Kentucky's education system and implement his agenda of charter schools.'"

The Richmond (KY) Register (4/17) reports, "It didn't take long for the newly configured state Board of Education, whose members have now all been appointed by Gov. Matt Bevin, to change directions." After accepting Pruitt's resignation, the board "voted to employ Wayne Lewis — a champion of charter schools — as interim commissioner producing audible expressions of surprise or disappointment from the audience, several of whom are educators."

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POLITICS & POLICY

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply For ESSA Testing Pilot.

The Seventy Four (4/17, Keierleber) reports that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico are taking part in a pilot program under ESSA in which they can “experiment with new models in a subset of schools to gauge student learning outcomes using a method outside the statewide standardized test.” Each state is planning “radically different approaches to measuring student outcomes.” Louisiana plans “to streamline the English and social studies assessments, allowing students to build upon the knowledge they gained in class. Meanwhile, New Hampshire aims to build on its work to scale up a ‘competency-based’ assessment that requires students to demonstrate proficiency on a given topic before moving on to the next task. Puerto Rico, which is in the process of reforming its education system following Hurricane Maria, plans to adopt a ‘computer adaptive test,’ where question difficulty adjusts as students respond to questions.”

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Subject: Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill
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LEADING THE NEWS

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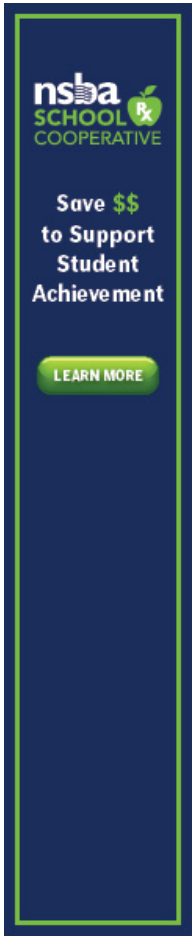
The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (4/17) reports the Kentucky Board of Education announced Tuesday that Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt "has agreed to immediately resign his position." The board conceded that it "did not have 'cause' to fire Pruitt." The move "came during a special meeting of the board in Frankfort after seven members were appointed Monday by Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican who already had appointed the other four current members." Bevin "was critical Tuesday of how Kentucky students have fared during Pruitt's tenure, citing concerns about a lack of improvement in closing the achievement gap."

The Lexington (KY) Herald-Leader (4/17) reports Pruitt resigned "after a four-hour, closed-door meeting by the state board of education, whose members were all appointed by Republican Gov. Matt Bevin." The board "appointed Wayne Lewis, chair of the Kentucky Charter Schools Advisory Council, as an interim leader at an annual salary of $150,000 a year." The paper notes that the Kentucky Education Association supported Pruitt and spoke out against his departure, while House Democratic Leader Rocky Adkins "said that it was 'a sad day for public education and the children of Kentucky. This is just another attempt by Governor Bevin to weaken and dismantle Kentucky's education system and implement his agenda of charter schools.'"

The Richmond (KY) Register (4/17) reports, "It didn't take long for the newly configured state Board of Education, whose members have now all been appointed by Gov. Matt Bevin, to change directions." After accepting Pruitt's resignation, the board "voted to employ Wayne Lewis — a champion of charter schools — as interim commissioner producing audible expressions of surprise or disappointment from the audience, several of whom are educators."

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POLITICS & POLICY

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply For ESSA Testing Pilot.

The Seventy Four (4/17, Keierleber) reports that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico are taking part in a pilot program under ESSA in which they can “experiment with new models in a subset of schools to gauge student learning outcomes using a method outside the statewide standardized test.” Each state is planning “radically different approaches to measuring student outcomes.” Louisiana plans “to streamline the English and social studies assessments, allowing students to build upon the knowledge they gained in class. Meanwhile, New Hampshire aims to build on its work to scale up a ‘competency-based’ assessment that requires students to demonstrate proficiency on a given topic before moving on to the next task. Puerto Rico, which is in the process of reforming its education system following Hurricane Maria, plans to adopt a ‘computer adaptive test,’ where question difficulty adjusts as students respond to questions.”

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Op-Ed: 2017 NAEP Report Demonstrates Common Core's Continued Failure.

The Hill (4/17, Robbins, McGroarty) Jane Robbins and Emmett McGroarty, senior fellows at American Principles Project, argue against the current Common Core standards, noting that the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress scores show "bad news" that backs up "parental concerns about" Common Core's effects on education. The duo point to the four categories that NAEP tested, three of which "showed flat scores from the last assessment in 2015." They say that the 2015 NAEP results were "dismal," as "for the first time since the early 1990's, scores" indicated lower "math performance across the board, and either flatlining or decline in reading scores." They argue that "our Founders understood that, in most areas, the best policy comes not from centralized control but from the knowledge and participation of millions of American citizens acting in their local communities and states," but that "the Common Core experiment denied that reality" by allowing "a small cadre of elites" to craft education policy.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study Finds CTE Students Less Likely To Skip Class, More Likely To Graduate.

Education Week (4/17, Gewertz) reports on a study from the American Enterprise Institute finding that "students who take a lot of career-and-technical-education classes in high school are hard workers who are less likely than their peers to skip class." The study also found that students who take CTE courses "have stronger 'noncognitive' skills." The study was based on data from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002, tracing "15,000 10th grade students from 2002 to 2012." It found that students who took five or more CTE classes "are much less likely to skip class" are "more likely to graduate from high school" and "earn more by their mid 20s than their non-CTE peers."

New Jersey Students Win Samsung Prize For Concussion Detection Device.

The New York Post (4/17, Fleming) reports on an idea from New Jersey eighth-graders "that could help instantaneously detect concussions right on the field of play." The idea, called Head Safe, from students at Cavallini Middle School won them "a top prize in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest." Teacher Jonathan Harvey said the students "consulted with a doctor, a high school official and a software engineer" in order to develop "a sensor that is placed inside a football helmet and uses an accelerometer to detect a possible concussion based on the force of the hit." The sensor, by means of Bluetooth and a smartphone app "alerts a coach when there is a potentially dangerous blow to the player's head." The students' idea "won $150,000 in Samsung technology" for Cavallini Middle School.

Iowa FIRST Team Going To Detroit Based On Work Promoting STEM To Others.

The Waterloo-Cedar Falls (IA) Courier (4/17, Wind) reports on Valley Lutheran School's FIRST Tech Competition team which qualified for the World Championship in Detroit. They were working on an arm for their robot to "allow it to drop a plastic relic figure on a mat as far as possible outside of the nearly 12-foot square playing field." The team is advancing to Detroit, based not on robot work, but for awards for teams that are "role models to others, connect to the local engineering community and demonstrate enthusiasm for the program." The students taught a curriculum one of them wrote to three preschools, and have held STEM camps for elementary and middle school students.

Ohio Representative, State School Board Panel Propose Changes To Schools' Report Cards.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (4/17) reports on potential changes to Ohio's school report cards. State Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) has proposed HB 591, which would "create a new report card" for state schools that would remove the A-F grades, as they "produce a particularly visceral emotional response from parents," Duffey said that

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could “doom tax votes for schools, even when a school is doing well.” Instead, Duffey is proposing “a report card that compares districts to those with similar demographics, has easy-to-understand measures, and that also highlight special course offerings or extracurricular activities schools offer.” Meanwhile, Ohio’s school board members have been reviewing the school report card policy and plan to “have a recommendation in June.”

Achieve Provides States With Guidance On Crafting Science Assessments.

THE Journal (4/17) reports that Achieve, an organization behind the Next Generation Science Standards, “recently released criteria that can be used by states to develop” grade-level science assessments while meeting Federal guidelines. The report advised the use of “intentional design” so that the assessment meets “the priorities set by the individual state” as well as the Federal government, making sure to document “the assessment development process,” and ensuring that assessment questions “touch on all or parts of multiple standards” rather than just “one test question per learning standard.”

Vermont NEA Seeks Half Of Seats On Commission To Decide Health Benefits Fro School Employees.

The AP (4/17) reports the Vermont chapter of the National Education Association is seeking to have “50 percent of the seats” on a commission “that would decide health benefits for all public school employees.” The rest of the seats would be chosen by the governor “to represent school boards.”

California Federation Of Teachers Approves Resolutions Regarding Teachers Retirement System.

The Los Angeles School Report (4/17, Antonucci) reports that at the California Federation of Teachers annual convention in Costa Mesa March 23-25, “One topic seemed to occupy the delegates more than any other: the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS).” The union wants to require charter schools to participate in CalSTRS. At present 85 percent of charter schools do participate in CalSTRS. The union also resolved to get CalSTRS to divest from companies “that enable privatizers of public education.” Another resolution it approved stated that “current pension contributions place ‘a heavy burden on employers.’” The union says that the contributions have “already resulted in the stagnation or reduction of employee compensation.” To reduce the burden the union would favor a goal of CalSTRS being “80 percent funded by 2046” instead of 100 percent funded.

South Carolina Airing Ads As Part Of Teacher Recruiting Effort.

Education Week (4/17, Iasevoli) reports, “South Carolina is facing a teacher shortage,” and so it is planning “a half-million-dollars worth of TV and Internet ads” in an effort to recruit more teachers. South Carolina “estimates it will need more than 5,000 new teachers each year,” while the state’s “teacher-preparation programs graduate about 2,000 candidates a year.” The ad campaign “will appear on broadcast and cable TV, streaming sites like Hulu, as well as on Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram.” One critic says the ads “promote department of education accomplishments more than try to attract new teachers.” The state is planning “a second wave of ads” that will be “aimed at inspiring high schoolers and career changers to become teachers.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

Education Week Runs Package On Principals’ Education Technology Challenges.

Education Week (4/18) runs a package of articles called “Technology Counts” about school principals’ education

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technology issues, including whether students are getting too much screen time, whether personalized learning is efficacious, and students' social media use. Education Week says its Research Center "conducted a nationally representative survey of 500 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders." The series "incorporates that data in the report, while taking a hard look at what principals are thinking and doing about some of the most vexing technology issues in their schools." Topics include principals' challenges (4/18) to manage school technology issues, principals' concerns about screen time (4/18), principals' growing enthusiasm for computer science instruction (4/18), principals' broad support for personalized learning (4/18), and the difficulty principals face in keeping up with students' use of social media.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill.

The Lawrence (KS) Journal World (4/17) reports Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer has signed a $500 million school funding bill "despite a multimillion-dollar flaw in the bill's language." The paper quotes Colyer saying, "Kansas wants to lead the way in education. I'm very proud to sign this legislation as it means more money in the classroom, more accountability measures and a focus on student outcomes. Most importantly, it keeps our schools open without raising taxes on hard working Kansas families."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/17) reports the bill "barely passed the Kansas Legislature" and says Colyer insists "that fixes be made to the legislation when lawmakers return later this month." The Star reports the bill "was intended to boost school funding by more than $500 million over five years," and says Colyer "called on lawmakers to pass a trailer bill once they return on April 26 from their break to fix an issue discovered in the days after lawmakers approved the funding plan. Officials realized last week that the legislation included an $80 million error." Democrats criticized the bill "for not increasing school funding more," while Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R), who is challenging Colyer in the gubernatorial primary, "denounced Colyer's decision to sign the school funding bill. Echoing conservative concerns about the added spending, Kobach called it 'a disaster.'"

The AP (4/17) reports the bill "is aimed at addressing a state Supreme Court's ruling that funding for schools is inadequate. A lawyer for the school districts that sued the state said the bill doesn't do enough to address that problem." The Hays (KS) Post (4/17) also covers this story.

Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.

The Chicago Tribune (4/17) reports that Chicago Public Schools announced Tuesday that schools will receive $3.1 billion in the 2018-19 school year, an increase of $60 million. CPS officials say the funding "will largely finance unionized teacher salary increases and some new programs." The increase amounts to a 2.5% increase in per-student spending, and "corresponds with a cost-of-living salary increase in the latest Chicago Teachers Union contract." CPS "also was boosting funding for low-income students and creating a fund to support schools that have been battered by dwindling enrollment."

The Chicago Sun-Times (4/17) reports district principals "were receiving budgets Tuesday for individual schools that include increases for teacher raises, allowing school leaders to maintain steady staffing levels." The Sun-Times reports the school budgets "are being released unusually early for CPS, which in recent years didn't give numbers to principals until deep into the summer as officials scrambled to find money they had counted on from Springfield. Lawmakers finally approved a new evidence-based state school funding formula that benefits Chicago's schools."

With STEM Jobs Growing, Arizona Educators Lack Funding To Train Next Generation Of Workers.

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The Arizona Republic (4/17, Castle) reports that the National Forum on Education, Policy and Education Commission of the States finds that in Arizona, STEM-related jobs are projected to grow by 21% over the next decade. The Republic writes that “Arizona educators worry that a lack of support for STEM programs and teachers in K-12 schools will impact the state’s ability to provide the quality workforce these companies will require,” adding that “some teachers believe more resources in the classroom can help the state attract more companies, and provide a better-prepared workforce.” According to the article, “Teachers across the state are advocating for more funding, including STEM teachers,” but, “it can be hard for schools to attract and retain STEM teachers due to low salaries, lower than average state education funding and a lack of collaboration among school STEM programs.”

Broward County May Ask For Tax Increase To Provide Teachers With Raises.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/16, Travis) reports Broward County Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie on Tuesday said that in order to provide a raise for teachers it would be necessary to seek a tax increase and is suggesting “an additional half mil,” in order to raise “about $93 million.” Otherwise the district will have a “$14.9 million deficit.” CFO Judith Marte said without a tax increase, “To give some people raises we’d have to lay people off.”

New Studies Reaffirm Findings Of Little Or No Improvement From de Blasio’s Improvement Program.

Chalkbeat (4/17, Zimmerman) reports that two new studies indicate that three years after New York Mayor Bill de Blasio started his Renewal program, an “aggressive and expensive campaign to turn around the city’s lowest performing schools,” which has been “flooding 78 schools with more than $386 million,” there have been “gains in student learning.” The studies are from Marcus Winters of the Manhattan Institute, and Aaron Pallas, a professor at Teachers College. The improvements, they say, “are modest — when they exist at all — and don’t yet match the mayor’s lofty promises.” A year ago, “Winters found a positive effect on test scores, while Pallas generally found little to no effect.” An additional year of data, adds Chalkbeat, “largely reaffirmed their earlier conclusions.”

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Bill McCamley
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Attachments:image001.gif (1.58k) image002.png (3.07k) image003.jpg (2.39k) Jim Watch List 2018 Reg no5.pdf (378.52k)

Dear Leaders,

Attached is the 5th revision of my legislative watch list. It's only as current as the Legislature's posting service is to the Daily Bill Locator on their website. There are a handful of additions, and some bills have moved quickly while others are "stuck."

Remember to watch tax reform bills separately, as I have not included them.

It appears that while some educational pay raise legislation has died, that HB 2 includes at least part of what has been variously proposed.

As always, the Governor will need to hear from you regarding legislation that goes to her desk. Best wishes for an overall positive outcome from this session!

Jim Barentine
CES - Director for Southern Services
575-646-5965

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From: "Jim Barentine" <jim@ces.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 22 Jan 2018 09:53:11 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Legislative List affecting education - updated #2
To: "eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org" <eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org>, "mhartshorne@almadarte.org" <mhartshorne@almadarte.org>, "director@acsnm.org" <director@acsnm.org>, "jandreis@sgms.us" <jandreis@sgms.us>, "mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org" <mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org>, "wsherwood@aldocs.org" <wsherwood@aldocs.org>, "sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com" <sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com>, "slyons@dccchs.org" <slyons@dccchs.org>, "bryan.dooley@regionix.org" <bryan.dooley@regionix.org>, "burchc@hobbsschools.net" <burchc@hobbsschools.net>, "dwillden@pvrec8.com" <dwillden@pvrec8.com>, "vchavez@swrecnm.org" <vchavez@swrecnm.org>, "Ann Lynn McIlroy" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "brian.snider@jalnm.org" <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, "Buddy Little" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Crit Caton" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Dwain Haynes" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Michael Grossman" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Ricky Williams" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "T.J. Parks" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "David Lackey" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "bvigil@tularosak12.us" <bvigil@tularosak12.us>, "bickertg@ruidososchools.org" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Adrianne Salas" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "sean.wootton@capitantigers.org" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "arsenio.romero@demingps.org" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "abrown@silverschools.org" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Craig Cummins" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "gewing@lcps.net" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Linda Hale" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "lrcushman@animask12.net" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Randy Piper" <rpiper@lmsed.org>, "Robert Mendoza" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:image001.gif (1.58k) image002.png (3.07k) image003.jpg (2.39k) Jim Watch List 2018 Reg no2.pdf (345.28k)

Dear Leaders,

Attached is my second Watch List for this Legislative Session. Not much activity yet. I am open to feedback, as I want this to be helpful to YOU. Thanks.

Jim Barentine
CES - Director for Southern Services
575-646-5965

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From: "Jim Barentine" <jim@ces.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 29 Jan 2018 18:27:26 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Legislative List affecting education - updated #3
To: "eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org" <eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org>, "mhartshorne@almadarte.org" <mhartshorne@almadarte.org>, "director@acsnm.org" <director@acsnm.org>, "jandreis@sgms.us" <jandreis@sgms.us>, "mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org" <mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org>, "wsherwood@aldocs.org" <wsherwood@aldocs.org>, "sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com" <sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com>, "slyons@dccchs.org" <slyons@dccchs.org>, "bryan.dooley@regionix.org" <bryan.dooley@regionix.org>, "burchc@hobbsschools.net" <burchc@hobbsschools.net>, "dwillden@pvrec8.com" <dwillden@pvrec8.com>, "vchavez@swrecnm.org" <vchavez@swrecnm.org>, "Ann Lynn McIlroy" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "brian.snider@jalnm.org" <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, "Buddy Little" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Crit Caton" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Dwain Haynes" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Michael Grossman" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Ricky Williams" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "T.J. Parks" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "David Lackey" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "bvigil@tularosak12.us" <bvigil@tularosak12.us>, "bickertg@ruidososchools.org" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Adrianne Salas" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "sean.wootton@capitantigers.org" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "arsenio.romero@demingps.org" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "abrown@silverschools.org" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Craig Cummins" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "gewing@lcps.net" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Linda Hale" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "lrcushman@animask12.net" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Randy Piper" <rpiper@lmsed.org>, "Robert Mendoza" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:image001.gif (1.58k) image002.png (3.07k) image003.jpg (2.39k) Jim Watch List 2018 Reg no3.pdf (323.32k)

Dear Leaders,

Some notes:

1. There are several tax reform bills that will have some effects on schools, but I don't understand tax law well enough to know which will and which won't. If you want to follow them, you'll want to search for "tax" on the legislative website.
2. The number of bills has about doubled since the start of the session. Some are moving, some are not. With only about two weeks to go, it's likely that movement will occur faster than my periodic tracking can occur.
3. SB 181 is very important to you and to CES. It was requested that "local public bodies" be backed out of last year's law that placed limits on engineering and construction contracts (previously, the limits only applied to STATE AGENCIES). Unfortunately, the language used in the bill indicates you'll be unable to use multi-source contracts and indefinite quantity contracts at all! (David is working with Senator Campos to get that language corrected to reflect the intent of the requested change!) If its wording doesn't change from its current version, the bill will need to be KILLED! Please keep an eye on the wording, and I'll try to keep you informed in a timely fashion.

Thanks!

Jim Barentine
CES - Director for Southern Services
575-646-5965

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[FPC] FIREARMS POLICY COALITION [FPF] FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Jim Barentine" <jim@ces.org>
Sent Date: Tue, 6 Feb 2018 15:22:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Legislative List affecting education - updated #4
To: "eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org" <eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org>, "mhartshorne@almadarte.org" <mhartshorne@almadarte.org>, "director@acsnm.org" <director@acsnm.org>, "jandreis@sgms.us" <jandreis@sgms.us>, "mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org" <mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org>, "wsherwood@aldocs.org" <wsherwood@aldocs.org>, "sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com" <sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com>, "slyons@dccchs.org" <slyons@dccchs.org>, "bryan.dooley@regionix.org" <bryan.dooley@regionix.org>, "burchc@hobbsschools.net" <burchc@hobbsschools.net>, "dwillden@pvrec8.com" <dwillden@pvrec8.com>, "vchavez@swrecnm.org" <vchavez@swrecnm.org>, "Ann Lynn McIlroy" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "brian.snider@jalnm.org" <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, "Buddy Little" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Crit Caton" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Dwain Haynes" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Michael Grossman" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Ricky Williams" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "T.J. Parks" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "David Lackey" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "bvigil@tularosak12.us" <bvigil@tularosak12.us>, "bickertg@ruidososchools.org" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Adrianne Salas" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "sean.wootton@capitantigers.org" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "arsenio.romero@demingps.org" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "abrown@silverschools.org" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Craig Cummins" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "gewing@lcps.net" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Linda Hale" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "lrcushman@animask12.net" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Randy Piper" <rpiper@lmsed.org>, "Robert Mendoza" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:image001.gif (1.58k) image002.png (3.07k) image003.jpg (2.39k) Jim Watch List 2018 Reg no4.pdf (325.06k)

Dear Leaders,

A note: SB 240 has replaced SB 181, which I mentioned last week. It may never reach the Governor's desk, but it is important that it be strongly supported – even if it only sets the stage for its passage next year. Its passage would restore to local public bodies the ability to use multi-source and indefinite quantity contracts for engineering and construction without limits.

Thank you for the important work you do!

Jim Barentine
CES - Director for Southern Services
575-646-5965

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From: "Jim Barentine" <jim@ces.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 15 Jan 2018 16:48:47 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Legislative List affecting education
To: "eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org" <eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org>, "mhartshorne@almadarte.org" <mhartshorne@almadarte.org>, "director@acsnm.org" <director@acsnm.org>, "jandreis@sgms.us" <jandreis@sgms.us>, "mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org" <mporter@newamericaschoolnm.org>, "wsherwood@aldocs.org" <wsherwood@aldocs.org>, "sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com" <sfrakes@jmacarlsbad.com>, "slyons@dccchs.org" <slyons@dccchs.org>, "bryan.dooley@regionix.org" <bryan.dooley@regionix.org>, "burchc@hobbsschools.net" <burchc@hobbsschools.net>, "dwillden@pvrec8.com" <dwillden@pvrec8.com>, "vchavez@swrecnm.org" <vchavez@swrecnm.org>, "Ann Lynn McIlroy" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "brian.snider@jalnm.org" <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, "Buddy Little" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "Crit Caton" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "Dwain Haynes" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "Lesa Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Michael Grossman" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "Ricky Williams" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "T.J. Parks" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "David Lackey" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "bvigil@tularosak12.us" <bvigil@tularosak12.us>, "bickertg@ruidososchools.org" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org" <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, "Adrianne Salas" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "sean.wootton@capitantigers.org" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "arsenio.romero@demingps.org" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "abrown@silverschools.org" <abrown@silverschools.org>, "Craig Cummins" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "gewing@lcps.net" <gewing@lcps.net>, "Linda Hale" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "lrcushman@animask12.net" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "Randy Piper" <rpiper@lmsed.org>, "Robert Mendoza" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:image001.gif (1.58k) image002.png (3.07k) image003.jpg (2.39k) Jim Watch List 2018 Reg no1.pdf (188.9k)

Dear Leaders,

Attached is my first Watch List for this Legislative Session. I have tried to identify every piece of legislation with potential broad impact upon public education. I am open to feedback, as I want this to be helpful to YOU. Thanks.

Jim Barentine
CES - Director for Southern Services
575-646-5965

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From: "ASCD Educator Advocates" <educatoradvocates@ascd.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Feb 2018 07:55:58 -0700 (MST)
Subject: More Money for Education, but Not In Trump Budget
To: <bess.rusk@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Budget Deal Could Mean More Money for Education

Congress and the administration agreed to a budget deal that will provide a $63 billion increase in spending for non-defense programs in both FY18 and FY19 (defense program will get a similar increase).

What it means: Decisions on final FY18 funding have been hamstrung for months because of sequestration-imposed spending caps on both defense and non-defense programs. The deal will now give congressional leaders plenty of extra money to avoid hard budget choices and potential budget cuts-- at least for two years, after which the budget sequestration caps will return with a vengeance.

Why it matters: Funding for FY18 Title II ESSA professional development has been in limbo with the House providing zero funds and the Senate maintaining funding at $2.1 billion. The extra money should make it easier to meet the Senate goal rather than splitting the difference. But it will require educators to make the case to lawmakers. Send an email to your members of Congress asking them to fund Title II PD at $2.1 billion.

Days after the budget deal, the administration released its FY19 budget. The Trump/DeVos budget would cut education spending by 5.6%, essentially level funds major K-12 programs like Title I, IDEA, and Perkins CTE, and proposes $1 billion in new money to expand private and public school choice.

What it means: While almost a pointless exercise coming on the heels of the budget agreement, the budget outline does again reveal the administration's continued education priorities--namely, vouchers--at the expense of investing in long-standing programs that serve large numbers of disadvantaged and disabled students.

Why it matters: "Zeroing out financial support for teacher and principal training, after-school activities, and to reduce class sizes is antithetical to ensuring that educators have the tools they need to ensure that all students are supported and provided with the skills needed for the world they will inherit," said ASCD executive director Deb Delisle.

The horrific mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida has killed

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17 students and teachers. Almost inconceivably, it is the 18th school shooting in 2018.

What it means: Social-emotional learning, student connectedness to peers and school staff, and adequate mental health services are important. But large-scale gun violence is a uniquely American problem.

Why it matters: According to federal law, you must be 21 years of age or older to buy a handgun--but you only have to be 18 to purchase an assault rifle in Florida and a number of other states.

You're receiving this newsletter because you subscribed at ASCD's Educator Advocates website.

Subscribe here if this e-mail was forwarded to you.

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From: "Charles Goodmacher" <cgoodmacher@neanm.org>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 15:14:36 -0700 (MST)
Subject: NEA-NM Final Legislative Update (until Governor vetos or not) for 2018
To: "NM All staff" <nmallstaff@neanm.org>, "Becki Hammond, NEA Lake Arthur" <beckilynch@yahoo.com>, "Becky Hotal, NEA Aztec" <vnhotabe@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "Ben Steiner, NEA Rio Rancho" <bensteiner00@gmail.com>, "Bruce Hartman, NEA Las Cruces" <bwhartman@comcast.net>, "Carrie Boartwright, NEA Carlsbad" <boacar1996@outlook.com>, "Charity Cheung, Deming EA" <tirachy@hotmail.com>, "Dana Miyamoto" <d_miyamoto@yahoo.com>, "danilleyoung@yahoo.com" <danilleyoung@yahoo.com>, "dmdawson4085@gmail.com" <dmdawson4085@gmail.com>, "Diana Jackson, NEA Alamogordo" <dlj7598@beyondbb.com>, "Diane Noblett-Trujillo, Tucumcari (Interim)" <abcread123@gmail.com>, "Dodi Eakins, Portales" <deakins@portalesschools.com>, "Dolores Sanchez, NEA Cimarron" <dsan_87714@yahoo.com>, "Garald Sauer, NEA-Magdalena" <jsauer@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "Geni Flores, ENMU Portales" <geni.flores@enmu.edu>, "Gerald Williams, NEA San Juan College" <aztfarm98765@yahoo.com>, "Gordon Mishler, NEA-T or C" <mishler@windstream.net>, "Grace Mayer" <mayer.grace2@gmail.com>, "Hayley Encinias, NEA Clayton" <losencinias@gmail.com>, "Irma Valdespino, NEA Las Cruces CSEC" <ivaldespino@comcast.net>, "Jacqueline Grijalva, NEA Cobre Contact" <2j11a64@comcast.net>, "Jason Baca, NEA Roy" <jsnbaca@yahoo.com>, "Jaylyn Maestas, NEA Wagon Mound" <jaylynmaestas@hotmail.com>, "Jean Appell, Jefferson Montessori Academy-Carlsbad" <appelljacm@gmail.com>, "momof3trucan@gmail.com" <momof3trucan@gmail.com>, "Jim Sauer, NEA Magdalena" <jsauer000@gmail.com>, "Joan Henderson, Monte del Sol" <jhenderson@montedelsol.org>, "Jon Mullen, NEA NM Retired Acting President" <mullen_jon@yahoo.com>, "Kat Bustillos, Silver Consolidated" <kat.bustillos@gmail.com>, "Kathy Jenkins, HED-NM Highlands Univ" <jenks08@msn.com>, "Kathy Jenkins, HED-NM Highlands Univ" <kjenkins@nmhu.edu>, "Keith A. Rall, Hobbs Co President" <kadorall@msn.com>, "Kerry Benson, NEA Pojoaque" <kerrybenson@yahoo.com>, "lwvazquez@msn.com" <lwvazquez@msn.com>, "Lazarita Heather Williams, NEA T or C" <heatherpad89@gmail.com>, "Linda Casper, NEA Maxwell Contact" <lcasper@maxwellp12.com>, "Lisa Felix, Farmington EA Co-President" <mrs.felix3.1415@gmail.com>, "Lisa Vasquez, NEA Ruidoso" <vasquezruidoso@yahoo.com>, "Margaret Alire, Espanola NEA" <m_alire@yahoo.com>, "Mario Romero, HED-NM Highlands Univ-Staff Unit" <aftmrromero@gmail.com>, "Mary Sanchez, NEA Tularosa" <quiqui38@gmail.com>, "Mel Sharp, NEA CCEA" <melsharp@q.com>, "Michael Perea, NEA West Las Vegas" <ma_perea@hotmail.com>, "Monica Archuleta, NEA Questa" <monicaarchuleta@gmail.com>, "Nancy Harding, NEA Artesia Contact" <nancyharding97@gmail.com>, "Patricia Mendoza, NEA Las Vegas City" <plmendoza@hotmail.com>, "Penny Valdez, NEA Los Lunas" <penny.valdez@comcast.net>, "Raquel Montiel, NEA Lordsburg" <racaldee@hotmail.com>, "Rosa Linda Ramirez, NEA-Loving" <lr_48_hours@yahoo.com>, "Royceann Lafayette, NEA Belen" <royceann@outlook.com>, "Sandra Ledezma, NEA Gadsden" <sandylee8289@gmail.com>, "Santana Castillo, NEA-Moriarty-Edgewood" <bear12341@msn.com>, "swrayreynol@gmail.com" <swrayreynol@gmail.com>, "Sue Holland, NEA Raton" <dueceholland@msn.com>, "Susie De La Torre, NEA Deming Co-President" <neademing@outlook.com>, "Trish Ruiz, NEA-Hobbs" <gtr804pd@gmail.com>, "Yazmin Izquierdo, NEA Lovington" <azinym77@hotmail.com>, "Yazmin Izquierdo, NEA-Lovington" <yazminizquierdo@lovingtonschools.net>, "Ann Meyer" <ameyer@fms.k12.nm.us>, "Betty Patterson" <bpatterson@nea.org>, "Carol Parr" <carol.parr.nm@gmail.com>, "Carol Teweleit" <ctevalamo@aol.com>, "Charles Bowyer" <cbowyer@nea.org>, "David Chester" <nonlabel@mac.com>, "Diana Jackson" <dlj7598@beyondbb.com>, "Edith Brycelea" <ebrycelea@nea.org>, "Gerri Franco" <the_tchr1@hotmail.com>, "Henry Armendariz" <karinacooks43@gmail.com>, "Laura Vazquez" <vazquezl@belen.k12.nm.us>, "lwvazquez@msn.com" <lwvazquez@msn.com>, "Linda Moody" <lmoody@nea.org>, "Lucille Martinez-Holguin" <lamholguin@gmail.com>, "Mary McGowan" <mmmcgowan@llschools.net>, "Mary McGowan" <mmm13mmm@aol.com>, "Mary Parr-Sanchez" <mparrsanchez@nea.org>, "Michael Moss" <mdmoss@plumbersoft.com>, "Pandy Van Auken" <pklb58@outlook.com>, "Pat Jaquez" <jpatriciajaquez@aol.com>, "Patrick Sanchez" <patsanch@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "Patrick Sanchez" <psanchez1992@msn.com>, "Randy Mondragon" <randylori2@aol.com>, "Rosalinda Carreon-Altamirano" <raltamir@lcps.k12.nm.us>, "carrasco123@yahoo.com" <carrasco123@yahoo.com>, "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "Tony Mendoza" <reaam_50@hotmail.com>

Attachments:Summary 2018 session draft 2 pager.pdf (482.36k) Summary 2018 session draft 2 pager.docx (109.59k)

Engaged members make the difference for our students and our members - and this legislative session proved that once again! Thank you for all you've done year long to impact the public and political narratives about our students' needs and and the supports needed for we in the education community to contribute to their success.

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The summary is provided in both pdf and word document format to allow your Local to add Local contact information or other news you may wish to add to the 2 sided document. Please also know our lobby team is ready to provide a legislative session debrief with your Local or Region for a meeting or event, in person or via FaceTime or Skype.

Charles Goodmacher
Government and Media Relations Director, UniServ Director
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(505) 450-3155

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2018 07:14:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Next step in stopping the NRA
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Get the NRA off Sturm Ruger's board

Tell BlackRock, Vanguard and other major fund managers:
“Sandra Froman is a long-time NRA leader who has no place on the Sturm Ruger board of directors. Use your votes to help stop her from getting another term.”

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



On May 9, we’ve got another chance to show that we are more powerful than the NRA.

That’s the day Sturm Ruger, the country’s largest gun manufacturer, will hold its annual shareholder meeting. And that’s the day we can help get Sandra Froman, a long-time leader of the NRA, off the Sturm Ruger board of directors.

Froman, who has been an NRA board member since 1992, is in a prime position to advance the NRA’s extremist “guns everywhere” agenda at Sturm Ruger. That means shutting down efforts to increase gun safety or support for gun control. Company executives see allegiance with the NRA as key to their bottom line, so they won’t make change on their own. But together, we can demand that major investors vote against re-electing Froman — and the NRA — to the Sturm Ruger board.

Tell BlackRock, Vanguard and other major fund managers: Get the NRA out of Sturm Ruger’s boardroom. Click here to sign the petition.

BlackRock and Vanguard are major shareholders in the most prominent gun manufacturers.[1] **They have been able to make massive amounts of money off of gun sales without lifting a finger to end the culture of death in America.** We can help make sure that stops.

More than 140,000 CREDO members have already joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren in asking investors to use their financial power and power as shareholders to force gun makers to make change. Under pressure after Parkland – as corporations dropped their partnerships with the NRA and large retailers and banks supported gun reform – some investors said they would also do better.[2,3] **Now they have a chance to show those weren’t empty promises.**

Tell BlackRock, Vanguard and other major fund managers: Get the NRA out of Sturm Ruger’s boardroom. Click here to sign the petition.

The pressure on companies to tow the NRA’s line is intense. In 1999, after the Columbine shooting, the Clinton administration sued manufacturers for the violence committed with their products. Smith & Wesson agreed to a settlement to develop child-safe triggers and safer “smart” guns and to block dealers from selling guns to criminals. [4] The NRA went on the attack — trying to destroy Smith & Wesson and keep other gun makers from joining the settlement. After death threats, boycotts, lay-offs, near bankruptcy and the firing of Smith & Wesson's CEO, the changes agreed to in the settlement were never made. In 2013, Smith & Wesson’s current CEO James Debney, was inducted into the NRA’s Golden Ring of Freedom for donating more than 1 million dollars to the NRA. [5] In February, a Smith & Wesson AR-15 was used to commit the Parkland massacre.

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We will never end our gun violence epidemic if we can't break corporations' allegiance to the NRA. And neither side will let go without a fight. Right now, **investors in gun companies have to decide whether they are going to be part of the problem or part of the solution.** In May, they have a chance to show where they stand. **That's why we're joining with our friends at SumOfUs and Majority Action to demand that investors use their shareholder proxies to vote against Sandra Froman's re-election to the Sturm Ruger board.**

Click the link below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/NRA_SturmRuger?t=8&akid=28306%2E12772310%2EUWgkzZ

Thank you for helping stand up to the NRA,

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. Reshma Kapadia, "Big Investors in Gun Companies Weigh In on Violence," Barron's, Feb. 22, 2018.
2. Adam Shell, "Amalgamated Bank pressures Sturm, Ruger to take steps to reduce gun violence," USA Today, April 20, 2018.
3. Liz Moyer, "BlackRock says it's time to take action on guns, may use voting power to influence," CNBC, March 2, 2018.
4. Avi Selk, "A gunmaker once tried to reform itself. The NRA nearly destroyed it." The Washington Post, Feb. 27, 2018.
5. Michael Daly, "He Made the Gun That Slaughtered Parkland's Kids ," The Daily Beast, Feb. 24, 2018.

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From: "Marie M.Duryea" <mariemduryea@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 12:36:54 -0700 (MST)
Subject: NMAFCS March 2018 News Service
To: <Undisclosed recipients:;>

Attachments:NMAFCS March 2018.pdf (200.71k)

Dear NMAFCS News Service Recipients,

Attached is a .pdf format of this month's News Service.

Please let me know if you have problems opening this attachment.

Thank you,
Marie M. Duryea
NMAFCS List Serve Manager

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From: "desirae martinez" <desiraemartinez768@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 21 Feb 2018 10:39:56 -0700 (MST)
Subject: <no subject>
To: "Mrs.vanscotter" <hannah.vanscotter@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:ReasearchProposal_DesiraeMartinez.docx (25.02k)

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From: "Zenas Granger" <zenasgranger3210@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 1 Feb 2018 23:55:28 -0700 (MST)
Subject: <no subject>
To: <tammie.hardt@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:annotated bibliography.docx (24.87k)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:29:49 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view

NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

in affiliation with Bulletin MEDIA

Good morning Eric Spencer

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

ABC World News Tonight (4/3, story 8, 0:15, Llamas) reported there is "no end in sight for the teacher protests in Oklahoma. Hundreds of teachers at the state capital...again today meeting with legislators, asking for more funding for their schools. Many schools across the state have canceled classes again [Wednesday], the third day of the action." The CBS Evening News (4/3, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill Tuesday "giving teacher support staff, like teacher aides and janitors, a $1,250 raise. Last week, she signed a measure giving teachers $6,000 pay raise, but added only added an additional $50 million to school funding. Teachers were asking for $200 million more." On NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 6, 2:05, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez said, "The governor says that the legislature has already passed an average 16 percent increase for teachers, and the state can only do what its budget allows."

USA Today (4/3, White, Jansen, Network) reports that teachers in Oklahoma City "continued to rally Tuesday, shuttering many schools for a second day to demand higher pay and education funding, in an effort that also recently engulfed West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona." The piece reports that Oklahoma City Public Schools said classes will also be canceled on Wednesday, quoting a district statement saying, "We are hopeful that our legislators will continue working this afternoon toward a solution, but we wanted to make this decision as early as possible to give our families adequate time to plan."

Reuters (4/3) reports Oklahoma teachers staged "boisterous rallies in front of lawmakers and clos[ed] hundreds of public schools across the state as they demanded higher pay and more money for education in the latest U.S. labor action by educators. ... Teachers, parents and students staged sympathy rallies around the state and some 70

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public school districts were forced to suspend classes on Tuesday."

The AP (4/3) reports that "rowdy teachers" in Oklahoma City were part of "a rebellion of educators in Republican-led states across the country," saying that "rowdy teachers booed lawmakers when the Oklahoma House adjourned. House officials initially called on state troopers to clear the gallery of protesting teachers but later backed off. Education advocates filled the Capitol to capacity, and troopers limited access to the building."

In a separate article, the AP (4/3) reports that the protests come "on the heels of a pay raise for teachers signed by Republican Gov. Mary Fallin last week, which increased teachers' pay by 15 to 18 percent. But protesting educators and school employees said they need more from the state after years of struggling with outdated textbooks, broken desks and shorter school weeks in the absence of desperately needed funding." Also reporting are the Tulsa (OK) World (4/3), PBS NewsHour (4/3), Fox Business (4/3), the Huffington Post (4/3, Jamieson), TIME (4/3), and the Washington Examiner (4/3, Higgins).

Analyses: Teacher Activism Seen As Opposition To GOP Austerity. The AP (4/3) reports that the ongoing "teacher rebellions" in GOP-led states "has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes." The piece reports Republicans in Oklahoma last week "broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent." The piece reports that while the movement first came to prominence in West Virginia, Oklahoma has become "the epicenter of the revolt."

The Christian Science Monitor (4/3) reports the "teacher walkouts in Republican-run states...has cast a national spotlight on their tax-and-spend priorities amid growing public disquiet over funding for education and other public services." The piece reports teacher "activism in red states is challenging the tenets of Republican governance in which austerity for public employees is bracketed with tax breaks for private business."

The New York Times (4/3, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports details of the protests in various states, saying "the states in question, whose legislatures are dominated by the Republican Party, have pursued years of tax cuts and cuts to public services. Teachers, parents and students have noticed the impact of budget cuts on the classroom, whether it is a four-day school week in rural Oklahoma or canceled drama classes in Tulsa. When educators saw West Virginia teachers win a raise last month after a daring strike, they realized more radical tactics might work in their states, too." The Washington Post (4/3, Strauss) reports walkouts and protests are happening "in states that have seen the country's deepest funding cuts for public education by Republican legislators, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona."

Oklahoma Legislator Vows To Vote Against Funding Measures Inspired By Walkouts. The Hill (4/3, Thomsen) reports Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin McDugle (R) "is vowing to vote against any measures that fund public education in response to the state's days-long teachers strike." McDugle "said that he had voted in favor of education funding measures last year, but that he didn't believe the striking teachers were acting as good role models for their students."

The Tulsa (OK) World (4/3) reports McDugle "took to Facebook Live with his frustrations on Tuesday. He has since deleted the post." The piece quotes him saying, "I'm not voting for another stinking measure when they're acting the way they're acting. ... You're losing support of people who supported you all year long. Now you're going to come here and act like this after you got a raise?"

Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.

The Payson (AZ) Roundup (4/3) reports that an estimated 2,500 teachers and their supporters rallied outside the Arizona state Capitol last week to demand a 20 percent pay increase "and a restoration to the inflation-adjusted, per-student funding levels in 2008, prior to the recession." In an attempt "to head off the issue," state lawmakers passed and Gov. Doug Ducey "swiftly signed" into law a measure "extend a half-cent sales tax surcharge set to expire in

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2020." Previously, state voters approved "the half a penny per $1 spent, which generates $600 million for education." Ducey has "said the state can't afford a 20 percent raise for teachers," but his budget calls for a one percent pay raise for the upcoming fiscal year.

The White Mountain (AZ) Independent (4/3) also reports on the rally and notes that Ducey has also "promised to eventually restore funds that the state has failed to pay schools for things like books, computers and school buses, a move he said should free local districts to use more of their existing funds for pay hikes." Nonetheless, "that is proving too little for members of the newly formed Arizona Educators United who say that there is no reason teacher pay here should be at or near the bottom of the nation." The Independent says because the group is currently "trying to gauge support, both among teachers and the community at large," it is unclear "how quickly teachers expect action – and what they will do if they are ignored." The dispute "comes as the most recent data from the National Education Association put average pay in Arizona at $47,218, a figure the association said ranked 43rd in the country."

Florida Education Association Warns Teachers To Eschew Illegal Walkouts.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (4/3) reports some teachers in Florida are wondering whether they should follow the example of teachers "in other states...walkout out over low pay this week." However, the Florida Education Association is warning that such an action in Florida "is against the law." The Times quotes a statement from the group saying, "the activist options for teachers and education staff professionals are somewhat limited. Walking off the job or reporting to work late is not an appropriate action and it comes with harsh consequences. It is important for all FEA members to follow the law."

Walkout Unlikely In Tennessee.

The Tennessean (4/3) reports that a teacher walkout in Tennessee is "unlikely, but not out of the realm of possibility. That's because there are numerous issues at play that make a Tennessee teacher strike doubtful." The piece cites Gov. Bill Haslam's approval of significant teacher raises, an ample teacher retirement fund, and laws against strikes in the state.

New York City Program Seeks To Diversify Teacher Workforce.

Diverse Education (4/3, Pennamon) profiles NYC Men Teach, a teacher recruitment and retention program launched by the Young Men's Initiative (YMI) "in January 2015 and backed by a $16-million pledge from Mayor Bill de Blasio" that "is actively working to diversify the teacher workforce to reflect the city's diverse student population." The program "is in its third and final year of a strategic plan to recruit, support and retain 1,000 more Black, Hispanic and Asian male teachers in the city's classrooms." Currently, men of color account for only 8.3 percent of the city's teacher workforce, "a stark contrast to the majority of students that come from various cultural backgrounds." Boston University Peter Paul Assistant Professor Dr. Travis Bristol, the program's primary researcher, said men of color often face challenges in the teacher pipeline that "include coming from 'historically marginalized and disenfranchised schools,'" hiring practice biases, school placement, and disproportionate teacher state-certification exam passage rates.

Audit Finds Detroit District Has Outdated Curriculum Inconsistent With State Standards.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (4/3, Einhorn) reports an audit conducted last fall of Detroit's main school district has "found that students here have been set up to fail" by virtue of the district's outdated curriculum, which often does not align with the state's learning standards. And while the "district plans to spend between $1 million and $3 million in the coming year to" update its materials, "curriculum experts" say the situation is not unique to Detroit. In fact,

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"hundreds – possibly thousands – of districts across the country...are using textbooks and educational materials that are not aligned to state standards," and because "most districts don't do curriculum audits," many are unaware that their materials may be lacking.

A Primer On Visible Trends, Initiatives In K-12 Education.

In a perspective piece for the "On Parenting" feature of the Washington Post's (4/3) Lifestyle section, freelance writer and illustrator James Paterson writes "a primer about some of the most visible initiatives and trends in K-12 education." These include: prioritizing "a trauma-informed approach" to helping students recover from "bullying and violent incidents," adopting "restorative justice practices for disciplinary infractions," shifting toward "learner-centered and personalized approaches" to teaching, implementing "new methods of assessing students," introducing project-based learning, "reversing lecture and homework time," adopting flexible seating techniques, and overworked school counselors teaching new problem-solving skills to students.

Bogue Chitto Robotics Team Raising Money For FIRST Tech Challenge.

The Brookhaven (MS) Daily Leader (4/3, Campbell) reports the Bogue Chitto Technocats, Bogue Chitto High School's robotics team, are trying "to raise more than $5,000 in two weeks to get to the FIRST Tech Challenge world championship," a four-day, invitation-only event held in Houston that sees "the best of the best in robotics competing against each other."

Indiana Looking For High School Students To Join Governor's "STEM Team."

The AP (4/3) reports, "The state of Indiana is accepting nominations for high school students to be named to Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2018 'STEM Team,'" which "recognizes four high school students for accomplishments in science, technology, engineering and math." Winners, which will be announced in May, "receive a $1,000 college scholarships and a commemorative letterman jacket."

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Michigan Prepares To Host FIRST Championship In April.

The Detroit News (4/2, Chambers) reports on preparations in Michigan for the FIRST Championship, which will take place from April 25-29 and will see "tens of thousands of students from across the world descend on Detroit" to "battle robots on a playing field." The article focuses mainly on the state's robotics teams, of which there are 508 comprised of 15,240 students.

Minnesota's ESSA Plan To Designate Opt-Out Students As "Not Proficient."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/3) reports Minnesota's "new plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will count every student who misses the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments as 'not proficient,' except in rare cases of a medical exemption." In past years, thousands of Minnesota students have opted out of the standardized math and reading assessments. Therefore, the change "could mean a small number of schools will be targeted for state support – at the expense of truly low-performing schools – simply because parents and students refused the test." As such, the move "is drawing criticism from both detractors and supporters of standardized testing." State Education Department spokesman Josh Collins, however,

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"said Minnesota had no choice but to measure proficiency this way." The Pioneer Press adds that "because the state's new school accountability uses multiple factors to identify struggling schools," it is unlikely that a high opt-out school will get "much state attention."

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

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WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of “a variety of school safety measures” under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that “would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers.” State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, “said he’s optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday.”

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is “already in effect” due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is “now a misdemeanor” if it “disrupts school activities” and is “a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons.”

FROM NASSP

Contest to Award $250 for Service Project Ideas

How would your chapter or council use a $250 prize to implement a school or community service project? NatStuCo member councils and chapters of the National Honor Societies are being challenged to creatively address that question with a contest to amplify this year’s National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) theme—“Make Your Mark on the World: Dream. Lead. Serve.” The contest is now open and accepting entries through April 30. Think of a “dream” service project, then present a pitch in an imaginative way, posting it to social media using #OurDream18. NSLW, being celebrated April 15–21, is sponsored by NASSP’s student programs.

Complete contest details, as well as other ideas and resources to celebrate NSLW, can be found on www.NatStuCo.org/nslw, www.nhs.us/nslw, or www.njhs.us/nslw.

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EDUCATION POLICY

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Education Week Package Explores States’ Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.

Education Week (4/4) runs a package of stories titled “ESSA on the Runway” which “analyzes the state of ESSA implementation on the eve of the law’s operational debut, from teaching and testing to the political pain points that may shape just how successful that rollout proves to be. This report takes a multifaceted look at just how ready those states, districts, and schools are to bringing ESSA’s changes in for a successful landing when the law goes into full effect for the 2018-19 school year.” Topics include how the law is moving from “policy to practice (4/4),” The

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difficulty states are facing in meeting the requirement to back up school improvement efforts with research (4/4), new school assessment metrics (4/4), and most states' failure to avail themselves of testing flexibility (4/4) under the law.

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply To Take Part In ESSA Testing Pilot.

Education Week (4/3) reports ED has announced that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico "have officially submitted applications for the Every Student Succeeds Act's Innovative Assessment pilot." The piece reports that several states, "including biggies like New York," originally expressed interest in applying for the program, which "allows states to try out new forms of testing in a handful of districts, with the goal of eventually taking them statewide." However, most "ended up deciding against it." The piece surmises that many states backed out because the program "has clear rules that don't make participation easy." Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Louisiana announced this week "that it had submitted a proposal" which "would allow five local systems to try out a 'streamlined English and social studies assessment.'"

ED, Interior At Odds Over $1.6 Million In Funding For BIE Schools.

Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "are clashing over $1.6 million in federal funds meant to help administer Bureau of Indian Education schools." Zinke, in a letter to DeVos, "charges that the Education Department appears to be acting 'not in the best interests of our students' by withholding the funds" and "questions the Education Department's legal authority for holding back the money. The Title I administrative funding was withheld by Education when the bureau did not meet an Oct. 2 deadline to appoint members to a negotiated rulemaking committee, according to a letter from Jason Botel, an Education official, also obtained by POLITICO."

Kansas Senate Leadership Says Education Funding Bill Will Not Proceed Before Vote On Constitutional Amendment.

The AP (4/3, Hanna) reports that "two top Republicans" in the Kansas state legislature, Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, "brought action on education funding to a halt" with their demand that the state first curtail the power of courts to issue rulings on what does and does not constitute adequate funding for schools. Wagle and Denning's demand comes "after significant progress had been made" on education funding, the state House having passed a funding bill providing "roughly a $520 million increase in education funding over five years," and the Senate having moved forward "a bill that would phase in a $274 million increase over five years."

The AP (4/3) reports in another story that "a coalition of Kansas business and agricultural groups is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature sole authority to decide education funding levels, as the

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Legislature struggles to satisfy a state Supreme Court order to spend more on schools." The Kansas Coalition for Fair Funding has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that "would remove the state courts' role in deciding what constitutes suitable education funding."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.

The Baltimore Sun (4/3, Bowie) reports the Baltimore County school board on Tuesday "approved a $140 million technology contract...that would expand its four-year-old technology initiative into its high schools." The county currently "provide[s] every student with a free laptop to use at school and for the older students to take home." The contract would, in its first year, replace teachers' four-year-old laptops with new ones and "expand the laptops to every high schooler."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Survey: 36 Percent Of College Students Don't Have Enough To Eat.

The Washington Post (4/3, Dewey) reports that according to "a first-of-its-kind survey released Tuesday by researchers at Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 36 percent of students at 66 surveyed colleges and universities do not get enough to eat, and a similar number lack a secure place to live." The report, "which is the first to include students from two-year, four-year, private and public universities," found that "nearly 1 in 10 community college students" and 6 percent of university students "have gone a whole day without eating in the past month." The Post says researchers blame "ballooning college costs, inadequate aid packages and growing enrollment among low-income students — as well as some colleges' unwillingness to admit they have a hunger problem."

California Gubernatorial Candidate Wants Sharp Tuition Cut.

EdSource (4/3) reports California gubernatorial candidate and Treasurer John Chiang "wants to roll back a decade of

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tuition increases at the University of California and the Cal State systems, reducing those costs by more than 40 percent, while also providing two years of free community college." Chiang "said he would use general fund revenues, money from cutting out government waste, tax revenues from legal marijuana sales and other sources to fund those savings for in-state students at the two- and four-year public campuses."

Facebook Offering Houston 25 Residents Coding Boot Camp Scholarships.

The Houston Chronicle (4/3, Rumbaugh) reports, "Facebook is providing scholarships for 25 Houstonians to attend a 15-week coding boot camp, part of the technology giant's efforts to help job seekers, business owners and others learn the digital skills crucial in today's workforce." The piece explains that the selected students will be the first class in the Flatiron School's new Houston location.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**
- **Study Finds Most States' Diploma Requirements Fall Short Of College Admissions Standards.**
- **Commentary Calls On Colleges To Take The Lead In Preventing Campus Sexual Assault.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:29:49 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Jana Smith

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

ABC World News Tonight (4/3, story 8, 0:15, Llamas) reported there is "no end in sight for the teacher protests in Oklahoma. Hundreds of teachers at the state capital...again today meeting with legislators, asking for more funding for their schools. Many schools across the state have canceled classes again [Wednesday], the third day of the action." The CBS Evening News (4/3, story 5, 2:05, Glor) reported Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill Tuesday "giving teacher support staff, like teacher aides and janitors, a $1,250 raise. Last week, she signed a measure giving teachers $6,000 pay raise, but added only added an additional $50 million to school funding. Teachers were asking for $200 million more." On NBC Nightly News (4/3, story 6, 2:05, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez said, "The governor says that the legislature has already passed an average 16 percent increase for teachers, and the state can only do what its budget allows."

USA Today (4/3, White, Jansen, Network) reports that teachers in Oklahoma City "continued to rally Tuesday, shuttering many schools for a second day to demand higher pay and education funding, in an effort that also recently engulfed West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona." The piece reports that Oklahoma City Public Schools said classes will also be canceled on Wednesday, quoting a district statement saying, "We are hopeful that our legislators will continue working this afternoon toward a solution, but we wanted to make this decision as early as possible to give our families adequate time to plan."

Reuters (4/3) reports Oklahoma teachers staged "boisterous rallies in front of lawmakers and clos[ed] hundreds of public schools across the state as they demanded higher pay and more money for education in the latest U.S. labor action by educators. ... Teachers, parents and students staged sympathy rallies around the state and some 70

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public school districts were forced to suspend classes on Tuesday."

The AP (4/3) reports that "rowdy teachers" in Oklahoma City were part of "a rebellion of educators in Republican-led states across the country," saying that "rowdy teachers booed lawmakers when the Oklahoma House adjourned. House officials initially called on state troopers to clear the gallery of protesting teachers but later backed off. Education advocates filled the Capitol to capacity, and troopers limited access to the building."

In a separate article, the AP (4/3) reports that the protests come "on the heels of a pay raise for teachers signed by Republican Gov. Mary Fallin last week, which increased teachers' pay by 15 to 18 percent. But protesting educators and school employees said they need more from the state after years of struggling with outdated textbooks, broken desks and shorter school weeks in the absence of desperately needed funding." Also reporting are the Tulsa (OK) World (4/3), PBS NewsHour (4/3), Fox Business (4/3), the Huffington Post (4/3, Jamieson), TIME (4/3), and the Washington Examiner (4/3, Higgins).

Analyses: Teacher Activism Seen As Opposition To GOP Austerity. The AP (4/3) reports that the ongoing "teacher rebellions" in GOP-led states "has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes." The piece reports Republicans in Oklahoma last week "broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent." The piece reports that while the movement first came to prominence in West Virginia, Oklahoma has become "the epicenter of the revolt."

The Christian Science Monitor (4/3) reports the "teacher walkouts in Republican-run states...has cast a national spotlight on their tax-and-spend priorities amid growing public disquiet over funding for education and other public services." The piece reports teacher "activism in red states is challenging the tenets of Republican governance in which austerity for public employees is bracketed with tax breaks for private business."

The New York Times (4/3, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports details of the protests in various states, saying "the states in question, whose legislatures are dominated by the Republican Party, have pursued years of tax cuts and cuts to public services. Teachers, parents and students have noticed the impact of budget cuts on the classroom, whether it is a four-day school week in rural Oklahoma or canceled drama classes in Tulsa. When educators saw West Virginia teachers win a raise last month after a daring strike, they realized more radical tactics might work in their states, too." The Washington Post (4/3, Strauss) reports walkouts and protests are happening "in states that have seen the country's deepest funding cuts for public education by Republican legislators, including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona."

Oklahoma Legislator Vows To Vote Against Funding Measures Inspired By Walkouts. The Hill (4/3, Thomsen) reports Oklahoma state Rep. Kevin McDugle (R) "is vowing to vote against any measures that fund public education in response to the state's days-long teachers strike." McDugle "said that he had voted in favor of education funding measures last year, but that he didn't believe the striking teachers were acting as good role models for their students."

The Tulsa (OK) World (4/3) reports McDugle "took to Facebook Live with his frustrations on Tuesday. He has since deleted the post." The piece quotes him saying, "I'm not voting for another stinking measure when they're acting the way they're acting. ... You're losing support of people who supported you all year long. Now you're going to come here and act like this after you got a raise?"

Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.

The Payson (AZ) Roundup (4/3) reports that an estimated 2,500 teachers and their supporters rallied outside the Arizona state Capitol last week to demand a 20 percent pay increase "and a restoration to the inflation-adjusted, per-student funding levels in 2008, prior to the recession." In an attempt "to head off the issue," state lawmakers passed and Gov. Doug Ducey "swiftly signed" into law a measure "extend a half-cent sales tax surcharge set to expire in

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2020." Previously, state voters approved "the half a penny per $1 spent, which generates $600 million for education." Ducey has "said the state can't afford a 20 percent raise for teachers," but his budget calls for a one percent pay raise for the upcoming fiscal year.

The White Mountain (AZ) Independent (4/3) also reports on the rally and notes that Ducey has also "promised to eventually restore funds that the state has failed to pay schools for things like books, computers and school buses, a move he said should free local districts to use more of their existing funds for pay hikes." Nonetheless, "that is proving too little for members of the newly formed Arizona Educators United who say that there is no reason teacher pay here should be at or near the bottom of the nation." The Independent says because the group is currently "trying to gauge support, both among teachers and the community at large," it is unclear "how quickly teachers expect action – and what they will do if they are ignored." The dispute "comes as the most recent data from the National Education Association put average pay in Arizona at $47,218, a figure the association said ranked 43rd in the country."

Florida Education Association Warns Teachers To Eschew Illegal Walkouts.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (4/3) reports some teachers in Florida are wondering whether they should follow the example of teachers "in other states...walkout out over low pay this week." However, the Florida Education Association is warning that such an action in Florida "is against the law." The Times quotes a statement from the group saying, "the activist options for teachers and education staff professionals are somewhat limited. Walking off the job or reporting to work late is not an appropriate action and it comes with harsh consequences. It is important for all FEA members to follow the law."

Walkout Unlikely In Tennessee.

The Tennessean (4/3) reports that a teacher walkout in Tennessee is "unlikely, but not out of the realm of possibility. That's because there are numerous issues at play that make a Tennessee teacher strike doubtful." The piece cites Gov. Bill Haslam's approval of significant teacher raises, an ample teacher retirement fund, and laws against strikes in the state.

New York City Program Seeks To Diversify Teacher Workforce.

Diverse Education (4/3, Pennamon) profiles NYC Men Teach, a teacher recruitment and retention program launched by the Young Men's Initiative (YMI) "in January 2015 and backed by a $16-million pledge from Mayor Bill de Blasio" that "is actively working to diversify the teacher workforce to reflect the city's diverse student population." The program "is in its third and final year of a strategic plan to recruit, support and retain 1,000 more Black, Hispanic and Asian male teachers in the city's classrooms." Currently, men of color account for only 8.3 percent of the city's teacher workforce, "a stark contrast to the majority of students that come from various cultural backgrounds." Boston University Peter Paul Assistant Professor Dr. Travis Bristol, the program's primary researcher, said men of color often face challenges in the teacher pipeline that "include coming from 'historically marginalized and disenfranchised schools,'" hiring practice biases, school placement, and disproportionate teacher state-certification exam passage rates.

Audit Finds Detroit District Has Outdated Curriculum Inconsistent With State Standards.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (4/3, Einhorn) reports an audit conducted last fall of Detroit's main school district has "found that students here have been set up to fail" by virtue of the district's outdated curriculum, which often does not align with the state's learning standards. And while the "district plans to spend between $1 million and $3 million in the coming year to" update its materials, "curriculum experts" say the situation is not unique to Detroit. In fact,

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"hundreds – possibly thousands – of districts across the country...are using textbooks and educational materials that are not aligned to state standards," and because "most districts don't do curriculum audits," many are unaware that their materials may be lacking.

A Primer On Visible Trends, Initiatives In K-12 Education.

In a perspective piece for the "On Parenting" feature of the Washington Post's (4/3) Lifestyle section, freelance writer and illustrator James Paterson writes "a primer about some of the most visible initiatives and trends in K-12 education." These include: prioritizing "a trauma-informed approach" to helping students recover from "bullying and violent incidents," adopting "restorative justice practices for disciplinary infractions," shifting toward "learner-centered and personalized approaches" to teaching, implementing "new methods of assessing students," introducing project-based learning, "reversing lecture and homework time," adopting flexible seating techniques, and overworked school counselors teaching new problem-solving skills to students.

Bogue Chitto Robotics Team Raising Money For FIRST Tech Challenge.

The Brookhaven (MS) Daily Leader (4/3, Campbell) reports the Bogue Chitto Technocats, Bogue Chitto High School's robotics team, are trying "to raise more than $5,000 in two weeks to get to the FIRST Tech Challenge world championship," a four-day, invitation-only event held in Houston that sees "the best of the best in robotics competing against each other."

Indiana Looking For High School Students To Join Governor's "STEM Team."

The AP (4/3) reports, "The state of Indiana is accepting nominations for high school students to be named to Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2018 'STEM Team,'" which "recognizes four high school students for accomplishments in science, technology, engineering and math." Winners, which will be announced in May, "receive a $1,000 college scholarships and a commemorative letterman jacket."

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Michigan Prepares To Host FIRST Championship In April.

The Detroit News (4/2, Chambers) reports on preparations in Michigan for the FIRST Championship, which will take place from April 25-29 and will see "tens of thousands of students from across the world descend on Detroit" to "battle robots on a playing field." The article focuses mainly on the state's robotics teams, of which there are 508 comprised of 15,240 students.

Minnesota's ESSA Plan To Designate Opt-Out Students As "Not Proficient."

The St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press (4/3) reports Minnesota's "new plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will count every student who misses the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments as 'not proficient,' except in rare cases of a medical exemption." In past years, thousands of Minnesota students have opted out of the standardized math and reading assessments. Therefore, the change "could mean a small number of schools will be targeted for state support – at the expense of truly low-performing schools – simply because parents and students refused the test." As such, the move "is drawing criticism from both detractors and supporters of standardized testing." State Education Department spokesman Josh Collins, however,

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"said Minnesota had no choice but to measure proficiency this way." The Pioneer Press adds that "because the state's new school accountability uses multiple factors to identify struggling schools," it is unlikely that a high opt-out school will get "much state attention."

Parkland Students Bristle At Clear Backpacks.

USA Today (4/3, May) reports many students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school "don't support a new requirement to carry only clear backpacks." Some students "see it as an invasion of privacy, and some say it's not the change that's needed to ensure school safety."

The Huffington Post (4/3, Mosbergen) reports the students "were met with a slew of new security measures" when they returned to school Monday, "including a widely resented policy: mandatory clear backpacks for everyone." Students "were quick to express their disdain for their new accessory. Junior Cameron Kasky stuffed his backpack with tampons on Tuesday to protest what students have called an invasion of privacy."

TIME (4/3) reports "many students, some of whom have become leaders in a nationwide effort to achieve gun control reform, weren't impressed with the policy." Some students "took to social media to make further calls for regulating guns instead of teenagers' property. Some simply had a laugh at the effort."

Ducey Submits Draft School Safety Plan.

The Arizona Capitol Times (4/3) reports about the draft of Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's plan to improve school safety, which "includes requirements for a new Center for School Training, active shooter training for school resource officers and more opportunities for schools to work with local law enforcement and for DPS to put AZPOST certified officers on school grounds."

Virginia House Democrats Organize Task Force To Probe Gun Violence, School Safety.

The Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch (4/3, Mattingly) reports Virginia House Democrats on Tuesday announced the formation of the "Safe Virginia Initiative" task force "to investigate school safety and gun violence in the state." The group "will host meetings through October across the state," during which "the task force plans to garner public input" on gun control and school safety. The AP (4/3, Davison) also reports on the announcement.

Detroit Career School Joins Project Green Light Crime Prevention Program.

The Detroit Free Press (4/3, Higgins) reports Randolph Career and Technical Education Center has become the first school to join Detroit's Project Green Light crime prevention program, which has a total of 300 locations across the city. Joining through a partnership between the Detroit Public Schools Community District, "the mayor's office of workforce development, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and several private funders," Randolph has committed to installing 23 cameras – paid for by Detroit Employment Solutions – that will monitor the school grounds in real time.

State, Local Authorities Gather To Discuss "Alarming Uptick" In Michigan School Threats.

WDIV-TV Detroit (4/3, Bartkowiak, Spruill) reports an "alarming uptick in school social media threats prompted a harsh message from prosecutors" who gathered with local law enforcement on Tuesday "to discuss tackling school threats across Michigan." Those present, including US Attorney Matthew Schneider, "stressed serious charges including 20-year felonies will be sought against anyone suspected of making a threat of violence against a school."

School Safety Measures Continue To Move Ahead In Maryland General Assembly.

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WTOP-FM Washington (4/3, Ryan) reports on the progress of “a variety of school safety measures” under review by Maryland lawmakers, including one bill that would require schools to make security upgrades and another that “would require elementary and middle schools to have armed resource officers.” State Sen. Steve Waugh, a Republican, “said he’s optimistic that all the provisions – in one form or another – will pass the General Assembly before the session ends next Monday.”

New Idaho Law Imposes Stiffer Penalties For School Security Threats.

The Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (4/3, Wootton-Greener) reports House Bill 665, which Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter signed into law on March 23, has imposed stiffer penalties for school security threats. Under the new law, which is “already in effect” due to an emergency clause, threatening a school is “now a misdemeanor” if it “disrupts school activities” and is “a felony offense if a person who makes a threat has a firearm or other deadly weapons.”

FROM NASSP

Contest to Award $250 for Service Project Ideas

How would your chapter or council use a $250 prize to implement a school or community service project? NatStuCo member councils and chapters of the National Honor Societies are being challenged to creatively address that question with a contest to amplify this year’s National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) theme—“Make Your Mark on the World: Dream. Lead. Serve.” The contest is now open and accepting entries through April 30. Think of a “dream” service project, then present a pitch in an imaginative way, posting it to social media using #OurDream18. NSLW, being celebrated April 15–21, is sponsored by NASSP’s student programs.

Complete contest details, as well as other ideas and resources to celebrate NSLW, can be found on www.NatStuCo.org/nslw, www.nhs.us/nslw, or www.njhs.us/nslw.

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EDUCATION POLICY

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Education Week Package Explores States’ Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.

Education Week (4/4) runs a package of stories titled “ESSA on the Runway” which “analyzes the state of ESSA implementation on the eve of the law’s operational debut, from teaching and testing to the political pain points that may shape just how successful that rollout proves to be. This report takes a multifaceted look at just how ready those states, districts, and schools are to bringing ESSA’s changes in for a successful landing when the law goes into full effect for the 2018-19 school year.” Topics include how the law is moving from “policy to practice (4/4),” The

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difficulty states are facing in meeting the requirement to back up school improvement efforts with research (4/4), new school assessment metrics (4/4), and most states' failure to avail themselves of testing flexibility (4/4) under the law.

Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply To Take Part In ESSA Testing Pilot.

Education Week (4/3) reports ED has announced that Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico "have officially submitted applications for the Every Student Succeeds Act's Innovative Assessment pilot." The piece reports that several states, "including biggies like New York," originally expressed interest in applying for the program, which "allows states to try out new forms of testing in a handful of districts, with the goal of eventually taking them statewide." However, most "ended up deciding against it." The piece surmises that many states backed out because the program "has clear rules that don't make participation easy." Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Louisiana announced this week "that it had submitted a proposal" which "would allow five local systems to try out a 'streamlined English and social studies assessment.'"

ED, Interior At Odds Over $1.6 Million In Funding For BIE Schools.

Politico Morning Education (4/3, Leonor) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "are clashing over $1.6 million in federal funds meant to help administer Bureau of Indian Education schools." Zinke, in a letter to DeVos, "charges that the Education Department appears to be acting 'not in the best interests of our students' by withholding the funds" and "questions the Education Department's legal authority for holding back the money. The Title I administrative funding was withheld by Education when the bureau did not meet an Oct. 2 deadline to appoint members to a negotiated rulemaking committee, according to a letter from Jason Botel, an Education official, also obtained by POLITICO."

Kansas Senate Leadership Says Education Funding Bill Will Not Proceed Before Vote On Constitutional Amendment.

The AP (4/3, Hanna) reports that "two top Republicans" in the Kansas state legislature, Senate President Susan Wagle and Majority Leader Jim Denning, "brought action on education funding to a halt" with their demand that the state first curtail the power of courts to issue rulings on what does and does not constitute adequate funding for schools. Wagle and Denning's demand comes "after significant progress had been made" on education funding, the state House having passed a funding bill providing "roughly a $520 million increase in education funding over five years," and the Senate having moved forward "a bill that would phase in a $274 million increase over five years."

The AP (4/3) reports in another story that "a coalition of Kansas business and agricultural groups is proposing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature sole authority to decide education funding levels, as the

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Legislature struggles to satisfy a state Supreme Court order to spend more on schools." The Kansas Coalition for Fair Funding has proposed an amendment to the state constitution that "would remove the state courts' role in deciding what constitutes suitable education funding."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (4/3, Woodall, Shorman) reports with additional coverage of the Senate roadblock to debating funding. The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (4/3, Smith) reports about the passage of the House education funding bill. The Capital-Journal says state "lawmakers face an April 30 deadline to present a plan with adequate funding to the Kansas Supreme Court." The Hays (KS) Daily News (4/3, Smith) reports with similar coverage.

Analysis: Educating Funding Increase Reflects Alabama's Economic Recovery, Shifting Priorities.

In an analysis, Alabama Live (4/3) says the 2019 budget that Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed on Monday allocates an additional $216 million in education spending, "bringing the total to $6.63 billion, making it the largest education budget since 2008, the year considered as the high-water mark for education funding in Alabama." The budget allocates $18.5 million to the voluntary, nationally-recognized First Class Pre-K program; increases overall K-12 funding by $146 million for a total $4.6 billion; and increases higher education funding by $42 million for a total $1.7 billion. It also grants a 2.5 percent pay raise to education employees and allocates additional funds to "ongoing teacher training." According to Alabama Live, the budget not only reflects how the state's "economy is recovering after the recession," but also highlights how "public education has grown increasingly important to Alabama lawmakers in recent years."

DIGITAL LEARNING

Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.

The Baltimore Sun (4/3, Bowie) reports the Baltimore County school board on Tuesday "approved a $140 million technology contract...that would expand its four-year-old technology initiative into its high schools." The county currently "provide[s] every student with a free laptop to use at school and for the older students to take home." The contract would, in its first year, replace teachers' four-year-old laptops with new ones and "expand the laptops to every high schooler."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Survey: 36 Percent Of College Students Don't Have Enough To Eat.

The Washington Post (4/3, Dewey) reports that according to "a first-of-its-kind survey released Tuesday by researchers at Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, 36 percent of students at 66 surveyed colleges and universities do not get enough to eat, and a similar number lack a secure place to live." The report, "which is the first to include students from two-year, four-year, private and public universities," found that "nearly 1 in 10 community college students" and 6 percent of university students "have gone a whole day without eating in the past month." The Post says researchers blame "ballooning college costs, inadequate aid packages and growing enrollment among low-income students — as well as some colleges' unwillingness to admit they have a hunger problem."

California Gubernatorial Candidate Wants Sharp Tuition Cut.

EdSource (4/3) reports California gubernatorial candidate and Treasurer John Chiang "wants to roll back a decade of

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tuition increases at the University of California and the Cal State systems, reducing those costs by more than 40 percent, while also providing two years of free community college." Chiang "said he would use general fund revenues, money from cutting out government waste, tax revenues from legal marijuana sales and other sources to fund those savings for in-state students at the two- and four-year public campuses."

Facebook Offering Houston 25 Residents Coding Boot Camp Scholarships.

The Houston Chronicle (4/3, Rumbaugh) reports, "Facebook is providing scholarships for 25 Houstonians to attend a 15-week coding boot camp, part of the technology giant's efforts to help job seekers, business owners and others learn the digital skills crucial in today's workforce." The piece explains that the selected students will be the first class in the Flatiron School's new Houston location.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Teachers Walk Out In Oklahoma, Kentucky As Protests Gain Momentum.**
- **OCR Concludes Discrimination Probe Into Cedar Rapids District.**
- **NCES Data Show More US Schools Allowing Cellphones.**
- **Study Finds Most States' Diploma Requirements Fall Short Of College Admissions Standards.**
- **Commentary Calls On Colleges To Take The Lead In Preventing Campus Sexual Assault.**

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From: "Cavern City Child Advocacy Center" <CavernCityCAC@outlook.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 23:08:44 -0700 (MST)
Subject: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "LaVern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Attachments:Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf (268.65k)

Hi LaVern,

I thought this might be something the schools might be interested in.

Zelma

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 M**T on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

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From: "Twitter" <info@twitter.com>
Sent Date: Sun, 22 Apr 2018 21:19:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Patricia King Tweeted: Get Healed from trauma in your soul
To: "Karen Ann Tackitt" <karen.tackitt@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Your Highlights

Patricia King
@patriciaking4jc

Get Healed from trauma in your soul pscp.tv/w/bazxgjEwMzI4…

1 8 12

James Goll
@JamesGoll

So amazing! Melinda DoLittle led in “THIS IS ME” with a choir in the background! It was…instagram.com/p/Bh5NbaTHWWv/

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nadia sirota
@nadiasirota

Do boys ever get bangs?

8 14

El Paso Times
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Find out why the panel is against arming teachers and four other takeaways.

> **El Paso education, medical leaders offer ideas on stopping school shootings, gun violence**
>
> Read five takeaways from Thursday's forum by El Paso school and medical leaders on school and... more
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Nico Muhly liked



Emily Gould
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From: "AASA News of the Nation" <communications@aasa.org>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2018 16:06:39 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: President Trump Signs Spending Bill That Includes Billions More for K-12
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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March 27, 2018

HOT TOPICS

Linda Brown, Center of Brown v. Board of Education, Dies at 76
March 26, The Huffington Post
"Sixty-four years ago a young girl from Topeka brought a case that ended segregation in public schools in America." huffpost.com

Students Make Their Stand at D.C.'s 'March For Our Lives'
March 25, NPR
The "March for Our Lives" protest displayed the resilience behind a new wave of political activism, led by survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. npr.org

President Trump Signs Spending Bill that Including Billions More for Education
March 24, Politics K-12
President Donald Trump signed into law spending legislation that provides a significant funding increase for the U.S. Department of Education, including more money for educator development, after-school programs, and special education, among other programs. edweek.org

Scarred by School Shootings
March 25, The Washington Post
More than 187,000 students have been exposed to gun violence at school since Columbine, *The Washington Post* found. Many are never the same.



Webinar: April 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. ET

Women comprise more than 70 percent of the education workforce, but few occupy the top leadership position in U.S. public school systems. Hear from the courageous women leaders who have broken through the barriers and taken over the helm

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washingtonpost.com.

of our nation's school systems. Learn about their successes, challenges and lessons learned, while navigating pathways to the superintendency. Get advice and tips on how to make your journey a success. Register here.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Can You Identify Three Emerging Leaders?
March 26, AASA
AASA is now accepting applications for its Aspiring Superintendents Academy®. Encourage your district's most promising leaders apply at aasa.org

Leaders Who Don't Fear Failure Become Change Agents
March 22, Leadership 360
"We need leaders who understand child development and who love children. It is this that sets our work apart from all other leadership." edweek.org

'You Have to Redefine Normal': Leading Schools in the Aftermath of a Shooting
March 21, Education Week
"I think the bottom line is that you don't do this work in isolation, and what you must do is reach out for guidance and assistance," said Joseph Erardi, the former superintendent of Newtown (Conn.) Public Schools. edweek.org

Picture a Leader. Is She a Woman?
March 16, The New York Times
Why getting noticed as a leader in the workplace is more difficult for women than men. nytimes.com

AASA Community

[WEBINAR TOMORROW] Improving School Discipline Outcomes and Reducing Exclusion and Disproportionality through Code of Conduct Revision

Be a Part of the Urban Superintendents Academy (Now Accepting Applicants!)

2019 National Conference on Education Call for Proposals Now Open

Registration Open: 2018 Legislative Advocacy Conference July 10-12

Get Involved: Tuesday, April 3 is National Healthy Schools Day

[WEBINAR: 4/12 at 2 p.m. ET] Supporting the Whole Child: A Superintendents' Roundtable

Last Chance: Redefining Ready! National Scholarship Contest Closes March 31

May 1-3, 2018 - Orange Frog Public Workshop

School Administrator Magazine March 2018: The Stigma of Job Hopping

Support Our Nation's Public Schools: Adopt the "I Love Public Education" Resolution in Your District

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) can happen at any time. Find out how ZOLL AEDs with real-time CPR feedback can help save lives. Learn more and receive a free first aid kit. zoll.com

SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE NEWS



"Tired of Fighting that Fight": School Districts' Uphill Battle to Get Good Deals on Ed Tech
March 26, The Hechinger Report
Would price transparency keep districts from spending more than they have to?

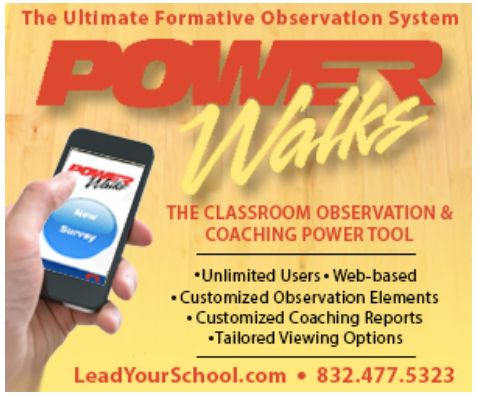
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hechingerreport.org

Superintendent: It's a Tough Job
March 23, School News Network
Rockford, Mich., superintendent Michael Shibler spent 29 years as superintendent in one district, nearly five times the six-year average. schoolnewsnetwork.org

I'm a Superintendent. My School District Decided to Arm Teachers
March 23, Chicago Tribune
"I'll be the first to say that not every school employee is cut out to carry a weapon or to act in a life-and-death emergency," said David Thweatt, superintendent, Harrold Independent School District, Texas. "But many are." chicagotribune.com

District Announces Childcare Program for Faculty and Staff
March 21, K-12 Daily
Beginning this summer, teachers at Hardin County (Ky.) School District can enroll their own children in a district-run childcare program that officials say they hope will boost educator attendance and retainment. k-12daily.org





Periodically, AASA will inform its members and constituents of beneficial services directly or will allow selected other entities to provide pertinent messages that have been carefully screened by AASA. If you do not wish to receive information from outside organizations that have been approved by AASA, please click do not release my e-mail address.

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From: "The Leaders Edge" <communications@aasa.org>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 16:05:25 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Public Schools Week Taking Place Now Through March 16
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

THE LEADER'S EDGE

Tools for Effective School System Leadership

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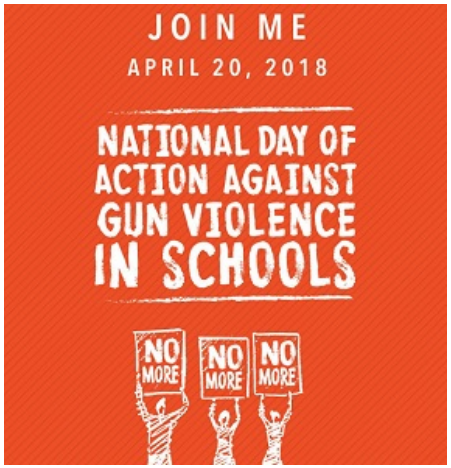
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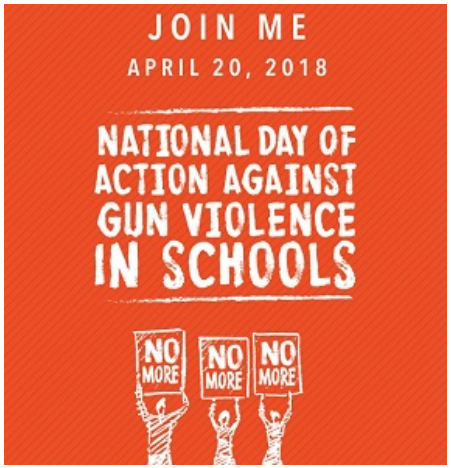
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From: "Victoria Gonzales" <Victoria.Gonzales@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Feb 2018 10:08:23 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)
To: "Bonnie Fick" <Bonnie.Fick@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Thank you for all you do!

From: Bonnie Fick
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Victoria Gonzales <Victoria.Gonzales@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)

We discussed the importance of not talking, writing, or discussing anything gun/violence related….no matter what.
Thx for the reminder Victoria

From: Victoria Gonzales
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Bonnie Fick
Subject: RE: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)

He is in the library but they are sending to you now. Thanks

From: Bonnie Fick
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:26 AM
To: Victoria Gonzales <Victoria.Gonzales@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)

Would you send Josh to my office to have that conversation? We talked grades last week, I forgot (sorry).
CJ will be switched this morningJ

From: Victoria Gonzales
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 7:48 AM
To: Bonnie Fick
Subject: RE: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)

Yes, ma'am. We are wanting a full transfer.

Thanks,
Victoria

P.S.

Have you talked to Josh about his writing? Do you want a copy of it?

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From: Bonnie Fick
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 3:29 PM
To: Victoria Gonzales <Victoria.Gonzales@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: Do you want CJ 'officially' transferred to Brown's roster? Can do:)

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From: "Connie Voisine" <cvoisine@nmsu.edu>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Feb 2018 11:40:19 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Re: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change
To: <faculty-talk@nmsu.edu>

Attachments:image001.jpg (1.77k)

This is from Senator Chris Murphy (CT)'s recent letter about organizations working for better gun control:

"There is no more important time than right now -- when people are actually talking about this issue -- to help make stronger the organizations who are leading the fight for change. Your support matters. It makes a difference. So I am asking:
Can I count on you to split a $5 donation between the Newtown Action Alliance, Gabby Giffords' gun violence prevention organization, Everytown, and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence today?

The gun lobby is huge and they are powerful. They have a decades-long head start on all of us."

Connie

On Fri, Feb 16, 2018 at 10:58 AM, C Voisine <connie.voisine@gmail.com> wrote:

> This is from Senator Chris Murphy (CT)'s recent letter about organizations working for better gun control:
>
> "There is no more important time than right now -- when people are actually talking about this issue -- to help make stronger the organizations who are leading the fight for change. Your support matters. It makes a difference. So I am asking:
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>
> The gun lobby is huge and they are powerful. They have a decades-long head start on all of us."
>
> Connie
>
> On Fri, Feb 16, 2018 at 10:36 AM, Jennifer Smith <jdfrazer@nmsu.edu> wrote:
>
> > Christine...Thank you for something positive & action promoting.
> >
> > Andres...Thank you for the information on how to unsubscribe. I will be doing that shortly.
> >
> > My husband is employed in law enforcement. I know a plethora of individuals who make the tough sacrifices daily to serve honorably as police officers, military personnel, border patrol agents, etc. They are the reason that we have the freedom to even be able to send emails such as these and express our views no matter if we are offended by the views or agree with views expressed within these emails.

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Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID
On Feb 16, 2018 10:18 AM, Christine Spurny <cspurny@nmsu.edu> wrote:
Hello, Spencer –

Here is some information in response to the questions you asked regarding local/state efforts.

- **Las Cruces High school students** in partnership with New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence wrote a memorial that asks for "research on how to prevent school shootings and teenage suicide by firearms." On February 14th, the New Mexico Senate passed Memorial 8 (25-11) to address these serious issues. Senator Steinborn was the sponsor.

- There will be an all-day meeting on **March 2, 2018** held by the **New Mexico Injury Prevention Coalition** (NMIPC): *Protecting New Mexico's Families and Communities – A Public Health Approach to Gun Violence Prevention.* The event flyer is attached for your consideration.

Best,

Chris

Christine Spurny, MPH

Research Associate, Crimson Research

Instructor, Department of Public Health Sciences

College of Health and Social Services

New Mexico State University

cspurny@nmsu.edu ~ Ph: (575) 646-6405

health.nmsu.edu/crimson-research

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From: Faculty-talk [mailto:faculty-talk-bounces@lists.nmsu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Daniel Vega-Albela
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 9:23 AM
To: Philip Braker <pbraker@nmsu.edu>; Inigo Garcia-Bryce <igarciab@ad.nmsu.edu>
Cc: faculty-talk <faculty-talk@lists.nmsu.edu>; Leonard Lauriault <lmlaur@ad.nmsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change

Philip,

To blame first person shooter video games, social media and enhanced violent graphics in movies for what is happening today is also an easy way out.

Also, "absolute moral values?" What does that even mean?

I dare say absolute moral values are probably more likely to engender fanaticism than embracing the fact that absolute moral values may very well be an oxymoron.

The problem with this so called discussion is that we have fallen prey to two factors that unfortunately have dumbed down the discussion to its lowest-common denominator: 1) We have embraced the notion that America is tantamount to the Second Amendment, and we talk about the Second Amendment as we do about most things, from a completely ahistorical perspective. The Second Amendment is not America. Nothing could be farther from the truth. 2) We have fallen prey to an embarrassingly insular attitude regarding guns and gun control and seem to be wholly incapable of even contemplating the idea of simply looking at what other nations have done to address the very real and serious issue of random gun violence - because we are America, the Exceptional State. We are the exception to every rule. And by God, we are apparently willing to take the high road to hell because... America.

How about looking at the blatant disregard for human life displayed on a daily basis by the different agencies that are supposed to be in charge of keeping us safe - Police, Army, etc.?

You don't think that has anything to do with this "shoot them all and let God sort them out attitude?"

You don't think that the fact that CBP officers can shoot innocent bystanders across the southern border of the US for shits and giggles and not have to worry about any consequences might have to do anything with this mentality?

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You don't think that the fact that adults for the most part are wholly incapable of communicating normally with one another, let alone their children, has anything to do with a generalized feeling of alienation on the part of many kids growing up today?

And lastly, Iñigo was simply using a simile. And I agree. As Assimov stated in his trilogy, Foundation, violence is the last recourse of the incompetent. Guns are barbaric and should have no place in civilized society.

We get the gold medal for incompetence.

Respectfully,

D.

_____



Daniel Vega-Albela

Associate Professor of Music,

New Mexico State University

Violinist,

La Catrina String Quartet

http://www.lacatrinaquartet.com

Office Phone: 575-646-5432

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From: Faculty-talk <faculty-talk-bounces@lists.nmsu.edu> on behalf of Philip Braker <pbraker@nmsu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 9:16 PM
To: Inigo Garcia-Bryce
Cc: faculty-talk; Leonard Lauriault
Subject: Re: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change

I'm not saying there isn't a problem but semi=automatic weapons have been around for over 100 years. The high school where used to live was built in the 1970s and has a shooting range in the basement of the gymnasium. Target practice used to be a part of the structured Phy-Ed class. To blame the availability of guns for the current phenomenon is the easy way out. How about we look at other social changes that have happened in the last 10 to 15 years that may have a greater impact like the rise of graphic first person shooter games being marketed to kids, the heightened graphics in movies, the amplified ability of kids to bully in a very public forum. the absence of moral absolutes in our society. …

I. much like Spencer, have one gun in my house that was given to by my father and hasn't been used in many years. I've never even thought about joining the NRA. That said I am not convinced that guns that have been around for over 100 years are now the problem all of a sudden. By keeping the focus on the ownership of guns we are probably missing the real root cause. And comparing gun ownership to genital mutilation is very offensive to many people myself included.

That is why using the Faculty Talk list serve is probably not the place to have this conversation.

Respectfully

Philip Braker

From: Inigo Garcia-Bryce [mailto:igarciab@ad.nmsu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:54 PM
To: Philip Braker <pbraker@nmsu.edu>
Cc: Leonard Lauriault <lmlaur@ad.nmsu.edu>; faculty-talk <faculty-talk@lists.nmsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change

Children are being murdered. Something is deeply wrong with our culture.

Iñigo

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 15, 2018, at 22:36, Philip Braker <pbraker@nmsu.edu> wrote:

> Ok please take me off this list or stop making politically polarizing statements. Comparing gun ownership to genital mutilation is way beyond acceptable.
>
> Respectfully
>
> Philip Braker

From: Faculty-talk [mailto:faculty-talk-bounces@lists.nmsu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Inigo Garcia-Bryce
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:07 PM
To: Leonard Lauriault <lmlaur@ad.nmsu.edu>
Cc: faculty-talk <faculty-talk@lists.nmsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change

> Thank you Spencer, for starting this conversation.
>
> I have the fortune of having been raised bilingual and bicultural. One of the greatest lessons and skills acquired from such a background is the ingrained knowledge that any set of cultural values is quite relative when one is able to look at it from an outside vantage point. I grew up in a country with many problems but whose people did not consider gun ownership to be a inalienable right. Nothing short of changing this ingrained belief will solve the current crisis. Hopefully it will one day be considered an ancient and barbaric custom, akin the way we think of genital mutilation. I am very skeptical that this will happen within our lives. If there is any optimism in my contribution it is the fact that we can question our most deeply held values when they have become dangerous.
>
> Iñigo García-Bryce
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Feb 15, 2018, at 19:16, Leonard Lauriault <lmlaur@ad.nmsu.edu> wrote:
>
> > I agree that something needs to be done.
> >
> > First of all, the gun control laws that are already in place must be followed and enforced.

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Our local schools keep the doors locked against entry and have done so for some time. You have to be buzzed in by someone who can see you. You can bet that a student who has been suspended would not be allowed in because they are not to be on school grounds at all.

Another option, suggested by my brother-in-law would be to hire veterans or retired police officers for school security.

Finally, I agree with the DA in Florida who encouraged parents to know what their children are doing with their electronics and their mood. Hindsight in this and many similar situations reveals a bullied teen who had other emotional issues. Now, admittedly, my first question when I heard that an 18 or 19 year old in Florida had an AR-15 was, “How in the world did he get that gun and what were his parents doing?” You’re statement about talking to your children is the first place to start.

I know this doesn’t guarantee against everything, but it might minimize the tragedy.

<image001.jpg>

Mr. Leonard Lauriault, Certified Forage and Grassland Professional

College Professor - Superintendent and Forage Crop Management Scientist

http://aces.nmsu.edu/directory/person.php?person_id=304

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences: http://aces.nmsu.edu/

Plant and Environmental Sciences Department: http://aces.nmsu.edu/pes

Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari: http://tucumcarisc.nmsu.edu/

6502 Quay Rd AM.5

Tucumcari, NM 88401

Phone: 575-461-1620 x 103

FAX: 575-461-1631

<image002.jpg>

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Perseverance is the pathway to perfection (Philippians 3:12-16).

From: Faculty-talk [mailto:faculty-talk-bounces@lists.nmsu.edu] **On Behalf Of** Spencer Herrera
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 3:48 PM
To: faculty-talk <faculty-talk@lists.nmsu.edu>
Subject: Faculty-talk Thoughts and prayers and change

Dear All:

This morning as I drove my daughters to their respective schools, in addition to the normal morning small talk about lunch plans and who's picking up whom after school, I had the displeasure of talking with them about what to do in case of a school shooting. We covered the run, hide, and fight plan, which they had already discussed several times in school.

Unfortunately, this three-step plan is not enough. We need to have a robust and productive dialogue in this country, nationally and locally, about guns, gun safety, and gun laws. I cannot just drop off my children for the day with a three-pronged strategy, a kiss good-bye, and a prayer. Our children deserve better. And the victims of gun violence and their loved ones deserve more than our "thoughts and prayers."

I know some people on this list will reply with the "guns don't kill people, people kill people" line to thwart any argument against sound gun policy and laws. But kids don't have the mechanism to protect themselves. And even people who own guns have been murdered by others who attacked their victims unexpectedly and without warning. In fact, I had an uncle who was a NRA member with a sticker on his car window who was killed at his home. He didn't see his assailants until it was too late. And yes there are criminals out there who are not obeying the law so I understand the need and desire for law-abiding citizens to have the right to bear arms. Even I own a gun (it was a gift from my father), but I still believe that we can take proper measures to ensure less gun violence.

I realize that some laws might not be effective or have limited results. But can't we at least try some new measures? Why can't we employ more detailed background checks? Or how about a waiting period before we can buy certain types of guns and/or ammunition? How about required classes for all gun owners to avoid accidental deaths? And how about more help and resources for people with mental health problems in our country? This is truly epidemic on so many levels. Yet we require so little from gun owners/purchasers in some states. However, I need a license to fish. And I need to pay extra if I want to fish with two fishing rods. I even have to buy a special stamp if I want to fish for trout. Teenagers from just about every state take driver's education. If we can do these things, why can't we require more from gun owners and our politicians who make the laws? The answer is probably linked to the weak politicians and gun lobbying groups who refuse to engage in dialogue because they want nothing to change unless it loosens the gun laws even further.

This is not an open-ended diatribe against guns and gun-owners, I really want to hear a response on the following:
1. What are some reasonable ideas that we can start implementing to make our society, specifically schools, safer from gun violence?
2. Does anyone here study gun culture? Would it be helpful to host a town hall meeting related to this topic and how to at least make schools safer?
3. As we approach mid-term elections, who are the candidates running for office at any level who are willing to make common sense change regarding our gun laws in this country? I want to know so I can learn more about their stances and then vote accordingly.

Here are some interesting articles on guns and gun violence. Some of which may go against what I am arguing. However, I do feel that we have enough smart and common sense people in this country that we can come up with productive solutions to this problem.
Gun deaths in U.S.: https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/mass-shootings-are-a-bad-way-to-understand-gun-violence/
Other gun violence articles: https://fivethirtyeight.com/tag/gun-deaths/

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AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

I do send those affected by the latest massacre my sincerest condolences. My heart goes to out to them. My hope is that we can learn from such events and implement changes to make this country a better and safer place to raise our children.

Respectfully,
Spencer R. Herrera

****

If you wish to turn off your email delivery for the faculty-talk listserver, please DO NOT send a message to the list with your request. Instead, go to
https://mailman.nmsu.edu/mailman/options/faculty-talk

Fill in your NMSU email account. If you don't yet have your listserver password, hit the remind button at the bottom of the page to have it sent to you. Then, using that password, login to the listserver configuration, scroll down, and Disable Mail Delivery. DO NOT just choose the Unsubscribe from List option, or you will likely be re-enrolled as the list membership is periodically regenerated to allow for new faculty members to be added to the list.

You can also change your configuation to have the postings delivered in a digest format, e.g. bundled and delivered once per day.

****

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ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "leah vigil" <leahvigil14@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 19:34:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Re: Grant request
To: "ziggym123@yahoo.com" <ziggym123@yahoo.com>

Sounds like a good idea.
I vote yes.??

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, ziggym123@yahoo.com <ziggym123@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I vote yes!
>
> Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Phone.
>
> ------ Original message------
> **From:** Valdez, Dianna M
> **Date:** Tue, Apr 3, 2018 10:05 AM
> **To:** Jeannette Vigil;Bedeaux, Martha D;Annette Hardin;jstokes@tba-abq.com;Catherine Kemp;Katy Hammel;Fraga, Marisol A;Bonnie Lee;
> **Subject:**Grant request
>
> CRC has received a request for grant funds to support a very interesting and worthwhile project. Although it does not directly support literacy development, it does address Community Service. Please give it due consideration for all or partial funding.
>
> They are asking for $750 for expenses… (flight, etc.)
>
> We don't have mini=grants budgeted and must reserve $1000 in 1.2.8 Community and International Projects for the committed Regional Expo out West, although we have not received a letter of request, yet. That leaves $3000 .
>
> Please let me know your thoughts and vote asap.
>
> Dianna

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Our idea is called "Healing by Helping." The inspiration came from two sources. Jaime and I are both seeing more of our students with trauma and in distress. (I bet you are too.) And I have been working with teams of gifted students on a Destination Imagination community service challenge.

In the DI community service challenge, teams of kids have total freedom to define how big their "community" is, decide what the community needs, and develop a project to address a community need. I have watched teams of kids over the years get really empowered by going through this process.

Our brainstorm was to do something similar with kids who have experienced trauma. We call it "Healing by Helping."

This idea -- that helping others provides ourselves with relief and comfort -- fit perfectly with the approach our school counselor has developed in his own life. Dr. Dan was a gun violence victim as an adolescent , became paralyzed, and now uses a wheelchair to get around. He developed his own code or method for recovery from trauma and it involves helping others as one of the steps.

So Jaime and I presented this idea -- along with all the obstacles to implementation -- to the NBCT Teach to Lead team and it was chosen for the Nashville summit (April 27-29). It is at this summit that we will tackle the tough logistical questions -- who will staff these teams? when can the students meet? could it possibly be during the school day? how can we make this transferable to other schools?

My lawyer bud immediately bought me the ticket to Nashville. We are seeking sponsorships for two other members of our team. Teach to Lead has told us we need to have 3-5 people there to make the process profitable.

Thanks!!

<w:LsdException Locked="false" Priority="9" QFormat="true" Name="h

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Annette Hardin" <Annette.Hardin@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 10:39:43 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: Grant request
To: "Valdez, Dianna M" <valdez@aps.edu>

Yes

From: Valdez, Dianna M [mailto:valdez@aps.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Jeannette Vigil; Bedeaux, Martha D; Annette Hardin; jstokes@tba-abq.com; Catherine Kemp; Katy Hammel; Fraga, Marisol A; Bonnie Lee
Subject: Grant request

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They are asking for $750 for expenses… (flight, etc.)

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Please let me know your thoughts and vote asap.

Dianna

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ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

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Thanks!!

Katy

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "ziggym123@yahoo.com" <ziggym123@yahoo.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 10:15:12 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Re: Grant request
To: "valdez@aps.edu" <valdez@aps.edu>, "leahvigil14@gmail.com" <leahvigil14@gmail.com>, "bedeaux@aps.edu" <bedeaux@aps.edu>, "Annette.Hardin@CarlsbadSchools.net" <Annette.Hardin@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "jstokes@tba-abq.com" <jstokes@tba-abq.com>, "kathrynhammel@comcast.net" <kathrynhammel@comcast.net>, "fraga@aps.edu" <fraga@aps.edu>, "leebo@centralschools.org" <leebo@centralschools.org>

I vote yes!

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Phone.

------ Original message------
From: Valdez, Dianna M
Date: Tue, Apr 3, 2018 10:05 AM
To: Jeannette Vigil;Bedeaux, Martha D;Annette Hardin;jstokes@tba-abq.com;Catherine Kemp;Katy Hammel;Fraga, Marisol A;Bonnie Lee;
Subject: Grant request

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Dianna

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ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
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Thanks!!

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Fraga, Marisol A" <fraga@aps.edu>
Sent Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2018 05:00:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Re: Grant request
To: "leah vigil" <leahvigil14@gmail.com>

My vote is yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 3, 2018, at 7:34 PM, leah vigil <leahvigil14@gmail.com> wrote:

> Sounds like a good idea.
> I vote yes.??
>
> On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, ziggym123@yahoo.com <ziggym123@yahoo.com> wrote:
> > I vote yes!
> >
> > Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Phone.
> >
> > ------ Original message------
> > **From:** Valdez, Dianna M
> > **Date:** Tue, Apr 3, 2018 10:05 AM
> > **To:** Jeannette Vigil;Bedeaux, Martha D;Annette Hardin;jstokes@tba-abq.com;Catherine Kemp;Katy Hammel;Fraga, Marisol A;Bonnie Lee;
> > **Subject:**Grant request
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Thanks!!

<w:LsdException Locked="false" Priority="9" QFormat="true" Name="h

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 10:08:36 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "LaVern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Justin Gossett" <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Ellen Krumm" <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Thank you LaVern. We had already received this announcement from another source, but it is always good to make sure.

Be Courageous!

Teresa Allery, PhD
NMPED Level III School Psychologist
NASP Nationally Certified School Psychologist

From: LaVern Shan
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2018 10:07 AM
To: Justin Gossett <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Ellen Krumm <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Teresa Allery <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: Fwd: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Cavern City Child Advocacy Center <CavernCityCAC@outlook.com>
> **Date:** February 27, 2018 at 11:08:44 PM MST
> **To:** LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>
> **Subject: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"**
>
> ## Hi LaVern,
>
> ## I thought this might be something the schools might be interested in.
>
> ## Zelma

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 M**T on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Thu, 1 Mar 2018 08:18:50 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Justin Gossett" <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Ellen Krumm" <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I will be meeting with students at that time and unable to attend.

Be Courageous!

Teresa Allery, PhD
NMPED Level III School Psychologist
NASP Nationally Certified School Psychologist

From: Justin Gossett
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2018 6:53 AM
To: Ellen Krumm <Ellen.Krumm@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Teresa Allery <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

FYI,

From: Kelli Barta
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Justin Gossett <Justin.Gossett@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH <Susan.Acosta@state.nm.us>; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH <Twila.Becenti-Funda@state.nm.us>; Farmer, Jim, DOH <James.Farmer@state.nm.us>; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH <AmandaJ.Lopez@state.nm.us>; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH <Tessa.Medina-Lucero@state.nm.us>; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH <Kristin.Oreskovich@state.nm.us>; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH <Winona.Stoltzfus@state.nm.us>; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH <Rebecca.Trujillo@state.nm.us>; Woodard, Katherine, DOH <Katherine.Woodard@state.nm.us>
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Everyone,
Here's another webinar. Although I don't think they will be offering CEs for this. Pass along to those who might be interested.
Thanks,
Val

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: Avron Kriechman [mailto:AKriechman@salud.unm.edu]

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 MT** on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

A flyer is attached.

Warmly,

Avi

Avi Kriechman, M.D.
Division of Community and Behavioral Health
UNM HSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
MSC 09-5030
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
4001 Indian School NE Ste 325
AKriechman@salud.unm.edu
CBH Phone: 505-272-6238
CBH Fax: 505-272-1876â€‹

ACQUIRED BY FIREARMS POLICY COALITION
AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Bonnie Fick" <Bonnie.Fick@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 10:23:49 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Lisa Clouthier" <Lisa.Clouthier@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I would like that. Want to see if there's a room for us that day? With the correct equipment?

From: Lisa Clouthier
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:09 AM
To: Bonnie Fick
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

Good morning,

I was wondering what your thoughts on all of us getting together and doing CEU's at Edison?

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
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Importance: High

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From: Avron Kriechman [mailto:AKriechman@salud.unm.edu]

Dr. Jeffrey Swanson will be presenting **Tuesday March 6th 1:30 to 3:30 M**T on "***Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective".***

This presentation is being hosted by CIT ECHO - so you will either have to go to CBH to watch it or can access it via zoom but will have to contact Jennifer Earheart at @jearheart@cabq.gov to get the access code.

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AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

A flyer is attached.

Warmly,

Avi

Avi Kriechman, M.D.
Division of Community and Behavioral Health
UNM HSC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
MSC 09-5030
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
4001 Indian School NE Ste 325
AKriechman@salud.unm.edu
CBH Phone: 505-272-6238
CBH Fax: 505-272-1876â€‹

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From: "LaVern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 09:06:19 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Re: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Cavern City Child Advocacy Center" <CavernCityCAC@outlook.com>

Thank you! I will forward this on.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 27, 2018, at 11:08 PM, Cavern City Child Advocacy Center <CavernCityCAC@outlook.com> wrote:

Hi LaVern,

I thought this might be something the schools might be interested in.

Zelma

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<Swanson March 2018 Flyer (1).pdf>

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From: "Teresa Allery" <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 09:13:16 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
To: "Lisa Clouthier" <Lisa.Clouthier@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I will let you pursue this with the group. I will not be available that afternoon. It does sound interesting.

Be Courageous!

Teresa Allery, PhD
NMPED Level III School Psychologist
NASP Nationally Certified School Psychologist

From: Lisa Clouthier
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:07 AM
To: Teresa Allery <Teresa.Allery@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

I think this one would be more interesting. What do you think? I will ask the group and see what they think.

From: Lopez, Valerie A, DOH [mailto:ValerieA.Lopez@state.nm.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 3:17 PM
To: Acosta, Susan, DOH; Becenti-Fundark, Twila, DOH; Farmer, Jim, DOH; Lopez, Amanda J, DOH; Medina-Lucero, Tessa, DOH; Oreskovich, Kristin, DOH; Stoltzfus, Winona, DOH; Trujillo, Rebecca, DOH; Woodard, Katherine, DOH
Subject: FW: ONLINE PRESENTATION: "Preventing gun violence and suicide at the intersection with mental illness: A public health law perspective"
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Everyone,
Here's another webinar. Although I don't think they will be offering CEs for this. Pass along to those who might be interested.
Thanks,
Val

From: Avron Kriechman [mailto:AKriechman@salud.unm.edu]

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From: "REMS TA Center" <info@remstacenter.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 08:26:00 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Responding to Student Demonstrations and Protests in Schools and School Districts
To: <sheryl.dugger@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

Responding to Student Protests and Demonstrations in Schools and School Districts

Classrooms are often the first settings in which students learn what it means to be civically engaged; and when students choose to use demonstrations and protests as a tool for civic engagement, school buildings, grounds, and communities are often selected as the setting. The response of students across the country to the February 14, 2018, active shooter situation at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, has drawn attention to one type of student demonstration and protest in particular—school walkouts—and the need for education agencies to prepare and respond.

On March 14 and April 20, 2018 (and on various other dates during the spring semester), students across the country plan to leave their classrooms and school buildings to protest gun violence in honor of the students and staff members who lost their lives last month, and to commemorate the anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting.

Our research has shown that the response from education agencies to these planned walkouts has been varied. Some school districts are using these events as opportunities to teach and host discussions with students and the whole school community about violence and other key topics in school safety and emergency prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Others may be exploring how to handle lost instructional time and disciplinary issues that may result from the demonstrations. Many education agencies are likely working with community partners to balance the need to ensure continuity of learning and operations, as well as whole school community safety and security, while still encouraging the interest among youth in civic engagement and school safety.

Demonstrations and protests like school walkouts impact the entire school community, including students, teachers, staff, and families. From safety and mental and behavioral health to continuity of learning and operations, schools (public and nonpublic) and school districts may have to address and support students and staff in a variety of areas when responding to planned demonstrations and protests. For school administrators and emergency planning teams, this can seem daunting. However, pre-planning—especially with community partners—using the six-step planning process outlined in the *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans (School Guide)* can help ensure the whole community stays safe.

Download our NEW fact sheet to get recommendations on incorporating plans to respond to student demonstrations in school emergency operations plans.

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From: "REMS TA Center" <info@remstacenter.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 08:20:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Responding to Student Demonstrations and Protests in Schools and School Districts
To: <marianne.burnett@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

Responding to Student Protests and Demonstrations in Schools and School Districts

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AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Grant Symonds" <g.symonds@lowcountrymontessori.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:46:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: School safety
To: <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, <reedy@aps.edu>, <lrcushman@animask12.net>, <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, <adcarpki@aztec.k12.nm.us>, <perezm@beleneagles.org>, <kcowan@bps.k12.nm.us>, <kmizell@bsin.k12.nm.us>, <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, <bowmc@centralschools.org>, <acasados@chamaschools.org>, <aestrada@cimarronschools.org>, <stacy.diller@claytonschools.org>, <tdempsey@cmsbears.org>, <jody.balch@clovis-schools.org>, <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>, <travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org>, <tarchuleta@cuba.k12.nm.us>, <dan.lere@demingps.org>, <ksumpterdms@bacavalley.com>, <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, <sbarron@doraschools.com>, <tsavage@dulceschools.net>, <tdelk@elidaschools.net>, <bobbie.gutierrez@k12espanola.org>, <joel.shirley@estancia.k12.nm.us>, <dhaynes@eunice.org>, <eschmidt@fms.k12.nm.us>, <dterry@floydbroncos.com>, <mmoyer@ftsumnerk12.com>, <cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, <mhyatt@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, <egrau@gradyschool.com>, <marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us>, <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, <lhale@hatchschools.net>, <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, <marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org>, <blightfoot@houseschools.org>, <brian.snider@jalnm.org>, <swdavis@jvps.org>, <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, <gewing@lcps.net>, <keltcooper@cybercardinals.com>, <christopher_gutierrez@wlvs.k12.nm.us>, <droch@loganschool.net>, <rpiper@lmsed.org>, <k.steinhaus@laschools.net>, <dsanders@llschools.net>, <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, <kforrester@maxwellp12.com>, <jwidner@melroseschools.org>, <ernesto.valdez@mesavista.org>, <earellano@mora.k12.nm.us>, <tom.sullivan@mesd.us>, <superintendent@mosquero.net>, <dapodaca@mpschools.net>, <ftrujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us>, <mmacaauley@penasco.k12.nm.us>, <mlm@pvs.k12.nm.us>, <jcain@portalesschools.com>, <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, <dalbert@questa.k12.nm.us>, <andy.ortiz@ratonschools.com>, <billgreen@reserveschools.com>, <scleveland@rrps.net>, <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, <supt@royschools.org>, <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, <ctaylor@sanjonschools.com>, <vcgarcia@sfps.k12.nm.us>, <rperea@srlions.com>, <abrown@silverschools.org>, <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, <eking@springerschools.org>, <ccummins@torcschools.net>, <blittle@tatumschools.org>, <rbrown@texicoschools.com>, <lillian.torrez@taosschools.org>, <a.mckinney@tucumcarischools.com>, <brenda.vigil@tularosak12.us>, <jprops@vaughn.k12.nm.us>, <anita.romero@wm.k12.nm.us>, <daniel.benavidez@zpsd.org>

On Wednesday students across the country planned to protest gun violence. The National School Walkout is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and last for 17 minutes.. one for each life lost in the Parkland school shooting.

Many students to whom I've spoken were at the least apprehensive to walking out of school and at best afraid of receiving a suspension. There are certain rights and restrictions associated with this protest however as an alternative it is offered for your consideration as superintendents to launch an EMAIL campaign to the Senators, Representatives, Governor, State Senators and Representatives.

I have attached suggested text for such an email below. Hope your students join this campaign.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Thanks

Grant Symonds
Bluffton SC
gwsymonds@gmail.com

My name is _____ (name) and I am a high school student at _____ (school name). As an upcoming voter I am most concerned about school safety and the lack of progress on protecting all students while we seek to learn. I encourage you as a leader in our state to immediately begin to discuss, consider and enact policies that will provide us a safe learning environment.

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Thank you for your consideration on this public health matter.

Sincerely

_____(name)

Future Voter!

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AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

From: "Kim Arrington" <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Sun, 25 Feb 2018 13:26:22 -0700 (MST)
Subject: School Shootings: History Keeps Repeating Itself (Part I) | Howie Knoff, Ph.D. | LinkedIn
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

School Shootings: History Keeps Repeating Itself (Part I) | Howie Knoff, Ph.D. | LinkedIn
Interesting article. I follow him on twitter because he trained JSS when I was a principal on how to create and implement behavior matrices.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/school-shootings-history-keeps-repeating-itself-part-i-knoff-ph-d-/?published=t

School Shootings: History Keeps Repeating Itself (Part I)

February 25, 2018 • 0 Likes • 0 Comments

Howie Knoff, Ph.D.February 25, 2018

What We Already Know, and What Schools, Staff, and Students Need to Do

Introduction

January 3: St. John's, MI (East Olive Elementary School)

January 4: Seattle, WA (New Start High School

January 10: Sierra Vista, AZ (Coronado Elementary School)

January 10: San Bernardino, CA (California State University)

January 10: Denison, TX (Grayson College Criminal Justice Center)

January 15: Marshall, TX (Wiley College Campus)

January 20: Winston-Salem, NC (Wake Forest University)

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January 22: Italy, TX (Italy High School)

January 22: Gentilly, LA (The NET Charter High School)

January 23: Benton, KY (Marshall County High School)

January 25: Mobile, AL (Murphy High School)

January 26: Dearborn, MI (Dearborn High School)

January 31: Philadelphia, PA (Lincoln High School)

February 1: Los Angeles, CA (Salvador B. Castro Middle School)

February 5: Oxon Hill, MD (Oxon Hill High School)

February 5: Maplewood, MN (Harmony Learning Center)

February 8: New York, NY (Metropolitan High School)

February 14: Broward County, FL (Stoneman Douglas High School)

February 20: Massillon, OH (Jackson Memorial Middle School)

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There have been 19 shootings so far this year—on or around school premises— including the one at Stoneman Douglas High School that claimed 17 souls last week.

And many of us have been discussing school shootings since the 1998 transformational event in Jonesboro, AR when two 11- and 13-year old students killed four classmates and one adult, and injured 10 other children in their schoolyard after the boys were excused from class and pulled a fire alarm to draw their victims outdoors.

Twenty years of school shootings... where students, staff, and others have lost their lives... others have suffered life-long injuries... and still others have been traumatized because of the tragic events.

And remember, in the possession of the 11- and 13-year old Jonesboro killers were thirteen fully-loaded firearms, including three semi-automatic rifles, and 200 rounds

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of ammunition. All of the weapons were taken from one of the boy's homes. And their stolen van had a stockpile of supplies as well as a crossbow and several hunting knives.

Twenty years of school shootings. . . and how have we progressed?

Nineteen shootings in just the first 33 actual school days of this calendar year.

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Why This School Shooting Analysis is Different

Just like you, I have followed the TV, print, and social media news reports and public responses to the most-recent tragedy. I understand the politics . . . I know the policies and practices . . . and I recognize the diverse emotions . . . from anger to disbelief, from grief to blame.

But I also bring two important perspectives to this discussion. One is an historical perspective. The other is a school psychological perspective.

From an historical perspective, I want to review and analyze (below) what we already know about preventing and responding to school shootings—"translating" this into 21st Century/2018 terms.

I am comfortable doing this because, after the Jonesboro shootings, I was asked by President Clinton to be on the writing team that published—through the U.S. Department of Education—the Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools that eventually was distributed to every school in the country.

My ultimate point is that we have not learned from history, and history (i.e., the school shootings) continues to repeat itself.

But some, especially in the media, are saying that "this time is different"—especially given the articulate, and anguished, voices of the Stoneman Douglas High School students, parents, staff, and community leaders.

Clearly, these students and this community in Florida has kindled a grass-roots national response and dialogue that has been broadcast (literally and figuratively) more extensively than ever before.

But whether the response is sustained, and the dialogue reaps substantive change remains to be seen.

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From a school psychological perspective, I also know that the national response and dialogue has been over-simplified, politicized, and polarized—and this may be undermining our comprehensive understanding of the problem, and our ability to fully address it.

Missing has been a recognition that the dynamics and factors related to school shootings are complex, and that the ways to prevent them—and to minimize the loss of life if they occur—are multi-faceted and comprehensive.

Missing also has been a focus on school safety in the context of school discipline, classroom management, and student self-management, and the objective analysis of the root causes of this complex problem.

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And so, below is an historical analysis and discussion of the potential root causes of a school shooting, and what districts and schools need to (continue to) do now to prevent future school shootings—or, at least, to minimize their impact.

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How and Why School Shootings Occur: It's Not Just about Mental Health

Historically, the vast majority of school shootings have involved a single perpetrator. And while some of these individuals had or could have had mental health (e.g., DSM-5) diagnoses, that does not de facto establish a causal relationship or link between their diagnoses and problems, and their violent and deadly actions.

We have known since the June 2004 joint report from the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States, that there is no single profile or finite set of characteristics that define or predict a school shooter.

Critically, this Report was based on analyses of 37 incidents of targeted school shootings and school attacks that occurred in the United States from 1974 to May 2000 (including the June 1999 Columbine High School attack).

While all of the shooters studied in the Report were male, and most (76%) were White and between the ages of 13 to 18 years old (85%), most of the other variables analyzed were not predictive.

These included: Student grades and academic status, whether they were from two-parent families, whether they were social isolates or not involved in extracurricular or other school-related social activities, whether they had school discipline problems or had been involved with law enforcement, whether they had threatened their eventual victims.

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But what did emerge was that many of the attackers:

* Felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack.

* Had not received a mental health evaluation, been diagnosed with a mental disorder, or were involved in substance abuse.

* Had some history of suicidal attempts or thoughts, or a history of feeling extreme depression or desperation.

* Demonstrated some interest in violence, through movies, video games, books, and other media.

* Were known to have had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures.

* Planned their attacks and had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack.

* Engaged in some behavior, prior to the incident, that caused others' concern or indicated a need for help—indeed, some knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack.

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Extending this Analysis to Today

Since 1990 (through yesterday), there have been 186 incidents of gun violence in a K to Grade 12 school that resulted in 177 fatalities and 340 injuries. Ten states have never experienced a school shooting.

Those that have include the following:

* Midwest States: 43 incidents of gun violence, which resulted in 26 fatalities and 65 injuries

Deadliest incident: Red Lake High School massacre on March 21, 2005, where 16-year-old Jeffrey Weise killed five fellow students, one teacher and a security guard before killing himself.

_ _ _ _ _

* Northeast States: 12 incidents of gun violence, which resulted in 38 fatalities and 21 injuries

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Deadliest incident: Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre on December 14, 2012, where 20-year-old Adam Lanza killed 20 children and 6 adults before taking his own life.

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* Southern States: 75 incidents of gun violence, which resulted in 47 fatalities and 126 injuries

Deadliest incident: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on February 14, 2018, where a former student killed 17 people and wounded at least a dozen others before being arrested by police.

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* Western States: 56 incidents of gun violence, which resulted in 66 fatalities and 128 injuries

Deadliest incident: Columbine High School massacre on April 20, 1999, where 18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold killed twelve students and one teacher, before turning the guns on themselves.

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In this context, the number, depth, and breadth of school shootings—especially since Columbine— has not changed since The 2004 Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States.

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But what **has** changed is that:

* Bullying has “gone social” and now involves cyber-bullying

* Substance abuse has more synthetic variations—along with the current opioid crisis

* Ways to build weapons of mass destruction and to attack a school are easily accessed on the internet

* The types of weapons available to youth are more sophisticated, available, and deadly

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And yet:

* There are more ways for students (and others) to report their concerns about other students' potential for violence (even though these notably failed at Stoneman Douglas High School)

* More schools are more physically secure, more procedurally prepared (for emergencies and school attacks), and have more security protections—in and outside of the school

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Understanding the Root Causes of School Shootings

Relative to the root causes (or motives) for the attacks, the 2004 Report identified the following:

"Revenge was a motive for more than half of the attackers (61%, n=25). Other motives included trying to solve a problem (34%, n=14); suicide or desperation (27%, n=11); and efforts to get attention or recognition (24%, n=10). More than half of the attackers had multiple motives or reasons for their school-based attacks (54%, n=22). In addition, most of the attackers held some sort of grievance at the time of the attack, either against their target(s) or against someone else (81%, n=33). Many attackers told other people about these grievances prior to their attacks (66%, n=27)."

Critically, this list of root causes or motives reinforces the fact that mental health issues were but one root cause of the school shootings analyzed.

Indeed, many of the other root causes suggest that the shooters were consciously motivated by a triggering event, an explicit goal, and/or a clear and specific outcome.

_ _ _ _ _

But two implicit causes are apparent from a psychological perspective.

First: Even if mental health issues were present, analyses were needed to determine how the mental health issues were impacting the shooters' emotions, thoughts, understanding, and/or behavior. These analyses then needed to be linked to specific and individualized services, supports, interventions, and treatments.

Second: Beyond the additional motives of loss, grief, and hopelessness, many of the shooters did not have the interpersonal, social problem-solving, conflict prevention and resolution, and emotional control and coping skills needed to respond to some of the triggering events or school, peer, or life conditions that they were experiencing.

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One of the highlighted recommendations in the 2004 Report was the importance of having professionals available to conduct threat assessments in schools.

But as noted above, comprehensive and multi-facet solutions are needed.

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What Schools, Staff, and Students Need to Do

While I know that this is not occurring, districts and schools should not wait for legal solutions to certain aspects of this problem. While I applaud and support the current push for national legislation, the problem (obviously) is now, and schools must address as many solutions as possible in-house.

At the same time, Part II of this discussion will provide analyses of the relevant state laws that currently exist. These analyses will demonstrate that some states have already begun to address the problem (even though improvements are needed), and that the push for national solutions might not be as unreachable as we might think.

From now, the many needed school-specific solutions can be organized as follows:

* Creating inclusive, positive, prosocial, supportive, and collaborative school and classroom environments and staff-student relationships that are devoid of teasing, taunting, bullying, harassment, hazing, and physical threats and aggression

* Teaching all students, from preschool to high school, interpersonal, conflict prevention and resolution, social problem-solving, and emotional control and coping skills and behaviors

* Identifying, engaging, and addressing students who need multi-tiered services and supports when they exhibit frequent or significant social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges or concerns

* Training school staff and parents and students (a) to recognize the early warning signals for these challenges or concerns; (b) having different, confidential school and community referral systems publicized and in place; and (c) having available and well-trained school, district, and community professionals available to conduct threat analyses and then to provide the multi-tiered services, supports, interventions, and therapies needed and noted immediately above

* Ensuring that our schools are physically secure, and (coordinated at the District level and supported by community-based First Responders) comprehensively prepared for crisis situations

* Establishing and implementing prevention, early response, strategic intervention, and intensive/crisis management social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health policies, practices, and procedures at the school and district levels—that include (once again) threat assessments and mandatory reporting (see Part II of this discussion)

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* Establishing, financially supporting, and implementing state and federal laws and statutes that complement the prevention, early response, strategic intervention, and intensive/crisis management processes immediately above

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Summary

While I have written on all of the areas in the section immediately above (see the Subject Index to this Blog site), we still need to address the availability of guns to children and adolescents and mental health reporting system. This will occur in Part II (upcoming) of this Blog series.

For now, districts and schools need to complete an audit of the areas above, and independently take the steps needed to protect themselves.

As noted, there are multi-faceted and multi-layed solutions that are in place in some schools, but that must be present and successfully implemented in all schools . . . even as we wait for the federal and state legal decisions and changes that will hopefully strengthen and complement these here-and-now actions.

Once again, the ultimate goal is: To prevent the next school shooting from occurring.

At the same time, we know that we can't prevent every school shooting. And so, we must take every step possible to minimize the effects of the next school shooting.

_ _ _ _ _

I grieve, with you, for those who lost their lives and were injured last week at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. My prayers are personal, however, as I lived and worked in Florida for 18 years, and because a number of my former graduate students are now school psychologists tending to the psychological needs of the students, staff, and community in Broward County.

I hope that this discussion has added a different—and, hopefully, practical and action-focused—perspective to this tragedy. In order to learn from history, however, we need to act to change history.

While it is frustrating that we have not changed the contemporary history of school shootings, we must transcend the frustration and act now to change the next hour, day, week, month, and school year for every student across this country.

This is our responsibility. This must be our commitment.

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Let me know how I can assist you in this charge. I am always available by e-mail or conference call.

What do you think?

Sent from my iPhone

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From: "SP&M Weekly Update" <SchoolPlanning&Mgmt@1105direct.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 08:01:57 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Sen. Lamar Alexander Introduces School Safety Bill to Senate Floor
To: <don.owen@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

This email can be viewed as a web page.

SCHOOL Planning & Management Weekly Update

A 5-Minute Insight into pK-12 Education 3/15/2018

SP&M Spotlight

Spotlight on Designing for Next-Generation Learning

Getting students ready for college and ready for careers is becoming ever more important in all levels of K12 education. The ideas of collaboration, and hands-on learning, also known as “next-generation learning is also impacting how schools are designed. Steven Herr, AIA, is director of Design for Fanning Howey, an architecture and engineering firm specializing in learning environments, and is quite familiar with some of the ideas and challenges presented by next-generation learning. School Planning & Management asked Stephen a few questions on the subject.

From the Industry

Sandy Hook Promise Responds to Gun Violence Proposals

Science Teachers to Speak with NASA Astronaut on Space Station

EDspaces 2018 Call for Presentations Now Open

In the News

Sen. Lamar Alexander Introduces School Safety Bill to Senate Floor

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Amanda Ketchledge – WATE.com – March 7, 2018

Washington, D.C. – Sen. Lamar Alexander spoke directly to President Trump on Tuesday night to present his bill, the School Safety and Mental Health Services Improvement Act. The bill was officially introduced to the Senate floor on Wednesday afternoon int he aftermath of the deadly Florida school shooting.

Charity Reaches Goal of Wiping Out School Lunch Debt

Catherine Garcia – The Week – March 6, 2018

St. Paul, Minn. – A charity started to honor the memory a Minnesota man killed in an officer-involved shooting in 2016, hit a major milestone last week. The goal was to raise $5,000 to pay off the school lunch debts at JJ Hill Montessori, but the charity raised enough to erases the lunch debt at all 56 public schools in St. Paul.

Also of Interest

Impact on Learning

Live Webinar: April 12

Join us for this informative webinar, where we will discuss how the educational environment affects how students learn, their health and safety, student engagement and morale.

» Register for Webinar

Large District Websites Have 'Extensive Accessibility Issues'

Joshua Bolkan – THE Journal – February 23, 2018

The Bureau of Internet Accessibility (BoIA) recently shared the results of automated tests it ran to check the accessibility of a handful of school websites and found that those tested had "extensive" issues related to accessibility.

Good Time to Review Plans

Michael S. Dorn

One important area of emergency preparedness for any school involves appropriate preparedness for hazardous materials incidents. These events can impact schools in any region of the country, at any time and, in many instances, without warning.

School Emergency Evacuation: How educated are you?

A guide to emergency evacuation procedures in educational premises.

- Why we need a plan
- Legal considerations
- Planning considerations
- Emergency evacuation plans
- Points to plan for
- Perfect solutions
- Evacuation checklist

» View White Paper

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Events Calendar

NFMT 2018
March 20-22
Baltimore, MD

ASCD Empower18
March 24-26
Boston, MA

Digital Signage Expo (DSE)
March 27-30
Las Vegas, NV

National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference
April 7-9
San Antonio, TX

National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP) Annual Meeting
April 8-11
Orlando, FL

ISC West
April 10-13
Las Vegas, NV

School Bus Exchange
April 16-18
Scottsdale, AZ

Learn more about these and other upcoming events.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sun, 18 Feb 2018 08:01:42 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign if you agree: Ban assault weapons now
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough

The petition to Republicans in Congress reads:
"Put your constituents before the National Rifle Association. Take immediate action to ban weapons of war, including assault weapons and large capacity magazines, which have no place in the hands of private citizens."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Within hours of Wednesday's deadly mass shooting at a Parkland, Florida high school – which took the lives of at least 17 people – Republican politicians without the courage to support real solutions to our gun violence crisis released statements and social media posts offering their "thoughts and prayers" to the victims and their families. [1]

It was the exact same cowardly, ineffectual response they offered after gunmen wielding AR-15 assault rifles killed people at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, a concert in Las Vegas, Pulse nightclub in Orlando and Sandy Hook Elementary School.[2]

It is time for Republicans in Congress to join Democrats in standing up to the National Rifle Association and pass an assault weapons ban that will save American lives.

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click here to sign the petition.

Tragic mass shootings like the one yesterday in South Florida have become all too common. The last 5 months alone now account for three of the 10 deadliest mass shootings in modern U.S. history.[3] In the past 5 years, there have been nearly 300 school shootings in the United States[4] – including 17 so far in 2018 alone.[5]

According to Newsweek, "Florida has some of the weakest gun laws in the country." Gun owners are not required to have a license, they are not required to register their guns and it is perfectly legal to own semi-automatic assault rifles like the one used in Wednesday's tragic shooting. [6] The heartbreaking truth is that the combination of weak state and federal gun laws made Wednesday's horrific attack possible.

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click here to sign the petition.

There's one reason why politicians consistently fail to take real action on gun violence: The National Rifle Association. The NRA has a chokehold on Congress that keeps most bills about gun control from even coming to the floor for a vote. Politicians beholden to – or afraid of – the NRA are willing to turn their backs on their constituents when it comes time to implement reasonable limits and controls on guns. But you can count on them for a "heartbroken" tweet about their "thoughts and prayers" when a tragic shooting makes the national news.

Finally breaking the NRA's chokehold on Congress will require massive grassroots pressure on our elected officials, demanding that they deliver more than thoughts and prayers in the face of our epidemic

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of gun violence.

We must forcefully demand that Congress takes immediate action to ban weapons of war, including assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Please add your name to our emergency petition now.

Tell Republicans in Congress: Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need gun control now. Click the link below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/parkland?t=8&akid=27314%2E12772310%2E9zO1Sz

Thanks for everything you do,

Heidi Hess, Senior Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

1. Ed Mazza, "People Sick Of 'Thoughts And Prayers' Demand Action After Florida School Shooting," HuffPost, Feb. 15, 2018.
2. Igor Volsky, "Tweet," Twitter, Feb. 14, 2018.
3. The New York Times, "Florida Shooting: Nikolas Cruz Is Charged With 17 Counts of Murder," Feb. 15. 2018.
4. BBC News, "Florida shooting: 'Policy and change' not 'thoughts and prayers,'" Feb. 15. 2018.
5. Meghan Keneally, "There have already been 18 school shootings in the US this year: Everytown," ABC News, Feb. 14, 2018.
6. Chantal Da Silva, "Florida Massacre Survivor Tells Trump: 'I Don't Want Your Condolences,' Demands Gun Control," Newsweek, Feb. 15, 2018.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 17 Feb 2018 07:53:35 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign the petition: Block the NRA's dream bill
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Senate Democrats: Stop the NRA. Block concealed carry reciprocity

Tell Senate Democrats:
"Block concealed carry reciprocity legislation that would undermine state laws that protect residents from gun violence."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Parkland, Sutherland Springs, Las Vegas, Orlando. Whether it's mass shootings or the appalling number of daily gun deaths, **the National Rifle Association's "guns everywhere" agenda is fueling an epidemic of gun violence in our country.**

After each mass tragedy, Republicans offer their thoughts and prayers for the victims but show their blind allegiance to the NRA by refusing to act to keep their constituents safe. But now that Trump's in the White House, they are going even further to help the NRA ramp up its extremist agenda on a national scale – **with a reckless, dangerous bill to undermine gun safety laws across the country.**

The right-wing Republican extremists in the House of Representatives recently passed the National Rifle Association's (NRA) dream bill. [1] **The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would undermine state efforts to protect residents from gun violence and force every state to abide by the weakest gun laws in the country.**

Now more than ever we need to do everything we can to stop the NRA. Republicans are so beholden to the NRA that they will do their bidding, but Democratic senators have the power to block the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. **Can you add your name today to make sure they act as a firewall between our communities and the NRA's extremism?**

Tell Senate Democrats: Block the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. Click here to sign the petition.

Every state allows some kind of concealed carry, but 39 states require a gun owner to obtain a permit before publicly carrying concealed weapons in public.[2] Some of those states require training before residents can get those permits. Some states block people who have committed violent crimes, domestic abusers, stalkers or people with mental illness that make them a danger to themselves or others from buying a gun or getting a concealed carry permit. Nearly every state restricts residents from carrying concealed weapons in places like schools, hospitals, government buildings or bars.[3]

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act uses the differences between states' gun control laws to water down protections across the country. It forces states to recognize concealed carry permits issued by any other state, no matter how lax the state's permitting standards are. [4] It will encourage people, including domestic abusers, who cannot get a concealed carry license in one state to "permit shop:" applying in another state with weaker laws and bringing their gun back to the state where they live.[5] **A resident of a state whose legislature has stood up for public safety and passed gun control legislation would be no safer than a resident of a state whose legislature is in the pocket of the NRA.**

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Years of statistics prove that comprehensive state gun laws lead to fewer gun deaths, but the NRA wants to undermine public safety by advancing a reckless, dangerous policy like concealed carry reciprocity.[6] **Senate Democrats must use their power to reject the NRA's extremism and block this deadly bill.**

Tell Senate Democrats: Block the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. Click the link below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/Senate_Concealed_Carry?t=7&akid=27312%2E12772310%2Ek6nEWz

Thanks for standing up to the NRA today,

Heidi Hess, Senior Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. Dana Liebelson, "One Month After Texas Church Shooting, House Republicans Vote To Expand Gun Rights," HuffPost, Dec. 6, 2017.
2. Michele Gorman, " Guns in America: What is national concealed carry reciprocity?" Newsweek, April 10, 2017.
3. Ibid.
4. Everytown for Gun Safety, " Federally Mandated Concealed Carry Reciprocity," accessed Dec. 6, 2017.
5. Polly Mosendz, "Get Ready for Concealed Guns in All 50 States," Bloomberg Politics, Nov. 30, 2017.
6. Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, "2016 Gun Law State Scorecard," accessed Dec. 6, 2017.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 08:39:01 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Sign the petition: Congress and the NRA
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Tell Congress: Stop taking the NRA's money

The petition to Congress reads:
"The NRA is a dangerous extremist group. Its 'guns everywhere' agenda threatens public safety and makes it almost impossible to pass gun control legislation at the federal or state levels. No elected official should take its money."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



The NRA is to blame for our epidemic of gun violence, but so are the politicians who do its bidding.

In the last 20 years, the NRA has donated more than $4.1 million to current members of Congress.[1] It spent at least $55 million in the 2016 election cycle to advance not only its "guns everywhere" agenda, but right-wing Republican extremism more broadly. [2] **This financial power has kept most federal- or state-level bills about gun control from even getting a vote.**

But since the Parkland shooting, the NRA has been under relentless scrutiny. Corporate partners have been abandoning the NRA in droves.[3] And people all over the country have been publicizing and criticizing the amount of money their representatives have taken from the NRA. **We need to keep that pressure on and demand that Congress break free from the NRA.**

Tell Congress: Stop taking money from the gun lobby. Click here to sign the petition.

After every mass shooting, the NRA's lackeys in Congress offer their thoughts and prayers for the victims and survivors, but then refuse to bring real gun control legislation to a vote. It's happening again in the wake of the Parkland shooting. House Majority Leader Paul Ryan has indicated he has no plans to push for gun control in the House.[4] Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell just put aside gun control legislation to make room to pass giveaways to big banks.[5]

These politicians often try to excuse their cowardice by saying there's no evidence that gun control works. But a recent major study by RAND provides clear evidence that they are wrong and "reveals what a depraved dereliction of responsibility doing nothing yet again will really amount to." [6]

Congress will continue to be derelict in its responsibilities if our representatives continue to be in the pocket of the NRA. Our friends at NoNRAMoney.org are working hard to get elected officials and candidates to pledge not to take the NRA's money. But the NRA's lackeys will not give up that money without a fight. At a CNN town hall after Parkland, survivor Cameron Kasky asked Florida Sen. Marco Rubio if he would stop taking NRA money. Rubio, to jeers from the audience, refused to do so.[7] **We need to amplify Kasky's pressure across the country and demand that every elected official refuse to take the NRA's blood money. Can you add your name today? Click the link below to sign the petition:**

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/no_NRA_funding?t=7&akid=27658%2E12772310%2EPw0IE6

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Thanks for helping us stand up to the NRA,

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. Aaron Williams, "Have your representatives in Congress received donations from the NRA?" The Washington Post, Feb. 15, 2018.
2. Lesley Clarke, "Congress' NRA loyalists say new gun laws won't ease shooting sprees ," Miami Herald, Feb. 15, 2018.
3. Kia Lerner & Josh Israel, "The NRA is being supported by these companies," ThinkProgress, Feb. 20, 2018.
4. Rachel Blade, "Ryan throws cold water on gun control push," POLITICO, FEB. 27, 2018.
5. Alexander Bolton and Sylvan Lane, "McConnell shelves gun bills for banking reform," The Hill, March 1, 2018.
6. Greg Sargent, "This major new report on gun deaths should shock us all," The Washington Post, Mar. 2, 2018.
7. Eli Watkins, "Rubio stands by accepting NRA contributions: 'People buy into my agenda,'" CNN, Feb. 22, 2018.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2018 07:29:44 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign the petition: Crack down on the gun industry
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell investors in gun manufacturers to demand change

Petition to the nine largest investors in the top three gun manufacturers:
"Stop profiting from the gun violence epidemic and instead use your power as major shareholders in Smith & Wesson; Sturm, Ruger & Company; and Vista Outdoors to pressure these companies to take concrete steps against gun violence."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Big Wall Street investors in the major gun manufacturers have been profiting off of gun violence in America for far too long.

The gun industry is at the root of America's obsession with guns. They boost their bottom lines by fostering a climate of fear and use the National Rifle Association as a radical front for lobbying against any common-sense gun regulation. But they don't do it alone. Nine major Wall Street institutions, including heavy hitters like the massive wealth management fund BlackRock, are massive shareholders in the most prominent weapons manufacturers.[1,2] They empower and fund the gun industry's dangerous agenda.

Now, Sen. Elizabeth Warren is demanding that these investors use their power to force gun manufacturers to make us safer, not more at risk.[3] She needs our help to increase the public pressure and spur real action to rein in gun violence.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturers' top investors to demand change. Click here to sign the petition.

Sen. Warren recently sent letters to nine major institutional investors who, together, make up the top five shareholders of the three biggest publicly traded gun makers: Smith & Wesson, a subsidiary of American Outdoor Brands Corporation (AOBC); Sturm, Ruger & Company; and Vista Outdoors. BlackRock is the largest shareholder in both AOBC and Sturm, Ruger & Company.[4]

These investors can use their financial power and their power as shareholders to force gun makers to make change. Gun makers can demand that retail sellers of their products enforce age limits or mandatory waiting periods. They can commit to developing and using technology like fingerprint ID that makes it harder for children to accidentally discharge weapons in their homes. They can cut ties with "bad apple" gun dealers: the 5 percent of licensed dealers who sell 90 percent of the guns used in crimes.[5] They can fund research into gun violence prevention. And they can stop using millions of company dollars to fund the NRA's extremism. But they won't do any of that unless they are forced to do so.

BlackRock, Vanguard, Fidelity and the other major gun investors have the financial clout to demand change, but it will take sustained public pressure to make them act.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturers' top investors to demand change. Click here to sign the petition.

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Pressuring investors and gun makers is no substitute for bold legislative action. But given Congress' failures, **we have to push anywhere and everywhere we can. And now is the time.**

Since the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, there has been massive pressure and organizing. Corporate partners have been abandoning the NRA in droves. People all over the country have been publicizing and criticizing the amount of money their representatives have taken from the gun lobby. Even BlackRock announced it would "speak with weapons manufacturers and distributors 'to understand their response'" to the Parkland shooting.[6] Last month, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink told companies he invests in that they must contribute to the social good. Sen. Warren's powerful letter to him notes that "having conversations is simply not enough" and now is the time to "put your money where your mouth is." [7]

Sen. Warren is leading the charge to publicly shame Wall Street investors who make money off of gun sales without lifting a finger to stop the culture of death in America. But she needs our help to make it clear that furious Americans are paying attention.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturer investors to demand change. Click below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/warren_gun_investors?t=8&akid=27526%2E12772310%2EY161Op

Thank you for speaking out,

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. Lee Fang, " Does the NRA Represent Gun Manufacturers or Gun Owners?" The Nation, Dec. 15, 2012.
2. Tory Newmyer, " The Finance 202: Elizabeth Warren urges Wall Street to leverage relationship with gun industry," The Washington Post, Feb. 27, 2018.
3. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, " Warren Calls on Institutional Investors to Encourage More Responsible Action by Gun Manufacturers," Feb. 27, 2018.
4. Ibid.
5. The Brady Campaign, " The Truth About Gun Dealers in America," accessed March 1, 2018.
6. Sen. Warren, " Warren Calls on Institutional Investors to Encourage More Responsible Action by Gun Manufacturers."
7. Newmyer, " The Finance 202: Elizabeth Warren urges Wall Street to leverage relationship with gun industry."

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Feb 2018 07:24:09 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign the petition: Investigate the NRA's Russia ties
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Senate must investigate: Did the NRA launder money for Russia to help Trump win?

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee:
"Conduct a full investigation into the allegations that the NRA helped funnel Russian money into the 2016 U.S. elections."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Eighteen school shootings, 30 mass shootings, 1,827 deaths from gun violence. **This is the National Rifle Association's body count for just the first 6 weeks of 2018.**

This week's mass shooting in Parkland, Florida was committed by someone with alleged ties to a violent white supremacist group. [1] He was just the latest mass shooter able to legally purchase a semi-automatic weapon thanks to the NRA's relentless lobbying for its guns everywhere agenda.

Recently, news broke that the FBI is investigating whether the NRA helped launder Russian money to support Donald Trump's election. [2] If this is true, it means that **not only is the NRA helping arm white supremacist domestic terrorists, but it may have broken the law to help a hostile foreign government illegally tilt the U.S. elections toward a pro-gun, racist, xenophobic fascist.**

Now more than ever, it is time to stop the NRA.

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee have already been investigating whether the NRA helped connect Russian officials to Trump's campaign. [3] Now, the entire committee must engage. But the NRA's stranglehold on Congress means it will take massive pressure for Senate Republicans to do the right thing.

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee: Investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections. Click here to sign the petition.

According to media reports, the NRA has cultivated deep relationships with influential Russians for years. Russian gun-rights groups have hosted NRA officials, including Trump surrogate Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clark, in Russia, and high-profile Russians have been given high-level access at NRA meetings.[3] In 2016, Alexander Torshin, a Putin ally who is a top official at the Central Bank of Russia and is now at the center of the FBI's investigation, sat with Donald Trump Jr. at an NRA convention-related dinner. [4] Leading up to that convention, Paul Erickson, a conservative activist and NRA member who was part of an NRA-Russia trip, tried to use the NRA convention as "first contact" to broker a connection between Russia and the Trump campaign. [5]

Since Putin came back to power in 2012, Russia has increasingly pursued a goal of destabilizing the U.S. **Part of their strategy has been aligning with extreme groups within the American right wing to deepen existing cultural and political divisions.**[6] With the NRA, Russia has a perfect partner. The NRA is extremely divisive and has leverage over corrupt and craven members of Congress. The NRA divides us not only by blocking any efforts to keep communities safe from gun violence, but also by supercharging its long history of racism with reactionary, xenophobic and violent rhetoric that some have said could help further radicalize white

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domestic terrorists.[7]

The NRA's extremism combined with Russia's desires to destabilize our democracy is a dangerous combination that the Senate Judiciary Committee must take seriously with a thorough investigation.

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee: Investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections. Click here to sign the petition.

The NRA spent at least $55 million during the 2016 elections, including at least $30 million directly focused on electing Trump.[8] When the Supreme Court opened the door for unlimited corporate dark money spending on elections with its Citizens United decision, the court's right-wing majority alleged that the spending would be accompanied by disclosure. [9] Nothing could be further from the truth.

The NRA has become a hub for dark money donations that are made to organizations that are not required to disclose their donors. A Karl Rove–aligned SuperPAC and a Koch brothers non-profit are among the groups that have given money to the NRA to advance Republicans' extreme right-wing agenda. [10] The influence of dark money is bad enough, but there have already been signs that the dark money loopholes will be used to illegally funnel foreign money into our elections.[11] It is illegal for a campaign to solicit or receive anything of value from a foreign national. **If the NRA helped Russia funnel money into the 2016 elections, it laundered money to help the Trump campaign – and potentially others in the Republican Party – break the law for electoral gain.**

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a responsibility to make sure it deepens its investigation to find out what really happened – and to ensure it does not happen again. We need to show the Republicans on the committee that defending our democracy is more important than their allegiance to the NRA and make sure that the Democrats on the committee know we will have their backs if they use their power to dig in. Can you add your name today?

Click the link below to tell the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/NRA_Russia?t=8&akid=27308%2E12772310%2Eozgk_-

Thanks for everything you do,

Heidi Hess, Senior Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

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References:

1. Kelly Weill, Justin Miller and Taylor Lorenz, "Nikolas Cruz Trained With White Supremacists, Wore Pro-Trump Hat in School," The Daily Beast, Feb. 15. 2018.
2. Peter Stone and Greg Gordon, "FBI investigating whether Russian money went to NRA to help Trump," McClatchy DC Bureau, Jan. 18, 2018.
3. Christine Maza, "NRA's role in connecting Trump campaign with Russians is under investigation," Newsweek, Nov. 29, 2017.
4. Josh Israel, "Why has the NRA been cozying up to Russia?" ThinkProgress, Nov. 23, 2017.
5. Ibid
6. Nicholas Fandos, "Operative Offered Trump Campaign 'Kremlin Connection' Using N.R.A. Ties ," The New York Times, Dec. 3, 2017.
7. Casey Michel, "The Kremlin's California Dream ," Slate, May 4, 2017.
8. Graham Lanktree, "New NRA video fuels American extremists, says former CIA analyst," Newsweek, June 30, 2017.
9. Stone and Gordon, "FBI investigating whether Russian money went to NRA to help Trump."
10. Liz Kennedy and Alex Tausanovitch, "Secret and Foreign Spending in U.S. Elections: Why America Needs the DISCLOSE Act," Center for American Progress, July 17, 2017.
11. Tim Dickinson, "The Trump-Russia-NRA Connection: Here's What You Need to Know ," Rolling Stone, Jan. 18, 2018.
12. Kennedy and Tausanovitch, "Secret and Foreign Spending in U.S. Elections: Why America Needs the DISCLOSE Act."

photos: Getty Images: Trump: Mandel Ngan, Putin: Mikhail Svetlov

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2018 07:53:28 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign the petition: No support for the NRA
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

It's time to break ties with the NRA

The petition to the National Rifle Association's corporate partners reads:
"The NRA is a dangerous extremist group. Its 'guns everywhere' agenda threatens public safety and makes it almost impossible to pass gun control legislation at the federal or state level. It's time to stop supporting them."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



If we want to stop the epidemic of gun violence in this country, we have to stop the NRA. And a key part of stopping the NRA is stopping the corporate partners that enable and legitimize its toxic extremism.

In just the last few days, **there has been massive pressure on companies to sever their NRA ties.** As a result, some companies – like National, Alamo, Enterprise and Symantec – have ended their partnerships. But others, like FedEx, are still all in.[1] It's time for FedEx, and all of the NRA's other corporate partners, to choose a side.

Tell the NRA's corporate partners: Stop enabling the NRA's extremism. Click here to sign the petition.

The NRA has a chokehold on politicians that keeps most federal or state-level bills about gun control from even getting a vote. **It spent at least $55 million in the 2016 election cycle to advance not only its "guns everywhere" agenda, but right-wing Republican extremism more broadly** , including at least $30 million that was directly focused on electing racist, misogynistic, xenophobic Trump.[2]

In addition to this massive political spending, the NRA is able to claim power through its 5 million-person membership. **The dues paid by those members help fuel the NRA's deadly agenda** – its efforts to arm and train teachers, its support of police militarization and its propaganda – magazines which aim to normalize its agenda and radicalize readers and the rabidly racist and xenophobic NRATV.[3,4,5]

One of the things that helps drive NRA membership are the benefits that come from being a member, including discounts from major brands. The endorsement of the major brands helps legitimize the NRA; the perks of membership help encourage people to spend from $40 to $1500 to become NRA members. These companies have been able to get away with supporting the NRA for years, but now the tide is turning, and **we have an opportunity to demand an end to these partnerships that help feed the NRA's extremism.**

Can you add your name today to demand that the remaining corporate partners cut their ties to the NRA? Click the link below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/NRA_Sponsors?t=7&akid=27388%2E12772310%2EJRIzJQ

Thanks for helping us stand up to the NRA,

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AND FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

[FPC] FIREARMS POLICY COALITION [FPF] FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. ThinkProgress is keeping close track of NRA corporate partners here: "The NRA is being supported by these companies." As we've seen in the past few days, companies are moving quickly to distance themselves, so this list may have changed by the time you read this.
2. Lesley Clarke, "Congress' NRA loyalists say new gun laws won't ease shooting sprees ," Miami Herald, Feb. 15, 2018.
3. Firmin DeBrabander, "The NRA's dystopian view of freedom," Chicago Tribune, Feb. 23, 2018.
4. Radley Balko, "How the NRA's allegiance to cops undermines its credibility on gun rights ," The Washington Post, July 11, 2017.
5. Cydney Hargis, "A guide to NRATV: NRA's news outlet is a hybrid of Breitbart and Infowars," Media Matters for America, Aug. 28, 2017.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sun, 11 Mar 2018 07:33:36 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Sign the petition: Stop taking NRA money
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Tell Congress: Stop taking the NRA's money

The petition to Congress reads:
"The NRA is a dangerous extremist group. Its 'guns everywhere' agenda threatens public safety and makes it almost impossible to pass gun control legislation at the federal or state levels. No elected official should take its money."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



The NRA is to blame for our epidemic of gun violence, but so are the politicians who do its bidding.

In the last 20 years, the NRA has donated more than $4.1 million to current members of Congress.[1] It spent at least $55 million in the 2016 election cycle to advance not only its "guns everywhere" agenda, but right-wing Republican extremism more broadly. [2] **This financial power has kept most federal- or state-level bills about gun control from even getting a vote.**

But since the Parkland shooting, the NRA has been under relentless scrutiny. Corporate partners have been abandoning the NRA in droves.[3] And people all over the country have been publicizing and criticizing the amount of money their representatives have taken from the NRA. **We need to keep that pressure on and demand that Congress break free from the NRA.**

Tell Congress: Stop taking money from the gun lobby. Click here to sign the petition.

After every mass shooting, the NRA's lackeys in Congress offer their thoughts and prayers for the victims and survivors, but then refuse to bring real gun control legislation to a vote. It's happening again in the wake of the Parkland shooting. House Majority Leader Paul Ryan has indicated he has no plans to push for gun control in the House.[4] Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell just put aside gun control legislation to make room to pass giveaways to big banks.[5]

These politicians often try to excuse their cowardice by saying there's no evidence that gun control works. But a recent major study by RAND provides clear evidence that they are wrong and "reveals what a depraved dereliction of responsibility doing nothing yet again will really amount to." [6]

Congress will continue to be derelict in its responsibilities if our representatives continue to be in the pocket of the NRA. Our friends at NoNRAMoney.org are working hard to get elected officials and candidates to pledge not to take the NRA's money. But the NRA's lackeys will not give up that money without a fight. At a CNN town hall after Parkland, survivor Cameron Kasky asked Florida Sen. Marco Rubio if he would stop taking NRA money. Rubio, to jeers from the audience, refused to do so.[7] **We need to amplify Kasky's pressure across the country and demand that every elected official refuse to take the NRA's blood money. Can you add your name today? Click the link below to sign the petition:**

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/no_NRA_funding?t=7&akid=27599%2E12772310%2EkyNBS2

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Thanks for helping us stand up to the NRA,

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

References:

1. Aaron Williams, "Have your representatives in Congress received donations from the NRA?" The Washington Post, Feb. 15, 2018.
2. Lesley Clarke, "Congress' NRA loyalists say new gun laws won't ease shooting sprees ," Miami Herald, Feb. 15, 2018.
3. Kia Lerner & Josh Israel, "The NRA is being supported by these companies," ThinkProgress, Feb. 20, 2018.
4. Rachel Blade, "Ryan throws cold water on gun control push," POLITICO, FEB. 27, 2018.
5. Alexander Bolton and Sylvan Lane, "McConnell shelves gun bills for banking reform," The Hill, March 1, 2018.
6. Greg Sargent, "This major new report on gun deaths should shock us all," The Washington Post, Mar. 2, 2018.
7. Eli Watkins, "Rubio stands by accepting NRA contributions: 'People buy into my agenda,'" CNN, Feb. 22, 2018.

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sun, 1 Apr 2018 07:11:09 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Sign the petition: Stop the gun industry
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell investors in gun manufacturers to demand change

Petition to the nine largest investors in the top three gun manufacturers:
"Stop profiting from the gun violence epidemic and instead use your power as major shareholders in Smith & Wesson; Sturm, Ruger & Company; and Vista Outdoors to pressure these companies to take concrete steps against gun violence."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



Big Wall Street investors in the major gun manufacturers have been profiting off of gun violence in America for far too long.

The gun industry is at the root of America's obsession with guns. They boost their bottom lines by fostering a climate of fear and use the National Rifle Association as a radical front for lobbying against any common-sense gun regulation. But they don't do it alone. Nine major Wall Street institutions, including heavy hitters like the massive wealth management fund BlackRock, are massive shareholders in the most prominent weapons manufacturers.[1,2] They empower and fund the gun industry's dangerous agenda.

Now, Sen. Elizabeth Warren is demanding that these investors use their power to force gun manufacturers to make us safer, not more at risk.[3] She needs our help to increase the public pressure and spur real action to rein in gun violence.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturers' top investors to demand change. Click here to sign the petition.

Sen. Warren recently sent letters to nine major institutional investors who, together, make up the top five shareholders of the three biggest publicly traded gun makers: Smith & Wesson, a subsidiary of American Outdoor Brands Corporation (AOBC); Sturm, Ruger & Company; and Vista Outdoors. BlackRock is the largest shareholder in both AOBC and Sturm, Ruger & Company.[4]

These investors can use their financial power and their power as shareholders to force gun makers to make change. Gun makers can demand that retail sellers of their products enforce age limits or mandatory waiting periods. They can commit to developing and using technology like fingerprint ID that makes it harder for children to accidentally discharge weapons in their homes. They can cut ties with "bad apple" gun dealers: the 5 percent of licensed dealers who sell 90 percent of the guns used in crimes.[5] They can fund research into gun violence prevention. And they can stop using millions of company dollars to fund the NRA's extremism. But they won't do any of that unless they are forced to do so.

BlackRock, Vanguard, Fidelity and the other major gun investors have the financial clout to demand change, but it will take sustained public pressure to make them act.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturers' top investors to demand change. Click here to sign the petition.

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Pressuring investors and gun makers is no substitute for bold legislative action. But given Congress' failures, **we have to push anywhere and everywhere we can. And now is the time.**

Since the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, there has been massive pressure and organizing. Corporate partners have been abandoning the NRA in droves. People all over the country have been publicizing and criticizing the amount of money their representatives have taken from the gun lobby. Even BlackRock announced it would "speak with weapons manufacturers and distributors 'to understand their response'" to the Parkland shooting.[6] Last month, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink told companies he invests in that they must contribute to the social good. Sen. Warren's powerful letter to him notes that "having conversations is simply not enough" and now is the time to "put your money where your mouth is." [7]

Sen. Warren is leading the charge to publicly shame Wall Street investors who make money off of gun sales without lifting a finger to stop the culture of death in America. But she needs our help to make it clear that furious Americans are paying attention.

Stand with Sen. Warren: Tell gun manufacturer investors to demand change. Click below to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/warren_gun_investors?t=8&akid=27922%2E12772310%2EGRQH3v

Thank you for speaking out,

Heidi Hess, Co-Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

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References:

1. Lee Fang, " Does the NRA Represent Gun Manufacturers or Gun Owners?" The Nation, Dec. 15, 2012.
2. Tory Newmyer, " The Finance 202: Elizabeth Warren urges Wall Street to leverage relationship with gun industry," The Washington Post, Feb. 27, 2018.
3. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, " Warren Calls on Institutional Investors to Encourage More Responsible Action by Gun Manufacturers," Feb. 27, 2018.
4. Ibid.
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6. Sen. Warren, " Warren Calls on Institutional Investors to Encourage More Responsible Action by Gun Manufacturers."
7. Newmyer, " The Finance 202: Elizabeth Warren urges Wall Street to leverage relationship with gun industry."

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 27 Jan 2018 08:04:05 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Sign the petition: The NRA and Russia
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Senate must investigate: Did the NRA launder money for Russia to help Trump win?

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee:
"Conduct a full investigation into the allegations that the NRA helped funnel Russian money into the 2016 U.S. elections."

Add your name:

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Dear Landreth,



News recently broke that the FBI is investigating whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) helped launder Russian money to support Donald Trump's election. [1]

It is enough to make your head spin, but it also makes a twisted kind of sense: **Some of America's most dangerous right-wing extremists reportedly may have broken the law to help a hostile foreign government illegally tilt the U.S. elections toward a pro-gun, racist, xenophobic fascist.**

With each new Trump-Russia bombshell, the need for thorough investigation, by Robert Mueller and by Congress, grows. Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee have already been investigating whether the NRA helped connect Russian officials to Trump's campaign. [2] Now, the entire committee must engage. But the NRA's stranglehold on Congress means it will take massive pressure for Senate Republicans to do the right thing.

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee: Investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections. Click here to sign the petition.

According to media reports, the NRA has cultivated deep relationships with influential Russians for years. Russian gun-rights groups have hosted NRA officials, including Trump surrogate Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clark, in Russia, and high-profile Russians have been given high-level access at NRA meetings.[3] In 2016, Alexander Torshin, a Putin ally who is a top official at the Central Bank of Russia and is now at the center of the FBI's investigation, sat with Donald Trump Jr. at an NRA convention-related dinner. [4] Leading up to that convention, Paul Erickson, a conservative activist and NRA member who was part of an NRA-Russia trip, tried to use the NRA convention as "first contact" to broker a connection between Russia and the Trump campaign. [5]

Since Putin came back to power in 2012, Russia has increasingly pursued a goal of destabilizing the U.S. **Part of their strategy has been aligning with extreme groups within the American right wing to deepen existing cultural and political divisions.**[6] With the NRA, Russia has a perfect partner. The NRA is extremely divisive and has leverage over corrupt and craven members of Congress. The NRA divides us not only by blocking any efforts to keep communities safe from gun violence, but also by supercharging its long history of racism with reactionary, xenophobic and violent rhetoric that some have said could help further radicalize white domestic terrorists.[7]

The NRA's extremism combined with Russia's desires to destabilize our democracy is a dangerous combination that the Senate Judiciary Committee must take seriously with a thorough investigation.

Tell the Senate Judiciary Committee: Investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections. Click here to sign the petition.

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The NRA spent at least $55 million during the 2016 elections, including at least $30 million directly focused on electing Trump.[8] When the Supreme Court opened the door for unlimited corporate dark money spending on elections with its Citizens United decision, the court's right-wing majority alleged that the spending would be accompanied by disclosure. [9] Nothing could be further from the truth.

The NRA has become a hub for dark money donations that are made to organizations that are not required to disclose their donors. A Karl Rove–aligned SuperPAC and a Koch brothers non-profit are among the groups that have given money to the NRA to advance Republicans' extreme right-wing agenda. [10] The influence of dark money is bad enough, but there have already been signs that the dark money loopholes will be used to illegally funnel foreign money into our elections.[11] It is illegal for a campaign to solicit or receive anything of value from a foreign national. **If the NRA helped Russia funnel money into the 2016 elections, it laundered money to help the Trump campaign – and potentially others in the Republican Party – break the law for electoral gain.**

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a responsibility to make sure it deepens its investigation to find out what really happened – and to ensure it does not happen again. We need to show the Republicans on the committee that defending our democracy is more important than their allegiance to the NRA and make sure that the Democrats on the committee know we will have their backs if they use their power to dig in. Can you add your name today?

Click the link below to tell the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate whether the NRA helped Russia influence our elections:

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/NRA_Russia?t=8&akid=26998%2E12772310%2EClF9xp

Thanks for everything you do,

Heidi Hess, Senior Campaign Manager
CREDO Action from Working Assets

Add your name:

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References:

1. Peter Stone and Greg Gordon, "FBI investigating whether Russian money went to NRA to help Trump," McClatchy DC Bureau, Jan. 18, 2018.
2. Christine Maza, "NRA's role in connecting Trump campaign with Russians is under investigation," Newsweek, Nov. 29, 2017.
3. Josh Israel, "Why has the NRA been cozying up to Russia?" ThinkProgress, Nov. 23, 2017.
4. Ibid
5. Nicholas Fandos, "Operative Offered Trump Campaign 'Kremlin Connection' Using N.R.A. Ties ," The New York Times, Dec. 3, 2017.
6. Casey Michel, "The Kremlin's California Dream ," Slate, May 4, 2017.
7. Graham Lanktree, "New NRA video fuels American extremists, says former CIA analyst," Newsweek, June 30, 2017.
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11. Kennedy and Tausanovitch, "Secret and Foreign Spending in U.S. Elections: Why America Needs the DISCLOSE Act."

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 08:56:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Solutions for concerns at your school!
To: <andrea.edmonson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Andrea,

As promised, we wanted to get this information with videos and testimonials out to you. We are being called all over the country to address a number of key issues that plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school boards to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

CHOICES is an approach designed to equip our young people with the tools of understanding the power of *good decision-making* and operating in the realm of hope. We tailor our messages on ***CHOICES*** to be age appropriate and topic sensitive.

Topics we cover include:

- The Education, Prevention, and Awareness of the Opioid Epidemic
- Gun Violence
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Parent Night (Opioid Epidemic)
- Social Media
- Bullying
- Anger Management
- Tolerance and Diversity
- General Choices Message
- Restorative Justice
- Hip Hop Culture

We would like to partner with your school to present the powerful messages of ***CHOICES.*** For more information on our story, background, and presentations available, please read more at www.RonLJames.com.

Call, check out our website, or email us today. We look forward to inspiring your students to, *"make their next choice their best choice."*

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,
Ron L James
Ron@RonLJames.com
717-433-2551

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 11 Apr 2018 08:56:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Solutions for concerns at your school!
To: <yolanda.pirtle@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Yolanda,

As promised, we wanted to get this information with videos and testimonials out to you. We are being called all over the country to address a number of key issues that plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school boards to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,
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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 08:56:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Solutions for concerns at your school!
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Denice,

As promised, we wanted to get this information with videos and testimonials out to you. We are being called all over the country to address a number of key issues that plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school boards to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

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Sincerely,
Ron L James
Ron@RonLJames.com
717-433-2551

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 08:56:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Solutions for concerns at your school!
To: <fran.mccarthy@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Fran,

As promised, we wanted to get this information with videos and testimonials out to you. We are being called all over the country to address a number of key issues that plague our youth today - opioids, bullying, anger management/school violence, and social media, just to name a few... We can all agree that it is crucial for us to take a multidimensional approach to bring resolution and hope. We are seeing major progress with administrators and even with PTA/PTO and school boards to solve these issues. However, we must also strategically address the core issues through messages of hope and prevention.

CHOICES is an approach designed to equip our young people with the tools of understanding the power of *good decision-making* and operating in the realm of hope. We tailor our messages on ***CHOICES*** to be age appropriate and topic sensitive.

Topics we cover include:

- The Education, Prevention, and Awareness of the Opioid Epidemic
- Gun Violence
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Parent Night (Opioid Epidemic)
- Social Media
- Bullying
- Anger Management
- Tolerance and Diversity
- General Choices Message
- Restorative Justice
- Hip Hop Culture

We would like to partner with your school to present the powerful messages of ***CHOICES.*** For more information on our story, background, and presentations available, please read more at www.RonLJames.com.

Call, check out our website, or email us today. We look forward to inspiring your students to, *"make their next choice their best choice."*

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,
Ron L James
Ron@RonLJames.com
717-433-2551

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From: "Ron L James" <ron@ronljames.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 08:56:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Solutions for concerns at your school!
To: <misti.fernandez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Good day Misti,

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:08:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Paula Spencer" <paula.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:01:21 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Mandy Morgan" <mandy.morgan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:15:43 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Amy Hollis" <amy.hollis@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:18:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Sharla Autry" <sharla.autry@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:11:34 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Victoria Gonzales" <victoria.gonzales@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:18:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Louriz H.Soto" <louri.soto@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:10:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Traci Burns" <traci.burns@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:18:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:06:38 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tipis; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "teresa naggs" <teresa.naggs@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "The Players Tribune" <hello@mail.playerstribune.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Feb 2018 04:07:05 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Steve Nash: 3 Things We Can Do Right Now about Gun Violence
To: <greg.haston@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "AASA News of the Nation" <communications@aasa.org>
Sent Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2018 16:06:23 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Student Walkout Taps Well of Anger, Mourning Over Gun Violence
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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HOT TOPICS

Student Walkout Taps Well of Anger, Mourning Over Gun Violence
March 14, Education Week
"I came out because of what happened in Florida, but also because of what happens in my neighborhood every day," said Alayshia Bridges, a 17-year-old senior at South Philadelphia High School, Penn.
edweek.org

50 National Organizations Sign Joint Statement In Support Of Public Education
March 9, AASA
As part of Public Schools Week (taking place now through March 16, 2018), 50 national organizations have issued a joint statement in support of public education to promote the positive impact public schools have on our nation's young people and the communities in which they live.
aasa.org

A Time for School Choice? If So, Let's Make Sure We Ask the Right Questions
March 7, The Brookings Institution
When thinking about the goals for the future of public education, it's important to remind ourselves why our democracy invested in public education in the first place.
brookings.edu



Magazine 'Extras' Video

A 90-second video, related to AASA's March magazine

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White House Officials Alarmed at Education Secretary's '60 Minutes' Performance
March 12, CNN
During Sunday night's "60 Minutes" interview with CBS' Lesley Stahl, U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos seemed to "stumble" her way through, admitting, at one point, that she hasn't "intentionally" visited underperforming schools.
cnn.com



LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Exploring Career Options Earlier
March 14, Community College Daily
Community college leaders and K-12 superintendents this week discussed the role K-12 systems and partnering community colleges can play in workforce and economic development.
ccdaily.com

We Know What Makes Schools Safer — It's Not Knee-Jerk Policies
March 13, The Hill
Parents, students and educators want conversations — and action — on things that will make schools safer.
thehill.com

Good Leaders Make Good Schools
March 12, The New York Times
What do our nation's most-improved schools all have in common? Effective leadership, writes *The New York Times* columnist David Brooks. Citing research from The Wallace Foundation, Brooks makes the case that strong leaders are vital for school turnaround.
nytimes.com

To Get Rural Kids Online, Microsoft Wants to Put Internet Access on School Buses
March 8, The Washington Post
Microsoft is looking to turn school buses into Internet-enabled hotspots in an experiment that's aimed at helping students in rural Michigan do their homework.
washingtonpost.com

On the field, in the classroom, or on the stage, sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen at any time. Performing CPR and having an automated external defibrillator (AED) can make the difference

on career moves in the superintendency today, features thoughts on transformational leadership by Steve Joel, Lincoln, Neb.'s venerable superintendent. Watch the March Extras video now.

Professional Legal Education at Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Cyber threats: a growing, complex problem

Online Cybersecurity and Privacy Law Certificate Register by Feb. 26

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Now Recruiting: Encourage Your District's Most Promising Leaders to Apply to the AASA Aspiring Superintendents Academy®

[WEBINAR: 3/21 at 1 p.m. ET] Leader Tracking Systems: Turning Data into Information for School Leadership

Join AASA's 2018 National Women's Leadership Consortium

Supporting Superintendents, Supporting Students: Resources for Schools and Gun Safety Discussions and Advocacy

2018 Redefining Ready! National Scholarship Contest Now Open to Graduating High School Seniors

NEW Report: Ten Years Later: How Funding Pressures Continue to Impact Our Nation's Schools

2017-18 AASA Superintendent Salary and Benefits Study

[WEBINAR: 3/28 at 2:30 p.m. ET] Improving School Discipline Outcomes and Reducing Exclusion and Disproportionality through Code of Conduct Revision

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SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE NEWS



HISD Expected to Have Several Local, National Candidates for Superintendent Job
March 11, Houston Chronicle
Education leaders, including AASA Executive Director Dan Domenech, are optimistic that Houston Independent School District, Texas, will attract high-level candidates for its soon-to-be vacant superintendent position.
houstonchronicle.com

Love is the Cure for School Shootings, Superintendent Says
March 13, Lake Expo
"It saddens me greatly that we live in the greatest country in the world and experience the greatest freedoms; yet in today's society we must worry about the safety of our children and teachers in a public school," said Joyce Ryerson, superintendent, Morgan County School District R2, Mont.
lakeexpo.com

Madison Fifth Graders Take School Safety Ideas Directly to the Superintendent
March 8, WHNT News
"It made my day," said Robby Parker, superintendent, Madison City School District, Ala. "It made my day that they're comfortable coming to me for one thing, but they had some really strong ideas."
whnt.com

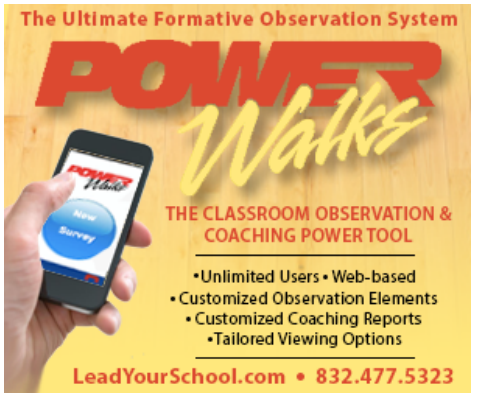


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[WEBINAR: 4/12 at 2 p.m. ET] Supporting the Whole Child: A Superintendents' Roundtable

Join the 2018 International Delegation to the Galapagos Islands

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez March 14, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday.

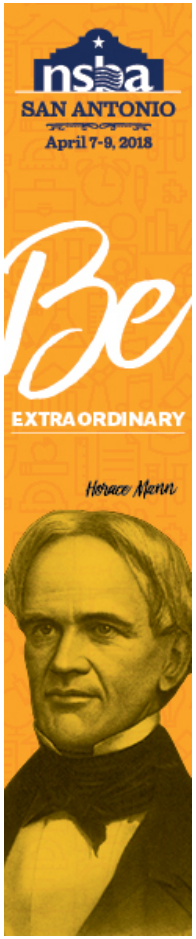
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TIME (3/13) reports, "Thousands of students and teachers are planning to walk out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14 as part of the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence."

Several other media outlets from around the country also cover the planned walkouts, including Chalkbeat (3/13), the Indianapolis Star (3/13), the Baltimore Sun (3/12), the Denver Post (3/13), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/13, Tribune-Review), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13).

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Chicago GOP To Sue District For Permitting Walkouts. The Madison (IL) Record (3/13) reports Chicago GOP Chairman Chris Cleveland said the party is "preparing to sue CPS" over plans to allow students to take part in the national walkout. The party took exception to an email from Lincoln Elementary informing parents of plans to allow students to take part in the demonstrations. Cleveland said the party "has sent a letter to CPS CEO Janice Jackson asking CPS to cancel the demonstrations, and will likely sue if they do not, Cleveland indicated."

WLS-TV Chicago (3/13) reports students in the Chicago area will be taking part in the demonstrations, and that "their message has been modified due to Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation requiring gun dealers to be licensed by the state." This piece reports the Chicago GOP "is threatening a lawsuit, accusing some CPS principals of forcing students to participate." This piece quotes Cleveland saying, "This is just straight-out political indoctrination. It's wrong. School is not the place for this kind of thing."

POLITICS & POLICY

Nebraska Education Official Nominated For ED Rehabilitative Services Post.

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Education Week (3/13) reports President Trump has nominated Nebraska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Mark Schultz "to serve as commissioner of the rehabilitation services administration at the U.S. Department of Education. The RSA helps people with disabilities and others who face barriers in the workforce." The White House says Schultz "has over 35 years of experience working at the national, state, and local levels to provide services for people with disabilities."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Houston All-Girl Team Advances To FIRST Lego League World Championship.

The Houston Chronicle (3/13, Zurawski) reports the Houston-area Brainiac Maniacs, a first-year, all-girl robotics team sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Schneider Electric, is "one of only 108 teams from 45 countries advancing" to the FIRST Lego League world championship, slated to take place in April. "Ten girls ranging in age from 8 to 10 and coming from diverse backgrounds" make up the Brainiac Maniacs, and they took "the first-place championship at the South Texas regional tournament against 60 other teams." For the competition, the girls designed "a Water Wizard program to reduce lawn overwatering by combining an app and physical devices to replace sprinklers." The Brainian Maniacs presented their project to Schneider Electric, NASA, and "a global water expert who all gave feedback on how to better present their program." They are also "learning to use a 3D printer to make a device for their Water Wizard Project."

Illinois Robotics Teams Collaborate To Advance To Super-Regional Competition.

The Mundelein (IL) Review (3/15) reports that on Feb. 24, Highland Park High School's Vertigo robotics team partnered with Carmel Catholic High School's "top-ranked" Not Your Average Nerds (NYAN) and Robo Raiders, a home-schooled team, to become Illinois First Tech Challenge state champions. The alliance will now compete against six dozen teams from nine states at the "super-regional competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 15 through March 17." Participants create a robot that autonomously executes tasks using artificial intelligence technology. Engineer and varsity NYAN team coach Brian Donahoe said the competition's structure "forces teams to cooperate" and "strategize" in a manner "not unlike how engineers like myself do their real work." The program emphasizes "what's called 'gracious professionalism,'" or "a spirit of friendly competition, courtesy, compassion and respect." Participating teams "are judged not only on how well their robot performs, but on their fundraising plans to cover team costs, community outreach and efforts to get younger pupils involved in robotics."

Legislation To Bring Computer Science Into Wyoming Schools Heads To Governor's Desk.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/13, Klamann) reports on legislation passed last week in Wyoming that "will fold computer science into the state's educational program" and make the subject "one of several areas – like math and science – that will have its own content standards, created by state educators." The measure has been sent to Gov. Matt Mead's desk for final approval.

Teacher Protests Could Stem Partly From Tax Cuts In Several States.

The Huffington Post (3/13, Jamieson) examines "the parallels between the funding crises unfolding in West Virginia and Oklahoma," which the Post attributes primarily to "a series of bipartisan tax cuts" in both states and the education funding cuts many states were forced to enact during the Great Recession. "States like Oklahoma are now dealing with the reckoning," the article explains, "as educators and other public servants revolt against shrinking budgets that have stretched their workloads and left no money for pay raises."

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OPERATIONS

Austin-Area School District Puts Finishing Touches On Two-Campus High School Project.

The AP (3/13) reports the Manor school district in Austin, Texas is putting the final touches on a new secondary school building, Manor Senior High School, that the district intends "to be the home base for juniors and seniors, leaving the old Manor High School primarily for freshmen and sophomores." The two-campus plan "is also an attempt to better engage students and give them more ownership of their studies," partly through adopting "the look and feel of a small college campus: open and collaborative work spaces, large windows and natural light, and charging stations for cellphones and laptops." The senior high section of the campus is scheduled to open in August.

DC Charter School At Risk Of Losing Operating License.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that at an emergency meeting on Monday, the DC Public Charter School Board unanimously voted "to begin the process of stripping" Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School of its operating license. A financial audit estimated that it needs "an infusion of more than $830,000 between now and the end of the fiscal year, which concludes June 30." Meanwhile, a separate report released by the charter board on Monday "declared that the school 'has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement' and said 'its expense structure is not in line with the school's revenues.'" Additionally, the school "has experienced dwindling enrollment over the past five years, accelerating its financial demise." Washington Mathematics has 15 days before it must "present a convincing plan to regulators demonstrating how it will remain financially viable." The oversight board will then hold "a final vote on whether to revoke the school's operating license."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

Education Week (3/13, Gewertz) reports a study released by Achieve on Tuesday contends that states should not use the SAT or ACT to measure high school achievement because the tests do not adequately reflect the states' academic standards or gauge students' understanding of those standards. In its paper, Achieve "also urges caution if states are considering giving individual districts the freedom to substitute a college-entrance exam for a state high school test." The paper suggests that states already using the SAT or ACT to measure statewide achievement "should consider augmenting those tests with additional or revised items to get a fuller representation of their academic standards."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas School Finance Bill Elicits Mixed Reactions.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/13) reports a bill now before the Kansas state House K-12 Education Budget Committee reflects lawmakers' attempt "to address inequalities in the state's school finance system identified by the Kansas Supreme Court." The bill, House Bill 2445, "included a collection of complex pieces of a formula for school finance, including local-option budget provisions, at-risk weightings, capital outlay expenditures and transportation earmarks." It would also "place into state law the Kansas State Board of Education's controversial

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practice of distributing transportation funding to districts" and require "agitated Kansans" to "collect signatures from 10 percent of the electorate rather than 5 percent." The measure drew "fire Tuesday from a conservative organization," the Kansas Policy Institute, "for making it harder to protest through a petition drive proposed increases in local property tax collections for public schools." Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards representatives, however, endorsed the overall measure.

Alabama's Second-Largest School Budget Advances In State Legislature.

Alabama Live (3/13) reports a proposed budget that would allocate "the second highest amount ever from Alabama's Education Trust Fund won approval in a Senate committee today, continuing a mostly smooth ride through the State House." If passed, the plan would increase ETF spending by $216 million this year; raise salaries for K-12 and two-year college employees by 2.5 percent; and spend $6.6 million in ETF funds on "public schools, colleges and other purposes next year" – the highest amount "since $6.7 billion in 2008." The latest version of the measure would also "increase funding for Alabama's voluntary prekindergarten program, called First Class, by $18 million, to $95 million." The state House, which "passed the budget by a vote of 102-0 a month ago," had approved $2 million more in prekindergarten spending. Additionally, the measure "would provide $500,000 to put mental health professionals in public schools to work with troubled students."

Supporters Rally To Support Maryland Governor's BOOST Program.

The AP (3/13, Whooley) reports that "hundreds of private school students, faculty, parents and supporters" gathered at a rally in Annapolis on Tuesday to support Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today program, also known as "BOOST." Sponsored by the Maryland Council for American Private Education, the event featured a number of speakers, including "Hogan, legislators and education administrators," all of whom touted the program that "provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools."

Education Advocates Seek District Funding Disclosures For New York Schools.

The AP (3/12) report a group of education advocates met on Wednesday with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his budget director "to discuss [Cuomo's] effort to require New York school districts to disclose how much state funding is going to individual schools." After the meeting, "the advocates told reporters they're seeking equitable funding for underperforming schools."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Families, Florida Senators Call On Congress To Pass School Safety Legislation.

USA Today (3/13, Gaudiano) reports Ryan Petty, the father of Parkland shooting victim Alaina Petty, on Tuesday called on Congress "to pass school safety legislation," quoting him saying, "I didn't get a chance that morning to say goodbye to my daughter, but I'm here today to make sure that I'm one of the last fathers that ever has to bury their daughter or son or loved one from a senseless act of violence in a school." On Wednesday, USA Today reports, the House is set to debate legislation that "would pay for threat assessments and training for students, teachers, school officials and law enforcement to detect early signs of violence. It would also fund 'anonymous reporting systems,' such as phone apps, hotlines and websites, for threats of school violence."

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) met with "members of the Parkland community" on Tuesday and "called for swift passage of a bill to address school violence.

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... The bill, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, is the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act and the House companion is up for a vote this week."

Prosecutors To Seek Death Penalty For Parkland Shooting Suspect.

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 7, 0:25, Holt) briefly reported that Florida prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to seek the death penalty against Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with killing 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 10, 0:20, Muir) said Cruz is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, and "his attorney says Cruz is still willing to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty." The Washington Post (3/13, Berman) reports Howard Finkelstein, the Broward public defender, "has said it would be wrong for Cruz to be executed when authorities missed so many red flags and warning signs preceding the shooting."

The New York Times (3/13, Blinder, Subscription Publication) says the decision to seek the death penalty against Cruz "was widely expected, in part because [state attorney for Broward County Michael J.] Satz had hinted at his plans days after the attack." The Washington Times (3/13, Persons) also briefly reports the decision.

NEA Poll: Most Teachers Oppose Arming School Staff.

Education Week (3/13) reports that according to a new NEA poll, "nearly three-quarters of educators oppose President Donald Trump's push to arm school staff, and a clear majority also say working with armed school personnel would make them feel less safe." The piece reports the results echo "the message from NEA President Lily Eskelsen García, who has blasted the Trump administration's support for states that choose to arm educators."

Baltimore Teachers Union Opposes Weapons Training For Teachers. WBFF-TV Baltimore (3/13) reports the Baltimore Teachers Union has announced its opposition to "President Trump's recent call to train and arm specially qualified school personnel, on a volunteer basis." Union President Marietta English "called on Maryland's government to take a strong stance on the idea and reject any federal funding meant for arming teachers."

Cole: Congress Will Likely Increase School Safety Funding.

The Hill (3/13, Zanona) reports that Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on labor, health and human services, and education, said Tuesday that "lawmakers will likely boost money for school safety in an upcoming government funding package." Cole "said appropriators want to increase funding for an existing grant program that is designed to prevent violence in and around schools."

Senate Democrats Seek More Funding For ESSA Mental Health Services Program.

Education Week (3/13) reports that a group of Democratic senators wants "Congress to give more money to an Every Student Succeeds Act program in order to fund more counselors, trauma-informed classroom management, and mental-health services for schools." In a letter to Senate appropriators, "the Democrats said the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants—which are a part of Title IV in ESSA—should be funded at 'the highest possible level' for fiscal 2018." Education Week notes that the plea comes as a response to the Parkland massacre.

Parkland Students Pushing Parents To Commit To Candidates "Who Put Children's Safety Over Guns."

The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports Parkland shooing survivors Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman "have started a movement asking parents to sign a contract pledging they will vote for lawmakers who put children's safety over guns." The website of the "Parent's Promise to Kids" movement "says its goal is to get parents to vote for legislators who 'believe that the safety of our children is much more important than the right to own guns.'"

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Proposed Overhaul Of DC's School Punishment Policy Advances.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that on Tuesday, the DC Council's five-member education committee "voted unanimously in favor of restricting the circumstances when a school can suspend or expel a student." The committee members "framed the disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of black students in the District as a civil rights issue," as black students enrolled in DC schools "are nearly eight times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white peers, according to city data." Specifically, the legislation would limit the use of suspensions and expulsions for students in the eighth grade or lower "to incidents of threatened or actual violence, and emotional distress." At the high school level, students "would not be suspended or expelled from school for rule infractions such as uniform violations or disrupting a class." The measure "will now move to the full 13-member council," and if approved, "the revised discipline policy would be phased in over the next three years."

Denver District Receives National Recognition For Restorative Justice Policy.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Asmar) reports Denver Public Schools "began dabbling in restorative justice more than a decade ago" by launching a pilot program at three schools. The district has since incorporated the approach into its discipline code, and DPS officials "said more than 40 percent of Denver's 207 schools have staff dedicated to restorative justice." Notably, DPS "has seen its number of suspensions drop even as its enrollment has grown." The three schools that piloted the approach are now "serving as national examples of restorative justice." With funding from a three-year National Education Association grant, DPS partnered with the Advancement Project to arrange visits for teachers and community members aimed at promoting restorative justice. Chalkbeat says many teachers unions do not support the approach, as some teachers are concerned it "will leave them without enough tools to deal with unruly students and might even make classrooms less safe."

Study Suggests Modest Suspension Rate Drop Yields Small Attendance, Academic Gains.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Barnum) reports the peer-reviewed Peabody Journal of Education published a study conducted by Lauren Sartain of the University of Chicago and Rebecca Hinze-Pifer of Stanford University that "found that a modest drop in suspensions for high-level offenses actually led to small increases in test scores and attendance for all students in a school." According to Chalkbeat, the research "bolsters the case of discipline reformers who argue that school suspensions are ineffective and disproportionately target students of color." Sartain and Hinze-Pifer focused their research on Chicago Public Schools, which "began working to reduce suspensions and other kinds of discipline that pull students out of their classrooms in 2008." The researchers wrote, "Reducing suspension use for severe infractions seems consistent with a set of generally positive but small impacts," although there was "no indication students overall experience schools as less safe when suspension use for severe infractions declines."

Pennsylvania Bill Would Fine Parents For Student Bullying Incidents.

The Washington Post (3/13, Phillips) reports Pennsylvania state Rep. Frank Burns "plans to propose legislation that would require parents to pay up to $750 if their child is a habitual bully and require school officials to notify parents each time their child bullies another student." The bill "would not immediately impose the stiff penalty," but instead require school officials "to take some type of action" when "a child bullies for the first time," and parenting classes if the student bullies a second time. After a third incident, a judge would "determine whether there's enough evidence to fine the parents and issue a court order forcing them to pay $500," and "$750 for each offense thereafter, Burns said." The measure "also covers cyberbullying, which is considered a crime in Pennsylvania." Before Burns announced his plans, his "office said he has visited classrooms throughout his district, located east of Pittsburgh, to talk about bullying and urge students to sign an anti-bullying pledge."

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In a statement, Burns wrote, “Bullying is underreported and often unaddressed in a meaningful way. When it’s not addressed, bullying can escalate quickly from taunts and hurtful online posts to physical assaults and – in worst cases – suicide,” The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports. Burns added, “Holding students, parents and officials at all levels accountable is the only way to put an end to this scourge.” Last month, Florida state lawmakers “weighed a proposal that would allow children who have been bullied to receive a state-funded voucher to attend private school.” Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a version of the bill into law on Sunday. The Hill notes that in a 2011 survey, the National Center for Education Statistics found “about 28 percent of the students surveyed said they had been bullied.”

Virginia Middle School Resource Officer Accidentally Fires Gun At School.

The AP (3/13) reports a school resource officer at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia “accidentally fired his gun while on assignment” on Tuesday. “No one was injured.” Newsweek (3/13, Tennent) reports the officer “has been placed on administrative leave.” The five-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department “immediately checked to make sure no one was injured, and then contacted his supervisor and school staff, police added. Classes continued as normal.”

California Teacher Accidentally Fires Gun During Public Safety Lesson.

USA Today (3/13, Szydlowski) reports a teacher at Seaside High School in Salinas, California “accidentally fired a gun Tuesday during a class about public safety.” No one was injured and classes “resumed shortly after the incident.” The article notes that the teacher, Dennis Alexander, “also serves as a reserve police officer for the Sand City police and is a Seaside city councilman.”

Michigan Sheriff Accidentally Left Gun In Middle School Gym Locker.

The AP (3/13) reports Isabella County, Michigan Sheriff Michael Main “apologized Tuesday for accidentally leaving his backup gun in a Michigan school gym locker room,” saying “his mistake is inexcusable.” Main had changed into his uniform for an event at the school and “said he believed the gun – his backup weapon – was in his bag when he left. A student later found the gun and told an adult, according to Main.”

Alabama House Votes To Resurrect School Safety Panel.

The AP (3/13) reports the Alabama state House voted Tuesday to reinstate a school safety task force originally established in 2016 in response to the Parkland massacre. However, Democrats in the legislature “said a task force isn’t strong enough action on gun control and mental health.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

DC Special Education Analyst Pleads Guilty To Bribery Scheme.

The Washington Post (3/13, Hsu) reports that a Washington, DC special education analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday “to plotting with others to steer more than $480,000 in tax dollars to two business owners in the District and Maryland for work that was never done in exchange for bribes.” Shauntell Harley, 48, “a management analyst for fiscal policy and grant management in the office of the D.C. State Superintendent of Education, agreed to repay $488,000 to the school agency and to a $100,000 forfeiture judgment in entering her guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery.” Prosecutors said the investigation is ongoing. The charges “carry a maximum penalty of five years, but in a plea deal Harley agreed she would face a recommended prison term of between 70 and 87 months under federal

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guidelines at sentencing June 7 before U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss of the District."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.**
- **NASBE, CCSSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.**
- **New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.**
- **West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.**
- **New York State Officials Discuss Forthcoming Changes To Education Spending Disclosure.**

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Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Wednesday, March 14, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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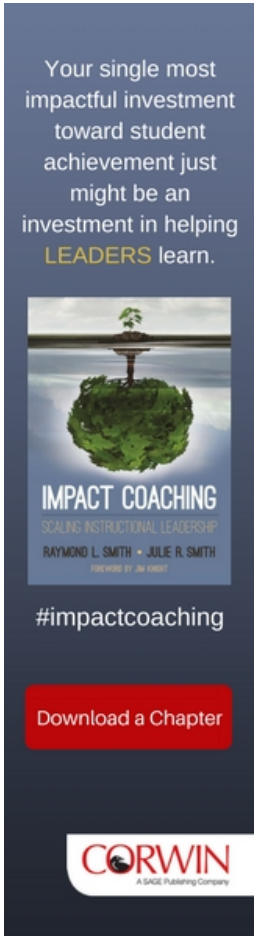
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Senate Democrats Seek More Funding For ESSA Mental Health Services Program.

Education Week (3/13) reports that a group of Democratic senators wants "Congress to give more money to an Every Student Succeeds Act program in order to fund more counselors, trauma-informed classroom management, and mental-health services for schools." In a letter to Senate appropriators, "the Democrats said the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants—which are a part of Title IV in ESSA—should be funded at 'the highest possible level' for fiscal 2018." Education Week notes that the plea comes as a response to the Parkland massacre.

Parkland Students Pushing Parents To Commit To Candidates "Who Put Children's Safety Over Guns."

The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports Parkland shooing survivors Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman "have started a movement asking parents to sign a contract pledging they will vote for lawmakers who put children's safety over guns." The website of the "Parent's Promise to Kids" movement "says its goal is to get parents to vote for legislators who 'believe that the safety of our children is much more important than the right to own guns.'"

Proposed Overhaul Of DC's School Punishment Policy Advances.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that on Tuesday, the DC Council's five-member education committee "voted unanimously in favor of restricting the circumstances when a school can suspend or expel a student." The committee members "framed the disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of black students in the District as a civil rights issue," as black students enrolled in DC schools "are nearly eight times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white peers, according to city data." Specifically, the legislation would limit the use of suspensions and expulsions for students in the eighth grade or lower "to incidents of threatened or actual violence, and emotional distress." At the high school level, students "would not be suspended or expelled from school for rule infractions such as uniform violations or disrupting a class." The measure "will now move to the full 13-member council," and if approved, "the revised discipline policy would be phased in over the next three years."

Denver District Receives National Recognition For Restorative Justice Policy.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Asmar) reports Denver Public Schools "began dabbling in restorative justice more than a decade ago" by launching a pilot program at three schools. The district has since incorporated the approach into its discipline code, and DPS officials "said more than 40 percent of Denver's 207 schools have staff dedicated to restorative justice." Notably, DPS "has seen its number of suspensions drop even as its enrollment has grown." The three schools that piloted the approach are now "serving as national examples of restorative justice." With funding from a

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three-year National Education Association grant, DPS partnered with the Advancement Project to arrange visits for teachers and community members aimed at promoting restorative justice. Chalkbeat says many teachers unions do not support the approach, as some teachers are concerned it "will leave them without enough tools to deal with unruly students and might even make classrooms less safe."

Study Suggests Modest Suspension Rate Drop Yields Small Attendance, Academic Gains.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Barnum) reports the peer-reviewed Peabody Journal of Education published a study conducted by Lauren Sartain of the University of Chicago and Rebecca Hinze-Pifer of Stanford University that "found that a modest drop in suspensions for high-level offenses actually led to small increases in test scores and attendance for all students in a school." According to Chalkbeat, the research "bolsters the case of discipline reformers who argue that school suspensions are ineffective and disproportionately target students of color." Sartain and Hinze-Pifer focused their research on Chicago Public Schools, which "began working to reduce suspensions and other kinds of discipline that pull students out of their classrooms in 2008." The researchers wrote, "Reducing suspension use for severe infractions seems consistent with a set of generally positive but small impacts," although there was "no indication students overall experience schools as less safe when suspension use for severe infractions declines."

Pennsylvania Bill Would Fine Parents For Student Bullying Incidents.

The Washington Post (3/13, Phillips) reports Pennsylvania state Rep. Frank Burns "plans to propose legislation that would require parents to pay up to $750 if their child is a habitual bully and require school officials to notify parents each time their child bullies another student." The bill "would not immediately impose the stiff penalty," but instead require school officials "to take some type of action" when "a child bullies for the first time," and parenting classes if the student bullies a second time. After a third incident, a judge would "determine whether there's enough evidence to fine the parents and issue a court order forcing them to pay $500," and "$750 for each offense thereafter, Burns said." The measure "also covers cyberbullying, which is considered a crime in Pennsylvania." Before Burns announced his plans, his "office said he has visited classrooms throughout his district, located east of Pittsburgh, to talk about bullying and urge students to sign an anti-bullying pledge."

In a statement, Burns wrote, "Bullying is underreported and often unaddressed in a meaningful way. When it's not addressed, bullying can escalate quickly from taunts and hurtful online posts to physical assaults and – in worst cases – suicide," The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports. Burns added, "Holding students, parents and officials at all levels accountable is the only way to put an end to this scourge." Last month, Florida state lawmakers "weighed a proposal that would allow children who have been bullied to receive a state-funded voucher to attend private school." Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a version of the bill into law on Sunday. The Hill notes that in a 2011 survey, the National Center for Education Statistics found "about 28 percent of the students surveyed said they had been bullied."

Virginia Middle School Resource Officer Accidentally Fires Gun At School.

The AP (3/13) reports a school resource officer at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia "accidentally fired his gun while on assignment" on Tuesday. "No one was injured." Newsweek (3/13, Tennent) reports the officer "has been placed on administrative leave." The five-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department "immediately checked to make sure no one was injured, and then contacted his supervisor and school staff, police added. Classes continued as normal."

California Teacher Accidentally Fires Gun During Public Safety Lesson.

USA Today (3/13, Szydlowski) reports a teacher at Seaside High School in Salinas, California "accidentally fired a

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gun Tuesday during a class about public safety." No one was injured and classes "resumed shortly after the incident." The article notes that the teacher, Dennis Alexander, "also serves as a reserve police officer for the Sand City police and is a Seaside city councilman."

Michigan Sheriff Accidentally Left Gun In Middle School Gym Locker.

The AP (3/13) reports Isabella County, Michigan Sheriff Michael Main "apologized Tuesday for accidentally leaving his backup gun in a Michigan school gym locker room," saying "his mistake is inexcusable." Main had changed into his uniform for an event at the school and "said he believed the gun – his backup weapon – was in his bag when he left. A student later found the gun and told an adult, according to Main."

Alabama House Votes To Resurrect School Safety Panel.

The AP (3/13) reports the Alabama state House voted Tuesday to reinstate a school safety task force originally established in 2016 in response to the Parkland massacre. However, Democrats in the legislature "said a task force isn't strong enough action on gun control and mental health."

FROM NASSP

National Principals Conference Schedule

The National Principals Conference has released its Schedule-at-a-Glance. Browse an overview of the three days that will provide opportunities to turn theory into practice as you connect with great leaders across the K-12 continuum. You can register now at www.principalsconference.org/register/. Follow the National Principals Conference on Facebook and Twitter with #NPC18 for more information as July 11-13 gets closer.

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EDUCATION POLICY

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Nebraska Education Official Nominated For ED Rehabilitative Services Post.

Education Week (3/13) reports President Trump has nominated Nebraska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Mark Schultz "to serve as commissioner of the rehabilitation services administration at the U.S. Department of Education. The RSA helps people with disabilities and others who face barriers in the workforce." The White House says Schultz "has over 35 years of experience working at the national, state, and local levels to provide services for people with disabilities."

DC Special Education Analyst Pleads Guilty To Bribery Scheme.

The Washington Post (3/13, Hsu) reports that a Washington, DC special education

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analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday "to plotting with others to steer more than $480,000 in tax dollars to two business owners in the District and Maryland for work that was never done in exchange for bribes." Shauntell Harley, 48, "a management analyst for fiscal policy and grant management in the office of the D.C. State Superintendent of Education, agreed to repay $488,000 to the school agency and to a $100,000 forfeiture judgment in entering her guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery." Prosecutors said the investigation is ongoing. The charges "carry a maximum penalty of five years, but in a plea deal Harley agreed she would face a recommended prison term of between 70 and 87 months under federal guidelines at sentencing June 7 before U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss of the District."

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

Education Week (3/13, Gewertz) reports a study released by Achieve on Tuesday contends that states should not use the SAT or ACT to measure high school achievement because the tests do not adequately reflect the states' academic standards or gauge students' understanding of those standards. In its paper, Achieve "also urges caution if states are considering giving individual districts the freedom to substitute a college-entrance exam for a state high school test." The paper suggests that states already using the SAT or ACT to measure statewide achievement "should consider augmenting those tests with additional or revised items to get a fuller representation of their academic standards."

HIGHER EDUCATION

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Tennessee State Lawmakers Consider Granting In-State Tuition To Undocumented Immigrants.

The Chalkbeat Colorado (3/13, Aldrich) reports that in a 4-1 vote on Tuesday, the Tennessee state House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee passed a bill "that would provide in-state tuition to any student who attends a Tennessee high school for at least three years, regardless of their immigration status." The bill is sponsored by state Rep. Mark White and state Sen. Todd Gardenhire, "who have championed the proposal since 2015," when a similar measure "passed in the Senate but fell one vote short of clearing the House." Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam stated that "he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk," and most public colleges and universities in the state have voiced their support. Vanderbilt University conducted a poll last year that found "about 72 percent of Tennesseans favor it, too." State Rep. Dawn White, however, "voted against the measure, arguing that Tennessee taxpayers should not give a tuition break to students who are in the country illegally."

In-State Tuition Bill For Tennessee's Undocumented Immigrants Passes House Subcommittee.

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Education Department's Report On First-Generation Students Shows Enrollment Decline.

The Washington Post (3/13, Strauss) reports on the Department of Education's new "report on 'first-generation students' and their college access, persistence and postbachelor's outcomes," the findings of which were "not especially good." The article focuses on the fact that "the share of students enrolled in postsecondary education whose parents had not attended college...declined" between 1999-2000 and 2011-2012. The Post also includes an essay "written by Laura Pappano, a first-generation Ivy League student and an education journalist," describing her experiences as a first-generation student at college.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.**
- **West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.**
- **New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.**
- **DeVos Stresses States' Lack Authority To Regulate Student Loan Servicers.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view

NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

in affiliation with Bulletin MEDIA

Good morning Eric Spencer

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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The NPR (3/13) "NPR Ed" blog reports that "students at schools across the country will walk out of their classrooms" Wednesday morning "to leave school — or at least gather in the hallway — for 17 minutes. That's one minute for each of the victims in last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla." The planned demonstrations have "raised big questions for schools about how to handle protests." National organizers say "while this walkout is meant to honor the victims in Parkland, as well as anyone who's experienced gun violence, it is also a political call to action." The article describes the dilemma of administrators caught between preventing disruptions to learning and protecting students' right to expression, and quotes National School Boards Association Chief Legal Officer Francisco Negron saying, "Schools stand in what's known as loco parentis, so we don't simply release our students into the ether." Negron "recently sent guidance to districts to help them walk this tightrope ."

TIME (3/13) reports, "Thousands of students and teachers are planning to walk out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14 as part of the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence."

Several other media outlets from around the country also cover the planned walkouts, including Chalkbeat (3/13), the Indianapolis Star (3/13), the Baltimore Sun (3/12), the Denver Post (3/13), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/13, Tribune-Review), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13).

Elementary Schools Grapple With School Safety Protests. The New York Times (3/13, Saul, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that fifth-grade students at Case Elementary School in Akron, Ohio "will pick up posters they drew and walk out of their classrooms, joining many thousands of other students in a nationwide protest

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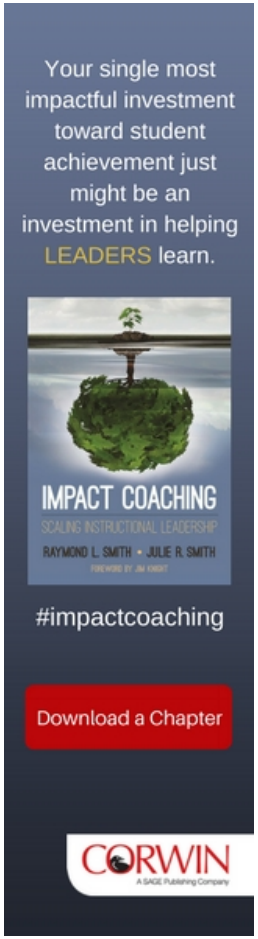
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Education Week (3/13) reports that a group of Democratic senators wants "Congress to give more money to an Every Student Succeeds Act program in order to fund more counselors, trauma-informed classroom management, and mental-health services for schools." In a letter to Senate appropriators, "the Democrats said the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants—which are a part of Title IV in ESSA—should be funded at 'the highest possible level' for fiscal 2018." Education Week notes that the plea comes as a response to the Parkland massacre.

Parkland Students Pushing Parents To Commit To Candidates "Who Put Children's Safety Over Guns."

The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports Parkland shooing survivors Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman "have started a movement asking parents to sign a contract pledging they will vote for lawmakers who put children's safety over guns." The website of the "Parent's Promise to Kids" movement "says its goal is to get parents to vote for legislators who 'believe that the safety of our children is much more important than the right to own guns.'"

Proposed Overhaul Of DC's School Punishment Policy Advances.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that on Tuesday, the DC Council's five-member education committee "voted unanimously in favor of restricting the circumstances when a school can suspend or expel a student." The committee members "framed the disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of black students in the District as a civil rights issue," as black students enrolled in DC schools "are nearly eight times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white peers, according to city data." Specifically, the legislation would limit the use of suspensions and expulsions for students in the eighth grade or lower "to incidents of threatened or actual violence, and emotional distress." At the high school level, students "would not be suspended or expelled from school for rule infractions such as uniform violations or disrupting a class." The measure "will now move to the full 13-member council," and if approved, "the revised discipline policy would be phased in over the next three years."

Denver District Receives National Recognition For Restorative Justice Policy.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Asmar) reports Denver Public Schools "began dabbling in restorative justice more than a decade ago" by launching a pilot program at three schools. The district has since incorporated the approach into its discipline code, and DPS officials "said more than 40 percent of Denver's 207 schools have staff dedicated to restorative justice." Notably, DPS "has seen its number of suspensions drop even as its enrollment has grown." The three schools that piloted the approach are now "serving as national examples of restorative justice." With funding from a

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three-year National Education Association grant, DPS partnered with the Advancement Project to arrange visits for teachers and community members aimed at promoting restorative justice. Chalkbeat says many teachers unions do not support the approach, as some teachers are concerned it "will leave them without enough tools to deal with unruly students and might even make classrooms less safe."

Study Suggests Modest Suspension Rate Drop Yields Small Attendance, Academic Gains.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Barnum) reports the peer-reviewed Peabody Journal of Education published a study conducted by Lauren Sartain of the University of Chicago and Rebecca Hinze-Pifer of Stanford University that "found that a modest drop in suspensions for high-level offenses actually led to small increases in test scores and attendance for all students in a school." According to Chalkbeat, the research "bolsters the case of discipline reformers who argue that school suspensions are ineffective and disproportionately target students of color." Sartain and Hinze-Pifer focused their research on Chicago Public Schools, which "began working to reduce suspensions and other kinds of discipline that pull students out of their classrooms in 2008." The researchers wrote, "Reducing suspension use for severe infractions seems consistent with a set of generally positive but small impacts," although there was "no indication students overall experience schools as less safe when suspension use for severe infractions declines."

Pennsylvania Bill Would Fine Parents For Student Bullying Incidents.

The Washington Post (3/13, Phillips) reports Pennsylvania state Rep. Frank Burns "plans to propose legislation that would require parents to pay up to $750 if their child is a habitual bully and require school officials to notify parents each time their child bullies another student." The bill "would not immediately impose the stiff penalty," but instead require school officials "to take some type of action" when "a child bullies for the first time," and parenting classes if the student bullies a second time. After a third incident, a judge would "determine whether there's enough evidence to fine the parents and issue a court order forcing them to pay $500," and "$750 for each offense thereafter, Burns said." The measure "also covers cyberbullying, which is considered a crime in Pennsylvania." Before Burns announced his plans, his "office said he has visited classrooms throughout his district, located east of Pittsburgh, to talk about bullying and urge students to sign an anti-bullying pledge."

In a statement, Burns wrote, "Bullying is underreported and often unaddressed in a meaningful way. When it's not addressed, bullying can escalate quickly from taunts and hurtful online posts to physical assaults and – in worst cases – suicide," The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports. Burns added, "Holding students, parents and officials at all levels accountable is the only way to put an end to this scourge." Last month, Florida state lawmakers "weighed a proposal that would allow children who have been bullied to receive a state-funded voucher to attend private school." Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a version of the bill into law on Sunday. The Hill notes that in a 2011 survey, the National Center for Education Statistics found "about 28 percent of the students surveyed said they had been bullied."

Virginia Middle School Resource Officer Accidentally Fires Gun At School.

The AP (3/13) reports a school resource officer at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia "accidentally fired his gun while on assignment" on Tuesday. "No one was injured." Newsweek (3/13, Tennent) reports the officer "has been placed on administrative leave." The five-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department "immediately checked to make sure no one was injured, and then contacted his supervisor and school staff, police added. Classes continued as normal."

California Teacher Accidentally Fires Gun During Public Safety Lesson.

USA Today (3/13, Szydlowski) reports a teacher at Seaside High School in Salinas, California "accidentally fired a

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gun Tuesday during a class about public safety." No one was injured and classes "resumed shortly after the incident." The article notes that the teacher, Dennis Alexander, "also serves as a reserve police officer for the Sand City police and is a Seaside city councilman."

Michigan Sheriff Accidentally Left Gun In Middle School Gym Locker.

The AP (3/13) reports Isabella County, Michigan Sheriff Michael Main "apologized Tuesday for accidentally leaving his backup gun in a Michigan school gym locker room," saying "his mistake is inexcusable." Main had changed into his uniform for an event at the school and "said he believed the gun – his backup weapon – was in his bag when he left. A student later found the gun and told an adult, according to Main."

Alabama House Votes To Resurrect School Safety Panel.

The AP (3/13) reports the Alabama state House voted Tuesday to reinstate a school safety task force originally established in 2016 in response to the Parkland massacre. However, Democrats in the legislature "said a task force isn't strong enough action on gun control and mental health."

FROM NASSP

National Principals Conference Schedule

The National Principals Conference has released its Schedule-at-a-Glance. Browse an overview of the three days that will provide opportunities to turn theory into practice as you connect with great leaders across the K-12 continuum. You can register now at www.principalsconference.org/register/. Follow the National Principals Conference on Facebook and Twitter with #NPC18 for more information as July 11-13 gets closer.

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EDUCATION POLICY

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DC Special Education Analyst Pleads Guilty To Bribery Scheme.

The Washington Post (3/13, Hsu) reports that a Washington, DC special education

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analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday "to plotting with others to steer more than $480,000 in tax dollars to two business owners in the District and Maryland for work that was never done in exchange for bribes." Shauntell Harley, 48, "a management analyst for fiscal policy and grant management in the office of the D.C. State Superintendent of Education, agreed to repay $488,000 to the school agency and to a $100,000 forfeiture judgment in entering her guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery." Prosecutors said the investigation is ongoing. The charges "carry a maximum penalty of five years, but in a plea deal Harley agreed she would face a recommended prison term of between 70 and 87 months under federal guidelines at sentencing June 7 before U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss of the District."

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

Education Week (3/13, Gewertz) reports a study released by Achieve on Tuesday contends that states should not use the SAT or ACT to measure high school achievement because the tests do not adequately reflect the states' academic standards or gauge students' understanding of those standards. In its paper, Achieve "also urges caution if states are considering giving individual districts the freedom to substitute a college-entrance exam for a state high school test." The paper suggests that states already using the SAT or ACT to measure statewide achievement "should consider augmenting those tests with additional or revised items to get a fuller representation of their academic standards."

HIGHER EDUCATION

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Tennessee State Lawmakers Consider Granting In-State Tuition To Undocumented Immigrants.

The Chalkbeat Colorado (3/13, Aldrich) reports that in a 4-1 vote on Tuesday, the Tennessee state House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee passed a bill "that would provide in-state tuition to any student who attends a Tennessee high school for at least three years, regardless of their immigration status." The bill is sponsored by state Rep. Mark White and state Sen. Todd Gardenhire, "who have championed the proposal since 2015," when a similar measure "passed in the Senate but fell one vote short of clearing the House." Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam stated that "he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk," and most public colleges and universities in the state have voiced their support. Vanderbilt University conducted a poll last year that found "about 72 percent of Tennesseans favor it, too." State Rep. Dawn White, however, "voted against the measure, arguing that Tennessee taxpayers should not give a tuition break to students who are in the country illegally."

In-State Tuition Bill For Tennessee's Undocumented Immigrants Passes House Subcommittee.

Chalkbeat (3/13) reports Tennessee's House Education Administration and Planning Subcommittee on Tuesday passed a bill 4-1 "that would provide in-state tuition to any student who attends a Tennessee high school for at least three years, regardless of their immigration status." The legislation must now "pass a full House committee and a Senate panel before heading to both chambers. Gov. Bill Haslam has said he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk."

Education Department's Report On First-Generation Students Shows Enrollment Decline.

The Washington Post (3/13, Strauss) reports on the Department of Education's new "report on 'first-generation students' and their college access, persistence and postbachelor's outcomes," the findings of which were "not especially good." The article focuses on the fact that "the share of students enrolled in postsecondary education whose parents had not attended college...declined" between 1999-2000 and 2011-2012. The Post also includes an essay "written by Laura Pappano, a first-generation Ivy League student and an education journalist," describing her experiences as a first-generation student at college.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.**
- **West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.**
- **New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.**
- **DeVos Stresses States' Lack Authority To Regulate Student Loan Servicers.**

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view



Good morning David Shoup March 14, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday.

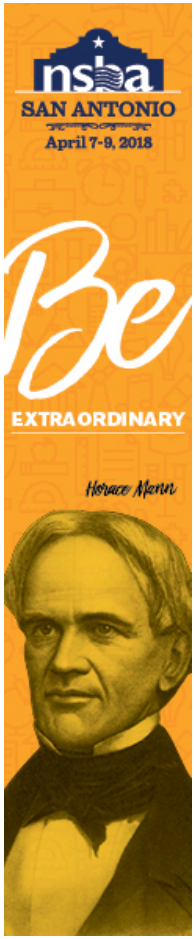
The NPR (3/13) "NPR Ed" blog reports that "students at schools across the country will walk out of their classrooms" Wednesday morning "to leave school — or at least gather in the hallway — for 17 minutes. That's one minute for each of the victims in last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla." The planned demonstrations have "raised big questions for schools about how to handle protests." National organizers say "while this walkout is meant to honor the victims in Parkland, as well as anyone who's experienced gun violence, it is also a political call to action." The article describes the dilemma of administrators caught between preventing disruptions to learning and protecting students' right to expression, and quotes National School Boards Association Chief Legal Officer Francisco Negron saying, "Schools stand in what's known as loco parentis, so we don't simply release our students into the ether." Negron "recently sent guidance to districts to help them walk this tightrope ."

TIME (3/13) reports, "Thousands of students and teachers are planning to walk out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14 as part of the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence."

Several other media outlets from around the country also cover the planned walkouts, including Chalkbeat (3/13), the Indianapolis Star (3/13), the Baltimore Sun (3/12), the Denver Post (3/13), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/13, Tribune-Review), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13).

Elementary Schools Grapple With School Safety Protests. The New York Times (3/13, Saul, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that fifth-grade students at Case Elementary School in Akron, Ohio "will pick up posters they drew and walk out of their classrooms, joining many thousands of other students in a nationwide protest against gun violence after the killing of 17 people in a Florida high school last month." Principal Danijile Henderson said older students had expressed a desire to hold protests, but "she drew lines

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around who could participate and how. Third through fifth graders may walk out; second graders can observe the protest, but not walk; kindergartners and first-grade students will remain in their classrooms for discussions on school safety in general that avoid the shooting itself." Districts that are open to permitting protests "are also calibrating their approach for their youngest students."

Chicago GOP To Sue District For Permitting Walkouts. The Madison (IL) Record (3/13) reports Chicago GOP Chairman Chris Cleveland said the party is "preparing to sue CPS" over plans to allow students to take part in the national walkout. The party took exception to an email from Lincoln Elementary informing parents of plans to allow students to take part in the demonstrations. Cleveland said the party "has sent a letter to CPS CEO Janice Jackson asking CPS to cancel the demonstrations, and will likely sue if they do not, Cleveland indicated."

WLS-TV Chicago (3/13) reports students in the Chicago area will be taking part in the demonstrations, and that "their message has been modified due to Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation requiring gun dealers to be licensed by the state." This piece reports the Chicago GOP "is threatening a lawsuit, accusing some CPS principals of forcing students to participate." This piece quotes Cleveland saying, "This is just straight-out political indoctrination. It's wrong. School is not the place for this kind of thing."

POLITICS & POLICY

Nebraska Education Official Nominated For ED Rehabilitative Services Post.

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Houston All-Girl Team Advances To FIRST Lego League World Championship.

The Houston Chronicle (3/13, Zurawski) reports the Houston-area Brainiac Maniacs, a first-year, all-girl robotics team sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Schneider Electric, is "one of only 108 teams from 45 countries advancing" to the FIRST Lego League world championship, slated to take place in April. "Ten girls ranging in age from 8 to 10 and coming from diverse backgrounds" make up the Brainiac Maniacs, and they took "the first-place championship at the South Texas regional tournament against 60 other teams." For the competition, the girls designed "a Water Wizard program to reduce lawn overwatering by combining an app and physical devices to replace sprinklers." The Brainian Maniacs presented their project to Schneider Electric, NASA, and "a global water expert who all gave feedback on how to better present their program." They are also "learning to use a 3D printer to make a device for their Water Wizard Project."

Illinois Robotics Teams Collaborate To Advance To Super-Regional Competition.

The Mundelein (IL) Review (3/15) reports that on Feb. 24, Highland Park High School's Vertigo robotics team partnered with Carmel Catholic High School's "top-ranked" Not Your Average Nerds (NYAN) and Robo Raiders, a home-schooled team, to become Illinois First Tech Challenge state champions. The alliance will now compete against six dozen teams from nine states at the "super-regional competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 15 through March 17." Participants create a robot that autonomously executes tasks using artificial intelligence technology. Engineer and varsity NYAN team coach Brian Donahoe said the competition's structure "forces teams to cooperate" and "strategize" in a manner "not unlike how engineers like myself do their real work." The program emphasizes "what's called 'gracious professionalism,'" or "a spirit of friendly competition, courtesy, compassion and respect." Participating teams "are judged not only on how well their robot performs, but on their fundraising plans to cover team costs, community outreach and efforts to get younger pupils involved in robotics."

Legislation To Bring Computer Science Into Wyoming Schools Heads To Governor's Desk.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/13, Klamann) reports on legislation passed last week in Wyoming that "will fold computer science into the state's educational program" and make the subject "one of several areas – like math and science – that will have its own content standards, created by state educators." The measure has been sent to Gov. Matt Mead's desk for final approval.

Teacher Protests Could Stem Partly From Tax Cuts In Several States.

The Huffington Post (3/13, Jamieson) examines "the parallels between the funding crises unfolding in West Virginia and Oklahoma," which the Post attributes primarily to "a series of bipartisan tax cuts" in both states and the education funding cuts many states were forced to enact during the Great Recession. "States like Oklahoma are now dealing with the reckoning," the article explains, "as educators and other public servants revolt against shrinking budgets that have stretched their workloads and left no money for pay raises."

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OPERATIONS

Austin-Area School District Puts Finishing Touches On Two-Campus High School Project.

The AP (3/13) reports the Manor school district in Austin, Texas is putting the final touches on a new secondary school building, Manor Senior High School, that the district intends "to be the home base for juniors and seniors, leaving the old Manor High School primarily for freshmen and sophomores." The two-campus plan "is also an attempt to better engage students and give them more ownership of their studies," partly through adopting "the look and feel of a small college campus: open and collaborative work spaces, large windows and natural light, and charging stations for cellphones and laptops." The senior high section of the campus is scheduled to open in August.

DC Charter School At Risk Of Losing Operating License.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that at an emergency meeting on Monday, the DC Public Charter School Board unanimously voted "to begin the process of stripping" Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School of its operating license. A financial audit estimated that it needs "an infusion of more than $830,000 between now and the end of the fiscal year, which concludes June 30." Meanwhile, a separate report released by the charter board on Monday "declared that the school 'has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement' and said 'its expense structure is not in line with the school's revenues.'" Additionally, the school "has experienced dwindling enrollment over the past five years, accelerating its financial demise." Washington Mathematics has 15 days before it must "present a convincing plan to regulators demonstrating how it will remain financially viable." The oversight board will then hold "a final vote on whether to revoke the school's operating license."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas School Finance Bill Elicits Mixed Reactions.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/13) reports a bill now before the Kansas state House K-12 Education Budget Committee reflects lawmakers' attempt "to address inequalities in the state's school finance system identified by the Kansas Supreme Court." The bill, House Bill 2445, "included a collection of complex pieces of a formula for school finance, including local-option budget provisions, at-risk weightings, capital outlay expenditures and transportation earmarks." It would also "place into state law the Kansas State Board of Education's controversial

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practice of distributing transportation funding to districts" and require "agitated Kansans" to "collect signatures from 10 percent of the electorate rather than 5 percent." The measure drew "fire Tuesday from a conservative organization," the Kansas Policy Institute, "for making it harder to protest through a petition drive proposed increases in local property tax collections for public schools." Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards representatives, however, endorsed the overall measure.

Alabama's Second-Largest School Budget Advances In State Legislature.

Alabama Live (3/13) reports a proposed budget that would allocate "the second highest amount ever from Alabama's Education Trust Fund won approval in a Senate committee today, continuing a mostly smooth ride through the State House." If passed, the plan would increase ETF spending by $216 million this year; raise salaries for K-12 and two-year college employees by 2.5 percent; and spend $6.6 million in ETF funds on "public schools, colleges and other purposes next year" – the highest amount "since $6.7 billion in 2008." The latest version of the measure would also "increase funding for Alabama's voluntary prekindergarten program, called First Class, by $18 million, to $95 million." The state House, which "passed the budget by a vote of 102-0 a month ago," had approved $2 million more in prekindergarten spending. Additionally, the measure "would provide $500,000 to put mental health professionals in public schools to work with troubled students."

Supporters Rally To Support Maryland Governor's BOOST Program.

The AP (3/13, Whooley) reports that "hundreds of private school students, faculty, parents and supporters" gathered at a rally in Annapolis on Tuesday to support Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today program, also known as "BOOST." Sponsored by the Maryland Council for American Private Education, the event featured a number of speakers, including "Hogan, legislators and education administrators," all of whom touted the program that "provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools."

Education Advocates Seek District Funding Disclosures For New York Schools.

The AP (3/12) report a group of education advocates met on Wednesday with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his budget director "to discuss [Cuomo's] effort to require New York school districts to disclose how much state funding is going to individual schools." After the meeting, "the advocates told reporters they're seeking equitable funding for underperforming schools."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Families, Florida Senators Call On Congress To Pass School Safety Legislation.

USA Today (3/13, Gaudiano) reports Ryan Petty, the father of Parkland shooting victim Alaina Petty, on Tuesday called on Congress "to pass school safety legislation," quoting him saying, "I didn't get a chance that morning to say goodbye to my daughter, but I'm here today to make sure that I'm one of the last fathers that ever has to bury their daughter or son or loved one from a senseless act of violence in a school." On Wednesday, USA Today reports, the House is set to debate legislation that "would pay for threat assessments and training for students, teachers, school officials and law enforcement to detect early signs of violence. It would also fund 'anonymous reporting systems,' such as phone apps, hotlines and websites, for threats of school violence."

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) met with "members of the Parkland community" on Tuesday and "called for swift passage of a bill to address school violence.

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... The bill, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, is the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act and the House companion is up for a vote this week."

Prosecutors To Seek Death Penalty For Parkland Shooting Suspect.

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 7, 0:25, Holt) briefly reported that Florida prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to seek the death penalty against Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with killing 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 10, 0:20, Muir) said Cruz is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, and "his attorney says Cruz is still willing to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty." The Washington Post (3/13, Berman) reports Howard Finkelstein, the Broward public defender, "has said it would be wrong for Cruz to be executed when authorities missed so many red flags and warning signs preceding the shooting."

The New York Times (3/13, Blinder, Subscription Publication) says the decision to seek the death penalty against Cruz "was widely expected, in part because [state attorney for Broward County Michael J.] Satz had hinted at his plans days after the attack." The Washington Times (3/13, Persons) also briefly reports the decision.

NEA Poll: Most Teachers Oppose Arming School Staff.

Education Week (3/13) reports that according to a new NEA poll, "nearly three-quarters of educators oppose President Donald Trump's push to arm school staff, and a clear majority also say working with armed school personnel would make them feel less safe." The piece reports the results echo "the message from NEA President Lily Eskelsen García, who has blasted the Trump administration's support for states that choose to arm educators."

Baltimore Teachers Union Opposes Weapons Training For Teachers. WBFF-TV Baltimore (3/13) reports the Baltimore Teachers Union has announced its opposition to "President Trump's recent call to train and arm specially qualified school personnel, on a volunteer basis." Union President Marietta English "called on Maryland's government to take a strong stance on the idea and reject any federal funding meant for arming teachers."

Cole: Congress Will Likely Increase School Safety Funding.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton March 14, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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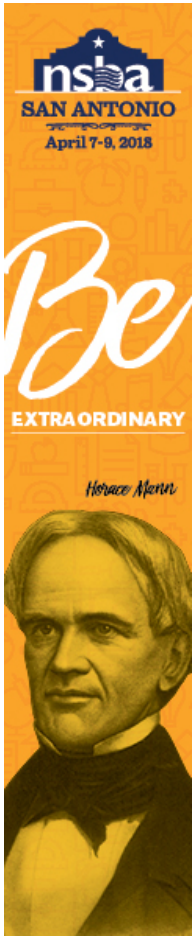
The NPR (3/13) "NPR Ed" blog reports that "students at schools across the country will walk out of their classrooms" Wednesday morning "to leave school — or at least gather in the hallway — for 17 minutes. That's one minute for each of the victims in last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla." The planned demonstrations have "raised big questions for schools about how to handle protests." National organizers say "while this walkout is meant to honor the victims in Parkland, as well as anyone who's experienced gun violence, it is also a political call to action." The article describes the dilemma of administrators caught between preventing disruptions to learning and protecting students' right to expression, and quotes National School Boards Association Chief Legal Officer Francisco Negron saying, "Schools stand in what's known as loco parentis, so we don't simply release our students into the ether." Negron "recently sent guidance to districts to help them walk this tightrope ."

TIME (3/13) reports, "Thousands of students and teachers are planning to walk out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14 as part of the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence."

Several other media outlets from around the country also cover the planned walkouts, including Chalkbeat (3/13), the Indianapolis Star (3/13), the Baltimore Sun (3/12), the Denver Post (3/13), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/13, Tribune-Review), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13).

Elementary Schools Grapple With School Safety Protests. The New York Times (3/13, Saul, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that fifth-grade students at Case Elementary School in Akron, Ohio "will pick up posters they drew and walk out of their classrooms, joining many thousands of other students in a nationwide protest against gun violence after the killing of 17 people in a Florida high school last month." Principal Danijile Henderson said older students had expressed a desire to hold protests, but "she drew lines

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around who could participate and how. Third through fifth graders may walk out; second graders can observe the protest, but not walk; kindergartners and first-grade students will remain in their classrooms for discussions on school safety in general that avoid the shooting itself." Districts that are open to permitting protests "are also calibrating their approach for their youngest students."

Chicago GOP To Sue District For Permitting Walkouts. The Madison (IL) Record (3/13) reports Chicago GOP Chairman Chris Cleveland said the party is "preparing to sue CPS" over plans to allow students to take part in the national walkout. The party took exception to an email from Lincoln Elementary informing parents of plans to allow students to take part in the demonstrations. Cleveland said the party "has sent a letter to CPS CEO Janice Jackson asking CPS to cancel the demonstrations, and will likely sue if they do not, Cleveland indicated."

WLS-TV Chicago (3/13) reports students in the Chicago area will be taking part in the demonstrations, and that "their message has been modified due to Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation requiring gun dealers to be licensed by the state." This piece reports the Chicago GOP "is threatening a lawsuit, accusing some CPS principals of forcing students to participate." This piece quotes Cleveland saying, "This is just straight-out political indoctrination. It's wrong. School is not the place for this kind of thing."

POLITICS & POLICY

Nebraska Education Official Nominated For ED Rehabilitative Services Post.

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Education Week (3/13) reports President Trump has nominated Nebraska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Mark Schultz "to serve as commissioner of the rehabilitation services administration at the U.S. Department of Education. The RSA helps people with disabilities and others who face barriers in the workforce." The White House says Schultz "has over 35 years of experience working at the national, state, and local levels to provide services for people with disabilities."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Houston All-Girl Team Advances To FIRST Lego League World Championship.

The Houston Chronicle (3/13, Zurawski) reports the Houston-area Brainiac Maniacs, a first-year, all-girl robotics team sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Schneider Electric, is "one of only 108 teams from 45 countries advancing" to the FIRST Lego League world championship, slated to take place in April. "Ten girls ranging in age from 8 to 10 and coming from diverse backgrounds" make up the Brainiac Maniacs, and they took "the first-place championship at the South Texas regional tournament against 60 other teams." For the competition, the girls designed "a Water Wizard program to reduce lawn overwatering by combining an app and physical devices to replace sprinklers." The Brainian Maniacs presented their project to Schneider Electric, NASA, and "a global water expert who all gave feedback on how to better present their program." They are also "learning to use a 3D printer to make a device for their Water Wizard Project."

Illinois Robotics Teams Collaborate To Advance To Super-Regional Competition.

The Mundelein (IL) Review (3/15) reports that on Feb. 24, Highland Park High School's Vertigo robotics team partnered with Carmel Catholic High School's "top-ranked" Not Your Average Nerds (NYAN) and Robo Raiders, a home-schooled team, to become Illinois First Tech Challenge state champions. The alliance will now compete against six dozen teams from nine states at the "super-regional competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 15 through March 17." Participants create a robot that autonomously executes tasks using artificial intelligence technology. Engineer and varsity NYAN team coach Brian Donahoe said the competition's structure "forces teams to cooperate" and "strategize" in a manner "not unlike how engineers like myself do their real work." The program emphasizes "what's called 'gracious professionalism,'" or "a spirit of friendly competition, courtesy, compassion and respect." Participating teams "are judged not only on how well their robot performs, but on their fundraising plans to cover team costs, community outreach and efforts to get younger pupils involved in robotics."

Legislation To Bring Computer Science Into Wyoming Schools Heads To Governor's Desk.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/13, Klamann) reports on legislation passed last week in Wyoming that "will fold computer science into the state's educational program" and make the subject "one of several areas – like math and science – that will have its own content standards, created by state educators." The measure has been sent to Gov. Matt Mead's desk for final approval.

Teacher Protests Could Stem Partly From Tax Cuts In Several States.

The Huffington Post (3/13, Jamieson) examines "the parallels between the funding crises unfolding in West Virginia and Oklahoma," which the Post attributes primarily to "a series of bipartisan tax cuts" in both states and the education funding cuts many states were forced to enact during the Great Recession. "States like Oklahoma are now dealing with the reckoning," the article explains, "as educators and other public servants revolt against shrinking budgets that have stretched their workloads and left no money for pay raises."

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OPERATIONS

Austin-Area School District Puts Finishing Touches On Two-Campus High School Project.

The AP (3/13) reports the Manor school district in Austin, Texas is putting the final touches on a new secondary school building, Manor Senior High School, that the district intends "to be the home base for juniors and seniors, leaving the old Manor High School primarily for freshmen and sophomores." The two-campus plan "is also an attempt to better engage students and give them more ownership of their studies," partly through adopting "the look and feel of a small college campus: open and collaborative work spaces, large windows and natural light, and charging stations for cellphones and laptops." The senior high section of the campus is scheduled to open in August.

DC Charter School At Risk Of Losing Operating License.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that at an emergency meeting on Monday, the DC Public Charter School Board unanimously voted "to begin the process of stripping" Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School of its operating license. A financial audit estimated that it needs "an infusion of more than $830,000 between now and the end of the fiscal year, which concludes June 30." Meanwhile, a separate report released by the charter board on Monday "declared that the school 'has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement' and said 'its expense structure is not in line with the school's revenues.'" Additionally, the school "has experienced dwindling enrollment over the past five years, accelerating its financial demise." Washington Mathematics has 15 days before it must "present a convincing plan to regulators demonstrating how it will remain financially viable." The oversight board will then hold "a final vote on whether to revoke the school's operating license."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

Education Week (3/13, Gewertz) reports a study released by Achieve on Tuesday contends that states should not use the SAT or ACT to measure high school achievement because the tests do not adequately reflect the states' academic standards or gauge students' understanding of those standards. In its paper, Achieve "also urges caution if states are considering giving individual districts the freedom to substitute a college-entrance exam for a state high school test." The paper suggests that states already using the SAT or ACT to measure statewide achievement "should consider augmenting those tests with additional or revised items to get a fuller representation of their academic standards."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas School Finance Bill Elicits Mixed Reactions.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/13) reports a bill now before the Kansas state House K-12 Education Budget Committee reflects lawmakers' attempt "to address inequalities in the state's school finance system identified by the Kansas Supreme Court." The bill, House Bill 2445, "included a collection of complex pieces of a formula for school finance, including local-option budget provisions, at-risk weightings, capital outlay expenditures and transportation earmarks." It would also "place into state law the Kansas State Board of Education's controversial

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practice of distributing transportation funding to districts" and require "agitated Kansans" to "collect signatures from 10 percent of the electorate rather than 5 percent." The measure drew "fire Tuesday from a conservative organization," the Kansas Policy Institute, "for making it harder to protest through a petition drive proposed increases in local property tax collections for public schools." Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards representatives, however, endorsed the overall measure.

Alabama's Second-Largest School Budget Advances In State Legislature.

Alabama Live (3/13) reports a proposed budget that would allocate "the second highest amount ever from Alabama's Education Trust Fund won approval in a Senate committee today, continuing a mostly smooth ride through the State House." If passed, the plan would increase ETF spending by $216 million this year; raise salaries for K-12 and two-year college employees by 2.5 percent; and spend $6.6 million in ETF funds on "public schools, colleges and other purposes next year" – the highest amount "since $6.7 billion in 2008." The latest version of the measure would also "increase funding for Alabama's voluntary prekindergarten program, called First Class, by $18 million, to $95 million." The state House, which "passed the budget by a vote of 102-0 a month ago," had approved $2 million more in prekindergarten spending. Additionally, the measure "would provide $500,000 to put mental health professionals in public schools to work with troubled students."

Supporters Rally To Support Maryland Governor's BOOST Program.

The AP (3/13, Whooley) reports that "hundreds of private school students, faculty, parents and supporters" gathered at a rally in Annapolis on Tuesday to support Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today program, also known as "BOOST." Sponsored by the Maryland Council for American Private Education, the event featured a number of speakers, including "Hogan, legislators and education administrators," all of whom touted the program that "provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools."

Education Advocates Seek District Funding Disclosures For New York Schools.

The AP (3/12) report a group of education advocates met on Wednesday with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his budget director "to discuss [Cuomo's] effort to require New York school districts to disclose how much state funding is going to individual schools." After the meeting, "the advocates told reporters they're seeking equitable funding for underperforming schools."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Families, Florida Senators Call On Congress To Pass School Safety Legislation.

USA Today (3/13, Gaudiano) reports Ryan Petty, the father of Parkland shooting victim Alaina Petty, on Tuesday called on Congress "to pass school safety legislation," quoting him saying, "I didn't get a chance that morning to say goodbye to my daughter, but I'm here today to make sure that I'm one of the last fathers that ever has to bury their daughter or son or loved one from a senseless act of violence in a school." On Wednesday, USA Today reports, the House is set to debate legislation that "would pay for threat assessments and training for students, teachers, school officials and law enforcement to detect early signs of violence. It would also fund 'anonymous reporting systems,' such as phone apps, hotlines and websites, for threats of school violence."

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) met with "members of the Parkland community" on Tuesday and "called for swift passage of a bill to address school violence.

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... The bill, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, is the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act and the House companion is up for a vote this week."

Prosecutors To Seek Death Penalty For Parkland Shooting Suspect.

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 7, 0:25, Holt) briefly reported that Florida prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to seek the death penalty against Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with killing 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 10, 0:20, Muir) said Cruz is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, and "his attorney says Cruz is still willing to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty." The Washington Post (3/13, Berman) reports Howard Finkelstein, the Broward public defender, "has said it would be wrong for Cruz to be executed when authorities missed so many red flags and warning signs preceding the shooting."

The New York Times (3/13, Blinder, Subscription Publication) says the decision to seek the death penalty against Cruz "was widely expected, in part because [state attorney for Broward County Michael J.] Satz had hinted at his plans days after the attack." The Washington Times (3/13, Persons) also briefly reports the decision.

NEA Poll: Most Teachers Oppose Arming School Staff.

Education Week (3/13) reports that according to a new NEA poll, "nearly three-quarters of educators oppose President Donald Trump's push to arm school staff, and a clear majority also say working with armed school personnel would make them feel less safe." The piece reports the results echo "the message from NEA President Lily Eskelsen García, who has blasted the Trump administration's support for states that choose to arm educators."

Baltimore Teachers Union Opposes Weapons Training For Teachers. WBFF-TV Baltimore (3/13) reports the Baltimore Teachers Union has announced its opposition to "President Trump's recent call to train and arm specially qualified school personnel, on a volunteer basis." Union President Marietta English "called on Maryland's government to take a strong stance on the idea and reject any federal funding meant for arming teachers."

Cole: Congress Will Likely Increase School Safety Funding.

The Hill (3/13, Zanona) reports that Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on labor, health and human services, and education, said Tuesday that "lawmakers will likely boost money for school safety in an upcoming government funding package." Cole "said appropriators want to increase funding for an existing grant program that is designed to prevent violence in and around schools."

Senate Democrats Seek More Funding For ESSA Mental Health Services Program.

Education Week (3/13) reports that a group of Democratic senators wants "Congress to give more money to an Every Student Succeeds Act program in order to fund more counselors, trauma-informed classroom management, and mental-health services for schools." In a letter to Senate appropriators, "the Democrats said the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants—which are a part of Title IV in ESSA—should be funded at 'the highest possible level' for fiscal 2018." Education Week notes that the plea comes as a response to the Parkland massacre.

Parkland Students Pushing Parents To Commit To Candidates "Who Put Children's Safety Over Guns."

The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports Parkland shooing survivors Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman "have started a movement asking parents to sign a contract pledging they will vote for lawmakers who put children's safety over guns." The website of the "Parent's Promise to Kids" movement "says its goal is to get parents to vote for legislators who 'believe that the safety of our children is much more important than the right to own guns.'"

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Proposed Overhaul Of DC's School Punishment Policy Advances.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that on Tuesday, the DC Council's five-member education committee "voted unanimously in favor of restricting the circumstances when a school can suspend or expel a student." The committee members "framed the disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of black students in the District as a civil rights issue," as black students enrolled in DC schools "are nearly eight times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white peers, according to city data." Specifically, the legislation would limit the use of suspensions and expulsions for students in the eighth grade or lower "to incidents of threatened or actual violence, and emotional distress." At the high school level, students "would not be suspended or expelled from school for rule infractions such as uniform violations or disrupting a class." The measure "will now move to the full 13-member council," and if approved, "the revised discipline policy would be phased in over the next three years."

Denver District Receives National Recognition For Restorative Justice Policy.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 05:29:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Students Around Country Planning Gun Violence Demonstrations Wednesday.

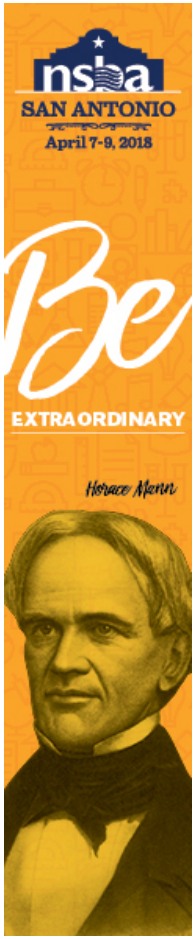
The NPR (3/13) "NPR Ed" blog reports that "students at schools across the country will walk out of their classrooms" Wednesday morning "to leave school — or at least gather in the hallway — for 17 minutes. That's one minute for each of the victims in last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla." The planned demonstrations have "raised big questions for schools about how to handle protests." National organizers say "while this walkout is meant to honor the victims in Parkland, as well as anyone who's experienced gun violence, it is also a political call to action." The article describes the dilemma of administrators caught between preventing disruptions to learning and protecting students' right to expression, and quotes National School Boards Association Chief Legal Officer Francisco Negron saying, "Schools stand in what's known as loco parentis, so we don't simply release our students into the ether." Negron "recently sent guidance to districts to help them walk this tightrope ."

TIME (3/13) reports, "Thousands of students and teachers are planning to walk out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14 as part of the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence."

Several other media outlets from around the country also cover the planned walkouts, including Chalkbeat (3/13), the Indianapolis Star (3/13), the Baltimore Sun (3/12), the Denver Post (3/13), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (3/13, Tribune-Review), the Omaha (NE) World-Herald (3/13).

Elementary Schools Grapple With School Safety Protests. The New York Times (3/13, Saul, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that fifth-grade students at Case Elementary School in Akron, Ohio "will pick up posters they drew and walk out of their classrooms, joining many thousands of other students in a nationwide protest against gun violence after the killing of 17 people in a Florida high school last month." Principal Danijile Henderson said older students had expressed a desire to hold protests, but "she drew lines

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around who could participate and how. Third through fifth graders may walk out; second graders can observe the protest, but not walk; kindergartners and first-grade students will remain in their classrooms for discussions on school safety in general that avoid the shooting itself." Districts that are open to permitting protests "are also calibrating their approach for their youngest students."

Chicago GOP To Sue District For Permitting Walkouts. The Madison (IL) Record (3/13) reports Chicago GOP Chairman Chris Cleveland said the party is "preparing to sue CPS" over plans to allow students to take part in the national walkout. The party took exception to an email from Lincoln Elementary informing parents of plans to allow students to take part in the demonstrations. Cleveland said the party "has sent a letter to CPS CEO Janice Jackson asking CPS to cancel the demonstrations, and will likely sue if they do not, Cleveland indicated."

WLS-TV Chicago (3/13) reports students in the Chicago area will be taking part in the demonstrations, and that "their message has been modified due to Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of legislation requiring gun dealers to be licensed by the state." This piece reports the Chicago GOP "is threatening a lawsuit, accusing some CPS principals of forcing students to participate." This piece quotes Cleveland saying, "This is just straight-out political indoctrination. It's wrong. School is not the place for this kind of thing."

POLITICS & POLICY

Nebraska Education Official Nominated For ED Rehabilitative Services Post.

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Education Week (3/13) reports President Trump has nominated Nebraska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Mark Schultz "to serve as commissioner of the rehabilitation services administration at the U.S. Department of Education. The RSA helps people with disabilities and others who face barriers in the workforce." The White House says Schultz "has over 35 years of experience working at the national, state, and local levels to provide services for people with disabilities."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Houston All-Girl Team Advances To FIRST Lego League World Championship.

The Houston Chronicle (3/13, Zurawski) reports the Houston-area Brainiac Maniacs, a first-year, all-girl robotics team sponsored by the Girl Scouts and Schneider Electric, is "one of only 108 teams from 45 countries advancing" to the FIRST Lego League world championship, slated to take place in April. "Ten girls ranging in age from 8 to 10 and coming from diverse backgrounds" make up the Brainiac Maniacs, and they took "the first-place championship at the South Texas regional tournament against 60 other teams." For the competition, the girls designed "a Water Wizard program to reduce lawn overwatering by combining an app and physical devices to replace sprinklers." The Brainian Maniacs presented their project to Schneider Electric, NASA, and "a global water expert who all gave feedback on how to better present their program." They are also "learning to use a 3D printer to make a device for their Water Wizard Project."

Illinois Robotics Teams Collaborate To Advance To Super-Regional Competition.

The Mundelein (IL) Review (3/15) reports that on Feb. 24, Highland Park High School's Vertigo robotics team partnered with Carmel Catholic High School's "top-ranked" Not Your Average Nerds (NYAN) and Robo Raiders, a home-schooled team, to become Illinois First Tech Challenge state champions. The alliance will now compete against six dozen teams from nine states at the "super-regional competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 15 through March 17." Participants create a robot that autonomously executes tasks using artificial intelligence technology. Engineer and varsity NYAN team coach Brian Donahoe said the competition's structure "forces teams to cooperate" and "strategize" in a manner "not unlike how engineers like myself do their real work." The program emphasizes "what's called 'gracious professionalism,'" or "a spirit of friendly competition, courtesy, compassion and respect." Participating teams "are judged not only on how well their robot performs, but on their fundraising plans to cover team costs, community outreach and efforts to get younger pupils involved in robotics."

Legislation To Bring Computer Science Into Wyoming Schools Heads To Governor's Desk.

The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/13, Klamann) reports on legislation passed last week in Wyoming that "will fold computer science into the state's educational program" and make the subject "one of several areas – like math and science – that will have its own content standards, created by state educators." The measure has been sent to Gov. Matt Mead's desk for final approval.

Teacher Protests Could Stem Partly From Tax Cuts In Several States.

The Huffington Post (3/13, Jamieson) examines "the parallels between the funding crises unfolding in West Virginia and Oklahoma," which the Post attributes primarily to "a series of bipartisan tax cuts" in both states and the education funding cuts many states were forced to enact during the Great Recession. "States like Oklahoma are now dealing with the reckoning," the article explains, "as educators and other public servants revolt against shrinking budgets that have stretched their workloads and left no money for pay raises."

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OPERATIONS

Austin-Area School District Puts Finishing Touches On Two-Campus High School Project.

The AP (3/13) reports the Manor school district in Austin, Texas is putting the final touches on a new secondary school building, Manor Senior High School, that the district intends "to be the home base for juniors and seniors, leaving the old Manor High School primarily for freshmen and sophomores." The two-campus plan "is also an attempt to better engage students and give them more ownership of their studies," partly through adopting "the look and feel of a small college campus: open and collaborative work spaces, large windows and natural light, and charging stations for cellphones and laptops." The senior high section of the campus is scheduled to open in August.

DC Charter School At Risk Of Losing Operating License.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that at an emergency meeting on Monday, the DC Public Charter School Board unanimously voted "to begin the process of stripping" Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School of its operating license. A financial audit estimated that it needs "an infusion of more than $830,000 between now and the end of the fiscal year, which concludes June 30." Meanwhile, a separate report released by the charter board on Monday "declared that the school 'has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement' and said 'its expense structure is not in line with the school's revenues.'" Additionally, the school "has experienced dwindling enrollment over the past five years, accelerating its financial demise." Washington Mathematics has 15 days before it must "present a convincing plan to regulators demonstrating how it will remain financially viable." The oversight board will then hold "a final vote on whether to revoke the school's operating license."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Study Argues States Shouldn't Use SAT, ACT To Measure High School Achievement.

Education Week (3/13, Gewertz) reports a study released by Achieve on Tuesday contends that states should not use the SAT or ACT to measure high school achievement because the tests do not adequately reflect the states' academic standards or gauge students' understanding of those standards. In its paper, Achieve "also urges caution if states are considering giving individual districts the freedom to substitute a college-entrance exam for a state high school test." The paper suggests that states already using the SAT or ACT to measure statewide achievement "should consider augmenting those tests with additional or revised items to get a fuller representation of their academic standards."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas School Finance Bill Elicits Mixed Reactions.

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/13) reports a bill now before the Kansas state House K-12 Education Budget Committee reflects lawmakers' attempt "to address inequalities in the state's school finance system identified by the Kansas Supreme Court." The bill, House Bill 2445, "included a collection of complex pieces of a formula for school finance, including local-option budget provisions, at-risk weightings, capital outlay expenditures and transportation earmarks." It would also "place into state law the Kansas State Board of Education's controversial

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practice of distributing transportation funding to districts" and require "agitated Kansans" to "collect signatures from 10 percent of the electorate rather than 5 percent." The measure drew "fire Tuesday from a conservative organization," the Kansas Policy Institute, "for making it harder to protest through a petition drive proposed increases in local property tax collections for public schools." Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards representatives, however, endorsed the overall measure.

Alabama's Second-Largest School Budget Advances In State Legislature.

Alabama Live (3/13) reports a proposed budget that would allocate "the second highest amount ever from Alabama's Education Trust Fund won approval in a Senate committee today, continuing a mostly smooth ride through the State House." If passed, the plan would increase ETF spending by $216 million this year; raise salaries for K-12 and two-year college employees by 2.5 percent; and spend $6.6 million in ETF funds on "public schools, colleges and other purposes next year" – the highest amount "since $6.7 billion in 2008." The latest version of the measure would also "increase funding for Alabama's voluntary prekindergarten program, called First Class, by $18 million, to $95 million." The state House, which "passed the budget by a vote of 102-0 a month ago," had approved $2 million more in prekindergarten spending. Additionally, the measure "would provide $500,000 to put mental health professionals in public schools to work with troubled students."

Supporters Rally To Support Maryland Governor's BOOST Program.

The AP (3/13, Whooley) reports that "hundreds of private school students, faculty, parents and supporters" gathered at a rally in Annapolis on Tuesday to support Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today program, also known as "BOOST." Sponsored by the Maryland Council for American Private Education, the event featured a number of speakers, including "Hogan, legislators and education administrators," all of whom touted the program that "provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools."

Education Advocates Seek District Funding Disclosures For New York Schools.

The AP (3/12) report a group of education advocates met on Wednesday with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his budget director "to discuss [Cuomo's] effort to require New York school districts to disclose how much state funding is going to individual schools." After the meeting, "the advocates told reporters they're seeking equitable funding for underperforming schools."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Parkland Families, Florida Senators Call On Congress To Pass School Safety Legislation.

USA Today (3/13, Gaudiano) reports Ryan Petty, the father of Parkland shooting victim Alaina Petty, on Tuesday called on Congress "to pass school safety legislation," quoting him saying, "I didn't get a chance that morning to say goodbye to my daughter, but I'm here today to make sure that I'm one of the last fathers that ever has to bury their daughter or son or loved one from a senseless act of violence in a school." On Wednesday, USA Today reports, the House is set to debate legislation that "would pay for threat assessments and training for students, teachers, school officials and law enforcement to detect early signs of violence. It would also fund 'anonymous reporting systems,' such as phone apps, hotlines and websites, for threats of school violence."

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/13) reports Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) met with "members of the Parkland community" on Tuesday and "called for swift passage of a bill to address school violence.

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... The bill, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, is the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act and the House companion is up for a vote this week."

Prosecutors To Seek Death Penalty For Parkland Shooting Suspect.

NBC Nightly News (3/13, story 7, 0:25, Holt) briefly reported that Florida prosecutors said Tuesday they plan to seek the death penalty against Nikolas Cruz, who has been charged with killing 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. ABC World News Tonight (3/13, story 10, 0:20, Muir) said Cruz is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, and "his attorney says Cruz is still willing to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty." The Washington Post (3/13, Berman) reports Howard Finkelstein, the Broward public defender, "has said it would be wrong for Cruz to be executed when authorities missed so many red flags and warning signs preceding the shooting."

The New York Times (3/13, Blinder, Subscription Publication) says the decision to seek the death penalty against Cruz "was widely expected, in part because [state attorney for Broward County Michael J.] Satz had hinted at his plans days after the attack." The Washington Times (3/13, Persons) also briefly reports the decision.

NEA Poll: Most Teachers Oppose Arming School Staff.

Education Week (3/13) reports that according to a new NEA poll, "nearly three-quarters of educators oppose President Donald Trump's push to arm school staff, and a clear majority also say working with armed school personnel would make them feel less safe." The piece reports the results echo "the message from NEA President Lily Eskelsen García, who has blasted the Trump administration's support for states that choose to arm educators."

Baltimore Teachers Union Opposes Weapons Training For Teachers. WBFF-TV Baltimore (3/13) reports the Baltimore Teachers Union has announced its opposition to "President Trump's recent call to train and arm specially qualified school personnel, on a volunteer basis." Union President Marietta English "called on Maryland's government to take a strong stance on the idea and reject any federal funding meant for arming teachers."

Cole: Congress Will Likely Increase School Safety Funding.

The Hill (3/13, Zanona) reports that Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on labor, health and human services, and education, said Tuesday that "lawmakers will likely boost money for school safety in an upcoming government funding package." Cole "said appropriators want to increase funding for an existing grant program that is designed to prevent violence in and around schools."

Senate Democrats Seek More Funding For ESSA Mental Health Services Program.

Education Week (3/13) reports that a group of Democratic senators wants "Congress to give more money to an Every Student Succeeds Act program in order to fund more counselors, trauma-informed classroom management, and mental-health services for schools." In a letter to Senate appropriators, "the Democrats said the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants—which are a part of Title IV in ESSA—should be funded at 'the highest possible level' for fiscal 2018." Education Week notes that the plea comes as a response to the Parkland massacre.

Parkland Students Pushing Parents To Commit To Candidates "Who Put Children's Safety Over Guns."

The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports Parkland shooing survivors Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman "have started a movement asking parents to sign a contract pledging they will vote for lawmakers who put children's safety over guns." The website of the "Parent's Promise to Kids" movement "says its goal is to get parents to vote for legislators who 'believe that the safety of our children is much more important than the right to own guns.'"

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Proposed Overhaul Of DC's School Punishment Policy Advances.

The Washington Post (3/13, Stein) reports that on Tuesday, the DC Council's five-member education committee "voted unanimously in favor of restricting the circumstances when a school can suspend or expel a student." The committee members "framed the disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of black students in the District as a civil rights issue," as black students enrolled in DC schools "are nearly eight times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their white peers, according to city data." Specifically, the legislation would limit the use of suspensions and expulsions for students in the eighth grade or lower "to incidents of threatened or actual violence, and emotional distress." At the high school level, students "would not be suspended or expelled from school for rule infractions such as uniform violations or disrupting a class." The measure "will now move to the full 13-member council," and if approved, "the revised discipline policy would be phased in over the next three years."

Denver District Receives National Recognition For Restorative Justice Policy.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Asmar) reports Denver Public Schools "began dabbling in restorative justice more than a decade ago" by launching a pilot program at three schools. The district has since incorporated the approach into its discipline code, and DPS officials "said more than 40 percent of Denver's 207 schools have staff dedicated to restorative justice." Notably, DPS "has seen its number of suspensions drop even as its enrollment has grown." The three schools that piloted the approach are now "serving as national examples of restorative justice." With funding from a three-year National Education Association grant, DPS partnered with the Advancement Project to arrange visits for teachers and community members aimed at promoting restorative justice. Chalkbeat says many teachers unions do not support the approach, as some teachers are concerned it "will leave them without enough tools to deal with unruly students and might even make classrooms less safe."

Study Suggests Modest Suspension Rate Drop Yields Small Attendance, Academic Gains.

Chalkbeat (3/13, Barnum) reports the peer-reviewed Peabody Journal of Education published a study conducted by Lauren Sartain of the University of Chicago and Rebecca Hinze-Pifer of Stanford University that "found that a modest drop in suspensions for high-level offenses actually led to small increases in test scores and attendance for all students in a school." According to Chalkbeat, the research "bolsters the case of discipline reformers who argue that school suspensions are ineffective and disproportionately target students of color." Sartain and Hinze-Pifer focused their research on Chicago Public Schools, which "began working to reduce suspensions and other kinds of discipline that pull students out of their classrooms in 2008." The researchers wrote, "Reducing suspension use for severe infractions seems consistent with a set of generally positive but small impacts," although there was "no indication students overall experience schools as less safe when suspension use for severe infractions declines."

Pennsylvania Bill Would Fine Parents For Student Bullying Incidents.

The Washington Post (3/13, Phillips) reports Pennsylvania state Rep. Frank Burns "plans to propose legislation that would require parents to pay up to $750 if their child is a habitual bully and require school officials to notify parents each time their child bullies another student." The bill "would not immediately impose the stiff penalty," but instead require school officials "to take some type of action" when "a child bullies for the first time," and parenting classes if the student bullies a second time. After a third incident, a judge would "determine whether there's enough evidence to fine the parents and issue a court order forcing them to pay $500," and "$750 for each offense thereafter, Burns said." The measure "also covers cyberbullying, which is considered a crime in Pennsylvania." Before Burns announced his plans, his "office said he has visited classrooms throughout his district, located east of Pittsburgh, to talk about bullying and urge students to sign an anti-bullying pledge."

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In a statement, Burns wrote, “Bullying is underreported and often unaddressed in a meaningful way. When it’s not addressed, bullying can escalate quickly from taunts and hurtful online posts to physical assaults and – in worst cases – suicide,” The Hill (3/13, Savransky) reports. Burns added, “Holding students, parents and officials at all levels accountable is the only way to put an end to this scourge.” Last month, Florida state lawmakers “weighed a proposal that would allow children who have been bullied to receive a state-funded voucher to attend private school.” Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a version of the bill into law on Sunday. The Hill notes that in a 2011 survey, the National Center for Education Statistics found “about 28 percent of the students surveyed said they had been bullied.”

Virginia Middle School Resource Officer Accidentally Fires Gun At School.

The AP (3/13) reports a school resource officer at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia “accidentally fired his gun while on assignment” on Tuesday. “No one was injured.” Newsweek (3/13, Tennent) reports the officer “has been placed on administrative leave.” The five-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department “immediately checked to make sure no one was injured, and then contacted his supervisor and school staff, police added. Classes continued as normal.”

California Teacher Accidentally Fires Gun During Public Safety Lesson.

USA Today (3/13, Szydlowski) reports a teacher at Seaside High School in Salinas, California “accidentally fired a gun Tuesday during a class about public safety.” No one was injured and classes “resumed shortly after the incident.” The article notes that the teacher, Dennis Alexander, “also serves as a reserve police officer for the Sand City police and is a Seaside city councilman.”

Michigan Sheriff Accidentally Left Gun In Middle School Gym Locker.

The AP (3/13) reports Isabella County, Michigan Sheriff Michael Main “apologized Tuesday for accidentally leaving his backup gun in a Michigan school gym locker room,” saying “his mistake is inexcusable.” Main had changed into his uniform for an event at the school and “said he believed the gun – his backup weapon – was in his bag when he left. A student later found the gun and told an adult, according to Main.”

Alabama House Votes To Resurrect School Safety Panel.

The AP (3/13) reports the Alabama state House voted Tuesday to reinstate a school safety task force originally established in 2016 in response to the Parkland massacre. However, Democrats in the legislature “said a task force isn’t strong enough action on gun control and mental health.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

DC Special Education Analyst Pleads Guilty To Bribery Scheme.

The Washington Post (3/13, Hsu) reports that a Washington, DC special education analyst pleaded guilty on Tuesday “to plotting with others to steer more than $480,000 in tax dollars to two business owners in the District and Maryland for work that was never done in exchange for bribes.” Shauntell Harley, 48, “a management analyst for fiscal policy and grant management in the office of the D.C. State Superintendent of Education, agreed to repay $488,000 to the school agency and to a $100,000 forfeiture judgment in entering her guilty plea to two counts of conspiracy to commit bribery.” Prosecutors said the investigation is ongoing. The charges “carry a maximum penalty of five years, but in a plea deal Harley agreed she would face a recommended prison term of between 70 and 87 months under federal

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guidelines at sentencing June 7 before U.S. District Judge Randolph D. Moss of the District."

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- **NASBE, CCSSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.**
- **New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.**
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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 05:06:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Victoria Gonzales" <victoria.gonzales@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:13:21 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:08:42 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Sharla Autry" <sharla.autry@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:09:12 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:10:38 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Paula Spencer" <paula.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:06:32 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Amy Hollis" <amy.hollis@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 05:36:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, April 23, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (4/20, Lang, Heim, Rozsa) reports "several hundred students left their schools Friday morning and staged a vigil outside the White House" as part of nationwide walkouts "calling for an end to gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the school shooting in Columbine, Colo., an event that marked the start of an era of deadly school rampages." The Post adds the walkouts "signaled the resolve of students who continue to demand action on gun control measures and to remember victims of school shootings, including the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida." However, the Post says "the events Friday were more muted, missing some of the adrenaline and exuberance that had propelled hundreds of thousands of students through the previous protests."

NBC Nightly News' (4/20, story 5, 1:55, Holt) Gabe Gutierrez said "from Atlanta to Philadelphia to Chicago," students engaged in "another wave of powerful protests," which the Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hobbs, Brody, Subscription Publication) says also included demonstrations in New York City.

The New York Times (4/20, Times, Subscription Publication) says that the rallies were "the third nationally organized student protest in the two months" since the Parkland shooting, but on the CBS Evening News (4/20, story 5, 2:05, Glor), Jericka Duncan acknowledged Florida and Vermont are the only states that "strengthened gun legislation" since February, and "at the federal level, not much has changed."

Meanwhile, ABC World News Tonight's (4/20, story 4, 1:35, Muir) Steve Osunsami reported "students at Forest High School in Central Florida were just about to join their peers across the country walking out of school to protest

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gun violence, when the issue hit home. Just after 8:30 a.m. police say that 19-year-old Sky Bouche, who didn't attend classes here, managed to get into the main building with a gun and opened fire on a 17-year-old student." Osunsami added "police report that the student who was shot did not suffer any life-threatening wounds." The Washington Post (4/20, Wootson) reports Sheriff Billy Woods "said the shooter – a 19-year-old who was not a student – was taken into custody and "offered no resistance" to responding officers. Investigators haven't released the man's identity or given details about his suspected motive."

Broward Deputies To Hold "No Confidence" Vote In Sheriff Next Week Over Parkland Shooting. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/20, O'Matz) reports "upset with Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, members of a union of rank-and-file deputies will vote electronically over the next week on whether they have faith in his leadership." According to the Sun Sentinel, "the so-called 'no confidence' vote, slated to begin tonight, is a first for the office."

After Parkland, Gun Control Advocates Embrace Voter Registration In Bid To Enact Policy Changes. The Washington Post (4/21, Zezima) reports "the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February sparked a renewed interest in gun control," and leaders of the movement are now "hoping the momentum from the March for Our Lives movement will lead to a more enduring next phase: getting young people to the voting booth in November, an effort to change not just policy in Washington, but the people who set it." The Post says groups nationwide have begun "hosting voter drives at high schools and colleges, including during widespread school walkouts on Friday, the anniversary of the 1999 massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School."

Texas Sixth-Grader Struck, Killed By Car During Gun Violence Walkout. The Dallas Morning News (4/22, Branham) reports an 11-year-old Texas sixth-grader "was hit by a car and killed when he attempted to walk across a highway" after leaving school "during national student walkouts Friday." The student "was struck while leaving Parkland Middle School in El Paso during the walkout, but he was not participating in it, Ysleta Independent School District Superintendent Xavier De La Torre said at a news conference."

El Paso (TX) Times (4/21, Borunda) reports that De La Torre "said the boy was with a group of about 12 to 15 students who used the National School Walkout as a way to leave Parkland Middle to go to a park."

Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.

The AP (4/21) reports Great Hearts Monte Vista, a charter school San Antonio, "apologized after a teacher asked students in an eighth grade American history class to list the positive and negative aspects of slavery." According to the AP, the teacher "who distributed the worksheet titled 'The Life of Slaves: A Balanced View' was placed on leave and the school said it would audit the textbook associated with the lesson, said Aaron Kindel, the superintendent of Great Hearts Texas, which operates 28 public charter schools in Texas and Arizona." In a statement, Kindel said, "To be clear, there is no debate about slavery. It is immoral and a crime against humanity." The AP adds that "Scott Overland, a spokesman for Pearson, which published the textbook, said the company didn't create and doesn't endorse the worksheet assigned to the students, KENS-TV reported."

Commentary Urges Retired STEM Professionals To Go Into Teaching.

In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (4/22, Subscription Publication), Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Encore.org and chairman of the Generation to Generation campaign, writes about Now Teach, a program started by British business columnist Lucy Kellaway, who retired to go into teaching math. In the US, Hollywood film executive Sherry Lansing has founded the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, which recruits experienced STEM professionals to teach in California schools. Freedman praises the concept of STEM professionals teaching.

Ohio Program Encourages Teachers To Help Students Learn To Avoid Opioid Abuse.

The Washington Post (4/20, Schaaff) reports a "controversial" Ohio plan "is taking the fight against the opioid

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epidemic into the classroom with a new style of drug-abuse-prevention education." The plan "features lessons that begin in kindergarten. Instead of relying on scare tactics about drug use or campaigns that recite facts about drugs' toll on the body, teachers are encouraged to discuss real-life situations and ways to deal with them and to build the social and emotional skills that experts say can reduce the risk of substance abuse."

FIRST World Championship Highlights Robotics Program's Growing Popularity In Michigan.

Under the headline "The Robots Are Coming – Really," Crain's Detroit Business (4/22, Livengood) reports "more than 35,000 students, parents and team coaches" will convene Wednesday "at Ford Field and Cobo Center" in Detroit for the FIRST Robotics World Championship. The event "has turned robot-building into a team sport in high schools across Michigan," and this week's event "and spotlight on Detroit underscores the growing popularity of an extracurricular activity seen by many potential employers as a critical way to expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math." The FIRST program "has created a pipeline of young talent that companies like DTE, General Motors Co. and Magna Seating have been tapping in recent years for engineering, problem-solving, teamwork and communications skills."

Omaha-Area Coding Camp Seeks To Inspire Girls To Pursue STEM.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (4/21) reported that on Saturday, ACI Worldwide hosted its fourth annual Coding for Girls Camp for Omaha-area middle school girls. In remarks to "a room full of 17 young girls," ACI Worldwide senior vice president Shelly Ahlers "talked about her experiences as a woman in a technological career" and "discussed how her computer science experience landed her a job at ACI right out of college." ACI Worldwide senior recruiter Sampy Gajre "said she hopes that coding camps can start to change those numbers by inspiring young girls to see themselves as coders and future technological leaders." Gajre explained, "We hope to catch them early on, before they build any stereotypes about (science, technology, engineering and math-related) fields."

Summer Course Aims To Address Iowa's Construction Workforce Shortage.

The AP (4/22) reports the Home Builders Association is hoping to mitigate the impact of Iowa's construction worker shortage by "reviving what used to be an annual activity in Iowa City Community School District: building a house with students." HBA partnered "with Kirkwood Community College to offer a summer course where students help construct a house," and "HBA members have also committed to funding the cost for students in ICCSD who want to take the class and get the college credit." Participating students "will shadow McCreedy Ruth Construction while building a group home with Reach for Your Potential, a nonprofit that provides homes for adults with disabilities." ICCSD board member Phil Hemingway, "who pushed for the program," said that a similar program that ended over funding concerns "was considered a model program for home-building in high schools across the state." Amid an agricultural worker shortage, he successfully advocated for agricultural education courses that will allow students to participate in FFA.

North Dakota State University "Cyber-Range" Class Profiled.

The AP (4/21) profiled Terry Traylor, "a major in the U.S. Marine Corps" who teaches "at North Dakota State University in Fargo as an unpaid volunteer with the NDSU Institute for Cyber Security Education and Research." Traylor is "excited to bring some of the skills honed in the military to an academic setting where he works with associate professor Jeremy Straub to blend knowledge and know how." He explained, "Normally to get this type of training you have to go to one of the military's post-graduate schools." The AP says Traylor's classroom is not typical, "it's a cyber-range, a place where students can attack computer networks and fend off attacks from hackers in a controlled environment." A growing number of American universities, including Metropolitan State University,

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“are building these cyber-rangers.” MSU is the first university in Minnesota to offer a cyber-range, and it “is also developing MN Cyber, a place where professionals can get top-level cybersecurity training.”

Higher Education Expert: Workforce Needs More Graduates With Communications Skills, Not STEM Skills.

In a piece for the Washington Post (4/20, Selingo), higher education author Jeffrey J. Selingo acknowledged the need for college graduates with degrees in “software programming or artificial intelligence, or anything to do with the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math).” While those “skills are still desired by employers,” Selingo wrote, “a skill far more in demand is the ability to communicate.” A LinkedIn analysis, for example, “found a shortage of 1.4 million people with communications skills compared with a deficit of 472,000 with software development skills.” Still, Selingo argued, the American “education system – especially beginning in middle and high schools when teaching to the test tends to crowd out the project-based and play-based learning of elementary schools – rarely emphasizes development of the soft skills.”

AP Analysis: Mississippi Task Force To Determine Purpose Of Standardized Testing.

An AP (4/22) analysis says “a new testing task force that Mississippi state Superintendent Carey Wright announced last week” will determine “how many and what kinds of tests students are taking at the state and district levels, recommend ways to ‘streamline’ testing and recommend best practices.” The AP says that state “leaders might do well to first question what those tests are supposed to accomplish,” like “how a school or district is doing corporately, how a student is doing,” or something else. A recent Mississippi First study found “students in some low-performing schools may spend so much time getting ready for high-stakes state tests that teachers don’t teach new material for a significant portion of the school year.” Meanwhile, state Rep. Tom Miles is leading efforts to replace standardized high school tests with the ACT exam, which opponents say would not “measure what Mississippi students are required to learn, especially in history and biology.”

Arizona Teachers To Go On Strike Next Week.

The Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports Arizona educators voted late Thursday to go on strike next week. They are demanding a 20 percent pay raise and an increase in state education funding. The New York Times (4/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) says that “the spread of the protests to Arizona from West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky, all Republican-dominated states with weak public sector unions, signaled the depth of frustration from teachers and parents over years of education budget cuts.” The Times adds “the vote in Arizona followed weeks of protest across the state and promises from the governor to raise salaries.”

Study: No Link Between Arizona District Administrative Spending, Teacher Pay.

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Sent Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 05:36:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, April 23, 2018

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Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.

The Washington Post (4/20, Lang, Heim, Rozsa) reports "several hundred students left their schools Friday morning and staged a vigil outside the White House" as part of nationwide walkouts "calling for an end to gun violence on the 19th anniversary of the school shooting in Columbine, Colo., an event that marked the start of an era of deadly school rampages." The Post adds the walkouts "signaled the resolve of students who continue to demand action on gun control measures and to remember victims of school shootings, including the 17 killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Florida." However, the Post says "the events Friday were more muted, missing some of the adrenaline and exuberance that had propelled hundreds of thousands of students through the previous protests."

NBC Nightly News' (4/20, story 5, 1:55, Holt) Gabe Gutierrez said "from Atlanta to Philadelphia to Chicago," students engaged in "another wave of powerful protests," which the Wall Street Journal (4/20, Hobbs, Brody, Subscription Publication) says also included demonstrations in New York City.

The New York Times (4/20, Times, Subscription Publication) says that the rallies were "the third nationally organized student protest in the two months" since the Parkland shooting, but on the CBS Evening News (4/20, story 5, 2:05, Glor), Jericka Duncan acknowledged Florida and Vermont are the only states that "strengthened gun legislation" since February, and "at the federal level, not much has changed."

Meanwhile, ABC World News Tonight's (4/20, story 4, 1:35, Muir) Steve Osunsami reported "students at Forest High School in Central Florida were just about to join their peers across the country walking out of school to protest

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gun violence, when the issue hit home. Just after 8:30 a.m. police say that 19-year-old Sky Bouche, who didn't attend classes here, managed to get into the main building with a gun and opened fire on a 17-year-old student." Osunsami added "police report that the student who was shot did not suffer any life-threatening wounds." The Washington Post (4/20, Wootson) reports Sheriff Billy Woods "said the shooter – a 19-year-old who was not a student – was taken into custody and "offered no resistance" to responding officers. Investigators haven't released the man's identity or given details about his suspected motive."

Broward Deputies To Hold "No Confidence" Vote In Sheriff Next Week Over Parkland Shooting. The South Florida Sun Sentinel (4/20, O'Matz) reports "upset with Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel, members of a union of rank-and-file deputies will vote electronically over the next week on whether they have faith in his leadership." According to the Sun Sentinel, "the so-called 'no confidence' vote, slated to begin tonight, is a first for the office."

After Parkland, Gun Control Advocates Embrace Voter Registration In Bid To Enact Policy Changes. The Washington Post (4/21, Zezima) reports "the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February sparked a renewed interest in gun control," and leaders of the movement are now "hoping the momentum from the March for Our Lives movement will lead to a more enduring next phase: getting young people to the voting booth in November, an effort to change not just policy in Washington, but the people who set it." The Post says groups nationwide have begun "hosting voter drives at high schools and colleges, including during widespread school walkouts on Friday, the anniversary of the 1999 massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School."

Texas Sixth-Grader Struck, Killed By Car During Gun Violence Walkout. The Dallas Morning News (4/22, Branham) reports an 11-year-old Texas sixth-grader "was hit by a car and killed when he attempted to walk across a highway" after leaving school "during national student walkouts Friday." The student "was struck while leaving Parkland Middle School in El Paso during the walkout, but he was not participating in it, Ysleta Independent School District Superintendent Xavier De La Torre said at a news conference."

El Paso (TX) Times (4/21, Borunda) reports that De La Torre "said the boy was with a group of about 12 to 15 students who used the National School Walkout as a way to leave Parkland Middle to go to a park."

Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.

The AP (4/21) reports Great Hearts Monte Vista, a charter school San Antonio, "apologized after a teacher asked students in an eighth grade American history class to list the positive and negative aspects of slavery." According to the AP, the teacher "who distributed the worksheet titled 'The Life of Slaves: A Balanced View' was placed on leave and the school said it would audit the textbook associated with the lesson, said Aaron Kindel, the superintendent of Great Hearts Texas, which operates 28 public charter schools in Texas and Arizona." In a statement, Kindel said, "To be clear, there is no debate about slavery. It is immoral and a crime against humanity." The AP adds that "Scott Overland, a spokesman for Pearson, which published the textbook, said the company didn't create and doesn't endorse the worksheet assigned to the students, KENS-TV reported."

Commentary Urges Retired STEM Professionals To Go Into Teaching.

In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal (4/22, Subscription Publication), Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Encore.org and chairman of the Generation to Generation campaign, writes about Now Teach, a program started by British business columnist Lucy Kellaway, who retired to go into teaching math. In the US, Hollywood film executive Sherry Lansing has founded the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, which recruits experienced STEM professionals to teach in California schools. Freedman praises the concept of STEM professionals teaching.

Ohio Program Encourages Teachers To Help Students Learn To Avoid Opioid Abuse.

The Washington Post (4/20, Schaaff) reports a "controversial" Ohio plan "is taking the fight against the opioid

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epidemic into the classroom with a new style of drug-abuse-prevention education." The plan "features lessons that begin in kindergarten. Instead of relying on scare tactics about drug use or campaigns that recite facts about drugs' toll on the body, teachers are encouraged to discuss real-life situations and ways to deal with them and to build the social and emotional skills that experts say can reduce the risk of substance abuse."

FIRST World Championship Highlights Robotics Program's Growing Popularity In Michigan.

Under the headline "The Robots Are Coming – Really," Crain's Detroit Business (4/22, Livengood) reports "more than 35,000 students, parents and team coaches" will convene Wednesday "at Ford Field and Cobo Center" in Detroit for the FIRST Robotics World Championship. The event "has turned robot-building into a team sport in high schools across Michigan," and this week's event "and spotlight on Detroit underscores the growing popularity of an extracurricular activity seen by many potential employers as a critical way to expose students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math." The FIRST program "has created a pipeline of young talent that companies like DTE, General Motors Co. and Magna Seating have been tapping in recent years for engineering, problem-solving, teamwork and communications skills."

Omaha-Area Coding Camp Seeks To Inspire Girls To Pursue STEM.

The Omaha (NE) World-Herald (4/21) reported that on Saturday, ACI Worldwide hosted its fourth annual Coding for Girls Camp for Omaha-area middle school girls. In remarks to "a room full of 17 young girls," ACI Worldwide senior vice president Shelly Ahlers "talked about her experiences as a woman in a technological career" and "discussed how her computer science experience landed her a job at ACI right out of college." ACI Worldwide senior recruiter Sampy Gajre "said she hopes that coding camps can start to change those numbers by inspiring young girls to see themselves as coders and future technological leaders." Gajre explained, "We hope to catch them early on, before they build any stereotypes about (science, technology, engineering and math-related) fields."

Summer Course Aims To Address Iowa's Construction Workforce Shortage.

The AP (4/22) reports the Home Builders Association is hoping to mitigate the impact of Iowa's construction worker shortage by "reviving what used to be an annual activity in Iowa City Community School District: building a house with students." HBA partnered "with Kirkwood Community College to offer a summer course where students help construct a house," and "HBA members have also committed to funding the cost for students in ICCSD who want to take the class and get the college credit." Participating students "will shadow McCreedy Ruth Construction while building a group home with Reach for Your Potential, a nonprofit that provides homes for adults with disabilities." ICCSD board member Phil Hemingway, "who pushed for the program," said that a similar program that ended over funding concerns "was considered a model program for home-building in high schools across the state." Amid an agricultural worker shortage, he successfully advocated for agricultural education courses that will allow students to participate in FFA.

North Dakota State University "Cyber-Range" Class Profiled.

The AP (4/21) profiled Terry Traylor, "a major in the U.S. Marine Corps" who teaches "at North Dakota State University in Fargo as an unpaid volunteer with the NDSU Institute for Cyber Security Education and Research." Traylor is "excited to bring some of the skills honed in the military to an academic setting where he works with associate professor Jeremy Straub to blend knowledge and know how." He explained, "Normally to get this type of training you have to go to one of the military's post-graduate schools." The AP says Traylor's classroom is not typical, "it's a cyber-range, a place where students can attack computer networks and fend off attacks from hackers in a controlled environment." A growing number of American universities, including Metropolitan State University,

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“are building these cyber-rangers.” MSU is the first university in Minnesota to offer a cyber-range, and it “is also developing MN Cyber, a place where professionals can get top-level cybersecurity training.”

Higher Education Expert: Workforce Needs More Graduates With Communications Skills, Not STEM Skills.

In a piece for the Washington Post (4/20, Selingo), higher education author Jeffrey J. Selingo acknowledged the need for college graduates with degrees in “software programming or artificial intelligence, or anything to do with the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math).” While those “skills are still desired by employers,” Selingo wrote, “a skill far more in demand is the ability to communicate.” A LinkedIn analysis, for example, “found a shortage of 1.4 million people with communications skills compared with a deficit of 472,000 with software development skills.” Still, Selingo argued, the American “education system – especially beginning in middle and high schools when teaching to the test tends to crowd out the project-based and play-based learning of elementary schools – rarely emphasizes development of the soft skills.”

AP Analysis: Mississippi Task Force To Determine Purpose Of Standardized Testing.

An AP (4/22) analysis says “a new testing task force that Mississippi state Superintendent Carey Wright announced last week” will determine “how many and what kinds of tests students are taking at the state and district levels, recommend ways to ‘streamline’ testing and recommend best practices.” The AP says that state “leaders might do well to first question what those tests are supposed to accomplish,” like “how a school or district is doing corporately, how a student is doing,” or something else. A recent Mississippi First study found “students in some low-performing schools may spend so much time getting ready for high-stakes state tests that teachers don’t teach new material for a significant portion of the school year.” Meanwhile, state Rep. Tom Miles is leading efforts to replace standardized high school tests with the ACT exam, which opponents say would not “measure what Mississippi students are required to learn, especially in history and biology.”

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:09:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Victoria Gonzales" <victoria.gonzales@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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March 23, 2018

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:15:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Sharla Autry" <sharla.autry@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:04:52 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Mandy Morgan" <mandy.morgan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:08:36 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Paula Spencer" <paula.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:12:26 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Amy Hollis" <amy.hollis@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:16:58 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Louriz H.Soto" <louri.soto@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:11:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Traci Burns" <traci.burns@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 06:10:33 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "teresa naggs" <teresa.naggs@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 05:17:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students vote on proposed gun laws; More LGBTQ representation in film; Nylon important for Mars landing
To: "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Mar 2018 07:19:11 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Tell Amazon: Stop spreading the NRA's hate
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Tell streaming services: Dump NRATV

The petition to Amazon, Apple, Google and Roku reads:
"The NRA is a dangerous extremist group, and NRATV is one of the main ways it spreads its hateful rhetoric. Stop providing NRATV on your platform."

Add your name:

Sign the petition▸

Dear Landreth,



NRATV is the gun lobby's propaganda arm. **It spreads dangerous misinformation and inflammatory, racist rhetoric to further the NRA's "guns everywhere" agenda.** And it's brought to you by Apple, Amazon, Google and Roku, that help amplify the NRA's extremist voice by offering NRATV on their platforms.

Since the Parkland shooting, thanks to activism from CREDO members and people all over the country, the NRA has been under relentless attack. Polling after the Parkland shooting showed record high support for gun control as well as a growing belief that the NRA's policies are bad for the country. [1] Corporations are abandoning their NRA partnerships in droves.[2]

Now is the time to go after the NRA from every angle. That's why we are joining with our friends at Everytown for Gun Safety to increase the pressure on NRATV providers. The more of us who raise our voices, the stronger our pressure will be.

Tell Apple, Amazon, Google and Roku: Dump NRATV. Click here to sign the petition.

NRATV promotes dangerous conspiracy theories, racially charged rhetoric and violent demonization of the NRA's political opponents.[3] Their hosts and guests have recently compared their political opponents to Nazis and ISIS, seemed to advocate for violence against peaceful protesters, demonized the Black Lives Matter movement and relentlessly attacked the media. After Parkland, NRATV hosts and guests "spoke chillingly of leftist plots to confiscate weapons, media conspiracies to brainwash Americans into supporting gun control and a "deep state" campaign to undermine President Trump." [4]

There is no question that the NRA is to blame for our country's gun violence epidemic. There is also no question that our activism is closing the gap between their power and ours. **Part of our power is consumer power, and now is the time to use it.**

Streaming services like Apple, Amazon, Google and Roku need to know that we expect them to make ethical decisions about the content they provide on their platforms. They also need to get the message loud and clear that we will hold them accountable if they continue to promote the dangerous extremism that comes from NRATV. **Click the link below to tell Apple, Amazon, Google and Roku: Dump NRATV:**

https://act.credoaction.com/sign/dump_NRATV?t=7&akid=27801%2E12772310%2E0UtybD

Thanks for helping us stand up to the NRA,

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Heidi Hess, Co-Director
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References:

1. Quinnipiac Poll, "U.S. Support For Gun Control Tops 2-1, Highest Ever, Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; Let Dreamers Stay, 80 Percent Of Voters Say," Feb. 20, 2018
2. Kira Lerner and Josh Israel, "The NRA is being supported by these companies," ThinkProgress, Feb. 20, 2018
3. Cydney Hargis, "A guide to NRATV: NRA's news outlet is a hybrid of Breitbart and Infowars," Media Matters, Mar. 2, 2018.
4. Jeremy W. Peters and Katie Benner, "Where the N.R.A. Speaks First and Loudest," The New York Times, Feb. 21, 2018

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From: "Heidi Hess, CREDO Action" <act@credoaction.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 07:45:57 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Tell Amazon: Stop spreading the NRA's hate
To: "Landreth Patrice" <patrice.landreth@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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3. Cydney Hargis, "A guide to NRATV: NRA's news outlet is a hybrid of Breitbart and Infowars," Media Matters, Mar. 2, 2018.
4. Jeremy W. Peters and Katie Benner, "Where the N.R.A. Speaks First and Loudest," The New York Times, Feb. 21, 2018

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 05:27:52 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

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Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.

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Washington Marine Biology-Centered School Profiled.

The Seattle Times (3/19) profiles the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA), a public school in Washington where the "subject of marine ecology forms the overarching theme of nearly every lesson, even in classes on writing, math and history." ORCA is funded almost entirely by Running Start, "the 25-year-old state program that allows high-school students to take an unlimited number of community-college classes for free." The school "is not like any other school in Washington, or possibly the nation," even though founder Ardi Kveven "wishes somebody would steal the ORCA idea." Despite pitching to model "over and over again, to educators from coast to coast, no one has taken up her challenge." Notably, the 47 students who graduated from ORCA last year "netted $400,000 in college scholarships." Since ORCA "was founded in 2004 with early help from a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates

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Foundation, 425 students have graduated." About 95 percent "have gone on to a four-year university," with roughly two-thirds pursuing STEM majors.

Hawaii State Lawmakers Consider Standardized Test Reduction Bill.

On its website, KGMB-TV Honolulu (3/19) reports Hawaii state lawmakers are considering a bill that would limit "the number of standardized tests each student can be administered to just four a year, the Federal minimum" under the Every Student Succeeds Act. It "would also allow schools to apply for additional standardized testing waivers with the Hawaii Board of Education, which would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis," and grant time exemptions to eligible students with special needs. In testimony to the state legislature, Hawaii State Teacher Association president Corey Rosenlee "expressed strong support for the measure, citing the distinct variation in the number of standardized tests taken by students in each district." Rosenlee said that "most countries that outperform the United States on international exams test students only three times during their school careers." State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto, however, "dissented from Rosenlee's view about the measure, saying that the bill 'is not necessary at this time.'"

Teachers In Other States Ramp Up Activism In Wake Of West Virginia Strike.

Education Week (3/21) reports that the West Virginia teacher strike "begs the question for policymakers and K-12 leaders in other states: Could this happen here?" The piece reports that "newly emboldened teachers" in Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma "have in recent weeks ramped up their pressure in the quest for long-awaited pay raises. They've packed governors' press conferences, staged rallies in front of capitols, and threatened electoral consequences this fall if lawmakers fail to come through."

Seventy Four Examines How Janus Ruling Could Impact States.

Seventy Four (3/19) reports that as the Supreme Court mulls the Janus v. AFSCME case, many expect the court to rule that "teachers who choose not to be union members will no longer have to pay annual fees. Because states take different approaches to teachers unions, a decision in favor of Janus will have considerable impact in some states and little to no direct effect in others." The piece says "the most likely scenario is slow but steady erosion in union members, not a steep, immediate fall."

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Oklahoma District Gives Teachers, Other Staff $1,000 Bonus.

The AP (3/19) reports that district officials in Glenpool, Oklahoma "recently surprised teachers and other employees with $1,000 bonuses as a potential statewide teacher walkout looms." The AP notes that earlier this month, the district "joined many area districts on March 12 when it approved a resolution 'in support of Oklahoma public school teachers' and authorized school closings in the event of a teacher walkout."

One Million Expected At Anti-Gun-Violence Marches This Weekend.

The AP (3/19, Peltz) reports that students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School said Monday they expect more than 1 million participants in marches this weekend "in Washington and elsewhere calling for gun regulations." More than 800 March for Our Lives demonstrations are planned around the world Saturday, sparked by the Feb. 14 shooting in Parkland, Florida. Alex Wind, a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, told the AP, "It just shows that the youth are tired of being the generation where we're locked in closets and waiting for police to come in case of a shooter."

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Accused Shooter's Brother Charged With Trespassing At Florida High School.

The New York Times (3/19, Haag, Subscription Publication) reports that Zachary Cruz, the brother of accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, has been arrested on a charge of trespassing at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where the shooting occurred. Broward County Sheriff's deputies stopped Zachary Cruz "at about 4:30 p.m. after he rode a skateboard onto school property." Cruz "told the deputies that he decided to visit the school to 'reflect on the school shooting and to soak it in,' according to the sheriff's office." According to the sheriff's office, "school officials had ordered Mr. Cruz to stay away from Stoneman Douglas High." He "was arrested on one count of trespassing on the grounds or facility of a school, a misdemeanor."

Civil Rights Groups Warn Of Possible Fallout From School Safety Measures.

Education Week (3/19) reports a coalition of civil rights groups on Monday warned that "'Knee-jerk reactions' to school safety fears after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., have created concerns for students of color and students with disabilities." The groups say that in the aftermath of past shootings, lawmakers facing public pressure to respond have proposed "adding more police to schools or pitch school security upgrades without being mindful of unintended consequences."

The Seventy Four (3/19) reports that the groups warned that "federal proposals to address school safety through measures such as school-based police and metal detectors are 'knee-jerk reactions' that could have dire consequences for some students." The groups "point to federal data and other reports that indicate minority children and those with disabilities are disproportionately arrested by school-based officers. Black students are more than twice as likely as their white peers to be referred to law enforcement or arrested at school, according to the 2013–14 Civil Rights Data Collection, the most recent federal Education Department statistics."

Barron Trump's School Joins Call For President To Enact Gun Control.

The Washington Post (3/19, Strauss) reports that the leaders of "more than 125 private independent schools in the

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D.C. area are calling on President Trump and Congress to enact 'vigorous' gun-control measures and warning that arming teachers — an idea the president supports — is 'dangerous and antithetical to our profession as educators.'" The school leaders — including the Maryland school attended by Barron Trump — took out a full-page advertisement in Sunday's editions of the Post.

Bloomberg Editorial: Arming Teachers Likely To Do More Harm Than Good.

Bloomberg View (3/19) editorializes that should President Trump's plan for "firearms training for school personnel" come to pass, "the chances are good that armed teachers or staff would increase not decrease the number of dead and wounded from such an attack." The piece notes that polls show majorities of teachers and the general public oppose such a plan, and says that while "arming teachers would do nothing to reduce gun violence...it might serve the interests of the gun industry."

Alabama State Legislator Says Arming Teachers Bad Idea Because Women Wouldn't Be Comfortable With Guns.

The Huffington Post (3/19, Fang) reports that Alabama state Rep. Harry Shiver (R) "says arming teachers to protect against gun violence in schools is a bad idea because 'it's mostly ladies that's teaching' and the majority of them would not feel comfortable carrying a weapon." Shiver spoke "during a legislative committee hearing last Thursday on a measure that would allow certain teachers in Alabama to carry firearms after undergoing training and gaining a recommendation from a school or police official." The bill cleared committee, the Post reports.

Mental Health Advocates Fear Focus On Cruz' Mental Background Could Spark Stigmatization.

Education Week (3/21) reports on the multiple "red flags" in the history of Parkland massacre shooter Nikolas Cruz that suggested he had "serious emotional problems," saying his records indicate that he was "prone to violent outbursts and fascinated with weapons." The piece reports that some advocates for students with mental health needs are concerned that the "intense focus on Cruz's mental health history" could negatively impact other students. The piece cites research from ED and the Secret Service indicating that "students in special education for an emotional disturbance are not more likely than their peers to be school shooters." However, "Cruz's known struggles in school have vaulted mental health to the front pages."

Experts: Security Measures At Urban Schools Make Them Less Prone To Mass Shootings.

The AP (3/19, Williams) reports that "urban districts such as Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York that installed metal detectors and other security in the 1980s and 1990s to combat gang and drug violence" could offer some answers to schools looking for "ways to impose tougher security measures in the wake of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Florida." The AP reports security experts "believe these measures have made urban districts less prone to mass shootings" and some suburban and rural districts "are now considering detectors as they rethink their security plans after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School."

Wisconsin Governor Continues To Press Legislature On School Safety Measures.

The AP (3/19) reports Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) "toured three schools Monday as part of a last-minute push to convince the Republican-controlled state Legislature to break an impasse and approve his school safety proposals, which includes a $100 million grant program to pay for armed guards." Walker has not called for "tighter gun control as Democrats have urged," but also "didn't propose arming teachers, a move some conservative lawmakers have proposed." Rather, "Walker is calling for creating a new office of school safety — under control of the attorney general — that would be in control of a $100 million grant fund. That money could go to pay for armed security

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guards at schools, but the amount of the three-year grants would go down from covering 75 percent of the costs in the first year to just 25 percent in the third."

School Safety Measure Advances In Kansas House.

The AP (3/19) reports the Kansas House Appropriations Committee on Monday cleared a bill "designed to make Kansas schools safer from gun violence" which would "require schools and state agencies to establish guidelines for fortifying schools against armed threats. It also would provide $5 million for safety measures like metal detectors and hardened glass."

School Security Technology Comes With Hefty Price Tag.

Education Week (3/19) reports on the increased focus in the wake of the Parkland massacre on such school safety upgrades as "video surveillance, door-locking systems, and other physical improvements to schools are often the focus of parents and the general public when they share concerns about the security of their schools." Such measures can "be the most important element of safety and crisis-prevention plans. But there's something else to keep in mind: The physical upgrades to schools added in the name of safety often aren't cheap."

Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.

The AP (3/19) reports that out-of-state consultants delivered a report to Kansas state lawmakers last week in which they projected "that the state's public schools could cost an additional $2 billion a year." Even though the latest report "provided new, lower estimates tied to more modest goals for improving the state's high school graduation rate and students' performance on standardized tests," some state lawmakers are nonetheless "suffering sticker shock." The AP notes state lawmakers "are facing a Kansas Supreme Court mandate to increase spending on public schools after it ruled in October that the current education funding isn't sufficient under the state constitution." While Republican state legislative leaders commissioned the report in hopes that "it would show that the state already was spending," they "appeared less anxious after the consultants testified during a committee meeting Monday." Amid those concerns, some Republican state lawmakers are "setting less ambitious educational goals than the ones that led to the big price tag."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/19) reports that at the meeting on Monday, the consultants – Texas A&M University professor Lori Taylor and Jason Willis of the WestEd consulting firm – "explained their methodologies for determining how the state can achieve a 95 percent high-school graduation rate." According to their study, the graduation rate in Kansas for the 2016-17 school year was 86.1 percent. Willis told the state lawmakers that "they looked at a range of information, including current student achievement scores, the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan, and Kansas' historical patterns of performance and funding." Taylor, meanwhile, "said there was a 'strong statistically significant and positive relationship' between student outcomes and expenditures." The consultants' report also outlined "two scenarios for math and English Language Arts performances" that would increase annual spending "from $4.65 billion for the current school year to $6.44 billion or $6.72 billion in the next five years," should state lawmakers select either recommendation.

Colorado Bill, Ballot Initiative Call For Increased Education Funding.

The Littleton (CO) Independent (3/19) reports a bill before Colorado state lawmakers and an aligned ballot initiative "could increase education funding" by creating "a new public school funding distribution formula for preschool through secondary education." State House Bill 1232, which "is currently awaiting hearing by the House Education Committee," would provide "all 178 Colorado school districts with an increased level of funding for all students, while at the same time establishing a more equitable distribution of funding for students who are underserved and/or face

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the greatest challenges to being ready for college or a career when they finish high school." Meanwhile, the "Great Schools, Thriving Communities" ballot initiative would establish "a quality public education fund financed through higher taxes on incomes above $150,000 and on 'C' corporations." The Independent outlines three key measures – the Gallagher Amendment on taxable residential real property; Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; and Amendment 23 on per-pupil funding – that have complicated state education funding.

Analysis: Colorado Governor's Proposed Education Funding Boost May Not Yield Classroom Benefits.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Meltzer) reports Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is seeking to increase education funding by $200 million for the next fiscal year and by an additional $100 million in the fiscal year following; however, "a lot of that money could go to offset hits to districts from anticipated reforms to the state's pension program and reductions in local tax revenue." Chalkbeat explains that Hickenlooper's "proposal comes in response to new economic forecasts released Monday that show Colorado having more money than previously expected." State Republican lawmakers "and advocates for more transportation spending have already seized on the numbers to support a plan to ask voters to approve new debt to pay for road construction and dedicate up to $300 million a year to pay off that debt." Advocates of increased K-12 spending "have pushed back," however, "out of fear that the commitment could make it harder to send more money to schools in the future."

Survey: Most Texans Support Increasing State's Share Of Education Funding.

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (3/19, Subscription Publication) reports the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium released the results of a survey on Monday that found 71 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of education funding to provide property tax relief." Additionally, 68 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of public education funding to 50 percent," and "86 percent favored a requirement that recapture dollars school districts send to the state must be used for public education, and not used to fill other budget shortfalls or fund other programs." Later on Monday, the 13-member Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which "is tasked with making recommendations to the Texas Legislature by the end of the year on ways to fix the state's beleaguered school finance system," convened to "take public input for the first time." The Statesman says the "complicated" funding approach "has long been criticized as inadequate and outdated, no longer reflecting the actual expenses of teaching Texas children."

FROM NASSP

NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students

Have you ever wondered about the legitimacy of a particular student program, activity, or contest? Every year, NASSP publishes the NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students. It is designed to help principals, teachers, parents, and students in making decisions regarding participation in outside programs. All programs, activities, and contests listed have met specified standards based on educational value, organizational structure, financial support, promotional accuracy, and fair and appropriate adjudication. The list is in the form of an online database where you can sort by program or sponsor name, or filter by school level and discipline/type. To browse the list, visit www.nassp.org/contests.

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EDUCATION POLICY

Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED's Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.

An editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/19) criticizes the Trump administration's plans to "throw out guidelines issued by the Obama administration to reduce the blatant racial discrimination that frequently occurs when minority and white students are disciplined for the same offense." The paper explores statistics on racial disparities in school discipline and faults the Trump administration for suggesting "that the Obama disciplinary guidelines had made schools more dangerous" and saying "the policy may have even played a role in the mass murder at Stoneman Douglas High School." The piece calls on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "to make sure schoolchildren aren't receiving harsher punishments for the same behavior just because they are black or brown."

Cassidy Calls For Federal Guidelines For Schools To Fight Opioid Crisis.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/19) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) has written to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "calling for federal guidelines outlining how schools could help reduce opioid addiction through education." Cassidy suggested that ED should "conduct a comprehensive review of states' efforts to educate kids about the dangers of opioid abuse and provide guidelines on how schools can most effectively implement anti-addiction education. Cassidy wrote that Louisiana's Department of Education had recently conducted an informal review of programs and resources used in Louisiana schools to combat the opioid epidemic."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Lawyers Seek To Stop Education Department Partial Student Loan Forgiveness Plan.

The Washington Post (3/19, Douglas-Gabriel) reports that Harvard's Project on Predatory Student Lending has sought an injunction from a federal judge "to stop Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Education Department from using earnings data to grant only partial student loan forgiveness to defrauded borrowers." The Department decided in December "to provide debt relief to former students of Corinthian Colleges by comparing the average earnings of students in similar vocational programs." Project attorneys say the Department "has no right to use the data, which is supplied by the Social Security Administration, for any purpose other than to evaluate vocational programs. And denying full relief to Corinthian students under the law is illegal, they argue."

The AP (3/19, Danilova) reports that the Project on Predatory Student Lending is representing "a group of former students defrauded by for-profit colleges" who allege ED "illegally obtained and used their Social Security data to limit their student loan relief." The AP reports that the motion filed over the weekend says ED obtained the data "from the Social Security Administration in violation of several laws as well as the Constitution."

University Of South Florida Police Struggle With Limited Resources.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/19) reports on the challenges faced by the University of South Florida Police Department, which is housed in a crumbling facility and a series of trailers. "Police ranks are stretched thin, too — a problem shared by many of Florida's university police forces, judging by a state goal of one officer per 600 students. USF falls about 16 positions short, leaving officers juggling multiple roles even as the force has worked to expand its ranks."

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MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.**
- **WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student's Rights.**
- **Organization Says Its Personalized Learning Programs Produce Reading Gains.**
- **Dueling Op-eds On Free College Tuition.**

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Sent Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 05:27:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton March 20, 2018

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OPERATIONS

New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Zimmerman) reports New York City's "expensive and controversial" Renewal turnaround program "saw 1,100 more applications this year, a jump city officials touted as evidence the long-floundering schools are rising in popularity." The nine percent rise in applications does not, however, "necessarily mean those schools will have a flood of new students next year," according to Chalkbeat, which explains that "3,305 students received an offer to attend a Renewal high school this year – up just 26 students from the previous year." Because students are allowed to "list up to 12 schools on their high school applications, and this year the city saw a 4 percentage point increase in the proportion of students who listed all 12 options," students may be "applying to more schools generally, not just ones in the Renewal program." Additionally, "students could be ranking Renewal schools lower on their list of choices, making it less likely they will receive an offer to attend."

Indiana State Lawmakers May Revisit School Takeover Plan During Special Session.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Cavazos) reports Indiana state lawmakers will convene "this May after an unusual summons Monday from Gov. Eric Holcomb, and it's possible they could revisit a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts." Last week, the state regular legislative session had "ended in chaos," with state lawmakers "leaving this and several other important bills unresolved when the clock ran out." Republican state lawmakers were "largely supportive of the takeover plan, and so they could revive the issue" even though Holcomb said the plan should not be pursued during a special session. Instead, "Holcomb said his biggest priorities during the special session would be getting a $12 million loan from the state's Common School Fund to Muncie schools to deal with financial difficulties stemming from declining enrollment and mismanagement of a bond issue." On Monday, state Superintendent Jennifer McCormick said "that she also would support action to get Muncie schools the money they were promised."

Future Of West Virginia State Education And Arts Department Unclear.

WVNews (3/19) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced last week "that he has fired Gayle Manchin, his secretary of education and the arts, for releasing a statement that was critical of a bill to eliminate her department," the state Department of Education and the Arts. In a statement, Manchin called the proposal "to eliminate her

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department politically motivated," and requested that Justice veto the bill. She said later that she learned of her firing "when a reporter called her and asked for a comment." Manchin also "said she's worried that federal funding supporting many of her former department's programs would be in jeopardy if the state rushes to reorganize the programs under different departments." Justice, for his part, "said in a news release that Gayle Manchin had issued her statement in defiance of the governor's office."

South Carolina State Education Superintendent Expresses Support For Small District Consolidations.

The AP (3/19) reports South Carolina state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman told reporters that she "is hopeful the Senate will go along with plans to consolidate some of the state's small school districts," and "thinks lawmakers should focus on nine small school districts that have financial problems, poor test schools and small populations." She explained that "consolidating small districts would cut administrative costs and expand academic offerings," as "smaller schools often cannot afford to offer as many different classes, especially the more challenging Advanced Placement courses." The AP notes state lawmakers "have long avoided the subject, fearing voters who don't want to lose the identity of local school systems."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.

The AP (3/19) reports that out-of-state consultants delivered a report to Kansas state lawmakers last week in which they projected "that the state's public schools could cost an additional $2 billion a year." Even though the latest report "provided new, lower estimates tied to more modest goals for improving the state's high school graduation rate and students' performance on standardized tests," some state lawmakers are nonetheless "suffering sticker shock." The AP notes state lawmakers "are facing a Kansas Supreme Court mandate to increase spending on public schools after it ruled in October that the current education funding isn't sufficient under the state constitution." While Republican state legislative leaders commissioned the report in hopes that "it would show that the state already was spending," they "appeared less anxious after the consultants testified during a committee meeting Monday." Amid those concerns, some Republican state lawmakers are "setting less ambitious educational goals than the ones that led to the big price tag."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/19) reports that at the meeting on Monday, the consultants – Texas A&M University professor Lori Taylor and Jason Willis of the WestEd consulting firm – "explained their methodologies for determining how the state can achieve a 95 percent high-school graduation rate." According to their study, the graduation rate in Kansas for the 2016-17 school year was 86.1 percent. Willis told the state lawmakers that "they looked at a range of information, including current student achievement scores, the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan, and Kansas' historical patterns of performance and funding." Taylor, meanwhile, "said there was a 'strong statistically significant and positive relationship' between student outcomes and expenditures." The consultants' report also outlined "two scenarios for math and English Language Arts performances" that would increase annual spending "from $4.65 billion for the current school year to $6.44 billion or $6.72 billion in the next five years," should state lawmakers select either recommendation.

Colorado Bill, Ballot Initiative Call For Increased Education Funding.

The Littleton (CO) Independent (3/19) reports a bill before Colorado state lawmakers and an aligned ballot initiative "could increase education funding" by creating "a new public school funding distribution formula for preschool through secondary education." State House Bill 1232, which "is currently awaiting hearing by the House Education

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Committee," would provide "all 178 Colorado school districts with an increased level of funding for all students, while at the same time establishing a more equitable distribution of funding for students who are underserved and/or face the greatest challenges to being ready for college or a career when they finish high school." Meanwhile, the "Great Schools, Thriving Communities" ballot initiative would establish "a quality public education fund financed through higher taxes on incomes above $150,000 and on 'C' corporations." The Independent outlines three key measures – the Gallagher Amendment on taxable residential real property; Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; and Amendment 23 on per-pupil funding – that have complicated state education funding.

Analysis: Colorado Governor's Proposed Education Funding Boost May Not Yield Classroom Benefits. Chalkbeat (3/19, Meltzer) reports Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is seeking to increase education funding by $200 million for the next fiscal year and by an additional $100 million in the fiscal year following; however, "a lot of that money could go to offset hits to districts from anticipated reforms to the state's pension program and reductions in local tax revenue." Chalkbeat explains that Hickenlooper's "proposal comes in response to new economic forecasts released Monday that show Colorado having more money than previously expected." State Republican lawmakers "and advocates for more transportation spending have already seized on the numbers to support a plan to ask voters to approve new debt to pay for road construction and dedicate up to $300 million a year to pay off that debt." Advocates of increased K-12 spending "have pushed back," however, "out of fear that the commitment could make it harder to send more money to schools in the future."

Survey: Most Texans Support Increasing State's Share Of Education Funding.

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (3/19, Subscription Publication) reports the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium released the results of a survey on Monday that found 71 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of education funding to provide property tax relief." Additionally, 68 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of public education funding to 50 percent," and "86 percent favored a requirement that recapture dollars school districts send to the state must be used for public education, and not used to fill other budget shortfalls or fund other programs." Later on Monday, the 13-member Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which "is tasked with making recommendations to the Texas Legislature by the end of the year on ways to fix the state's beleaguered school finance system," convened to "take public input for the first time." The Statesman says the "complicated" funding approach "has long been criticized as inadequate and outdated, no longer reflecting the actual expenses of teaching Texas children."

SAFETY & SECURITY

One Million Expected At Anti-Gun-Violence Marches This Weekend.

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Alabama State Legislator Says Arming Teachers Bad Idea Because Women Wouldn't Be Comfortable With Guns.

The Huffington Post (3/19, Fang) reports that Alabama state Rep. Harry Shiver (R) "says arming teachers to protect against gun violence in schools is a bad idea because 'it's mostly ladies that's teaching' and the majority of them would not feel comfortable carrying a weapon." Shiver spoke "during a legislative committee hearing last Thursday on a measure that would allow certain teachers in Alabama to carry firearms after undergoing training and gaining a recommendation from a school or police official." The bill cleared committee, the Post reports.

Mental Health Advocates Fear Focus On Cruz' Mental Background Could Spark Stigmatization.

Education Week (3/21) reports on the multiple "red flags" in the history of Parkland massacre shooter Nikolas Cruz that suggested he had "serious emotional problems," saying his records indicate that he was "prone to violent

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outbursts and fascinated with weapons." The piece reports that some advocates for students with mental health needs are concerned that the "intense focus on Cruz's mental health history" could negatively impact other students. The piece cites research from ED and the Secret Service indicating that "students in special education for an emotional disturbance are not more likely than their peers to be school shooters." However, "Cruz's known struggles in school have vaulted mental health to the front pages."

Experts: Security Measures At Urban Schools Make Them Less Prone To Mass Shootings.

The AP (3/19, Williams) reports that "urban districts such as Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York that installed metal detectors and other security in the 1980s and 1990s to combat gang and drug violence" could offer some answers to schools looking for "ways to impose tougher security measures in the wake of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Florida." The AP reports security experts "believe these measures have made urban districts less prone to mass shootings" and some suburban and rural districts "are now considering detectors as they rethink their security plans after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School."

Wisconsin Governor Continues To Press Legislature On School Safety Measures.

The AP (3/19) reports Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) "toured three schools Monday as part of a last-minute push to convince the Republican-controlled state Legislature to break an impasse and approve his school safety proposals, which includes a $100 million grant program to pay for armed guards." Walker has not called for "tighter gun control as Democrats have urged," but also "didn't propose arming teachers, a move some conservative lawmakers have proposed." Rather, "Walker is calling for creating a new office of school safety — under control of the attorney general — that would be in control of a $100 million grant fund. That money could go to pay for armed security guards at schools, but the amount of the three-year grants would go down from covering 75 percent of the costs in the first year to just 25 percent in the third."

School Safety Measure Advances In Kansas House.

The AP (3/19) reports the Kansas House Appropriations Committee on Monday cleared a bill "designed to make Kansas schools safer from gun violence" which would "require schools and state agencies to establish guidelines for fortifying schools against armed threats. It also would provide $5 million for safety measures like metal detectors and hardened glass."

School Security Technology Comes With Hefty Price Tag.

Education Week (3/19) reports on the increased focus in the wake of the Parkland massacre on such school safety upgrades as "video surveillance, door-locking systems, and other physical improvements to schools are often the focus of parents and the general public when they share concerns about the security of their schools." Such measures can "be the most important element of safety and crisis-prevention plans. But there's something else to keep in mind: The physical upgrades to schools added in the name of safety often aren't cheap."

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.**
- **WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student's Rights.**
- **Proposed Oklahoma Teacher Pay Hike Would Raise State Out Of Regional Bottom.**
- **Arizona Charter School Breaks Ground On New Campus.**

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- **Organization Says Its Personalized Learning Programs Produce Reading Gains.**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 05:27:52 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals | Principal's Update

in affiliation with Bulletin MEDIA

Good morning Jana Smith

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement



Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.

The Texas Tribune (3/19) reports the Texas Education Agency has released "a new plan for educating kids with disabilities — with limited money." The plan comes after collecting feedback and after a "federal investigation concluded Texas had not been providing kids with disabilities the tools and services they needed to learn, likely failing to educate thousands of students and violating federal law." TEA "acknowledged it has been providing a smaller and smaller percentage of kids with federally funded special education services over the past 15 years, despite a stable national trend in special education rates."

The Houston Chronicle (3/19, Webb) reports the plan calls for "spending $126.8 million more to shore up its special education practices than it first recommended in January." In the plan, "TEA officials now recommend spending $211.3 million over six years on monitoring school districts, identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services, professional development for teachers and engaging special education parents."

The AP (3/19) reports the plan "would create a professional statewide special education deployment system" and "calls for increasing special education staffing, providing better special education training for teachers and creating more tools for parents of children with suspected disabilities."

Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.

The Des Moines (IA) Register (3/19, Noble, Pfannenstiel) reports presidential adviser Ivanka Trump "observed student demonstrations in robotics, science and coding Monday morning as part of her tour of a high-tech

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professional development program in the Waukee School District." The visit is "part of Trump's wider efforts to support the White House's infrastructure plan, which includes measures to expand federal job training programs." Trump later told a roundtable discussion, "This is an unbelievable example of innovation in education and pairing the skills being taught in the classroom environment with the jobs in demand in modern economies."

CNN (3/19, Klein) reports she tweeted, "Incredible visit to Waukee APEX, a center where high paying jobs are seamlessly linked with motivated and highly skilled students. Through hands-on learning and #WorkforceDevelopment the careers of tomorrow are being created today!"

In Charlotte, All-Girls Auto Shop Class Reflective Of Focus On Career Readiness.

The AP (3/19) runs an article describing the all-girl auto shop class at Myers Park High School "in one of Charlotte's most prestigious neighborhoods." The article reports the school's "booming auto shop...illustrates a crucial part of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' strategy: All schools should offer pathways to hands-on careers as well as college. And those career-technical classes should try to attract students who might not traditionally sign up."

Rhode Island State Education Commissioner Stresses Importance Of CTE.

The Providence (RI) Journal (3/19, Naylor) reports Rhode Island state Education Commissioner Ken Wagner delivered his annual State of Education speech on Monday. Noting that Rhode Island schools currently offer 155 career programs, Wagner "extolled the state's commitment to career and tech education, which has come a long way from the vocational education of the 1970s and '80s," but stressed to educators that if "we only create pathways without challenging and preparing students for the real world they are about to enter, we will have wasted our time and theirs." He also "challenged the state to invest in Latino students, saying Latino families are the fastest-growing population in Rhode Island, but the state has the widest achievement gap between white and Latino students in the country." Additionally, Wagner stressed, "We will never have a workforce that looks like the communities they serve until we first encourage more young people, including students of color, to become teachers."

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Bloomberg View (3/19) editorializes that should President Trump's plan for "firearms training for school personnel" come to pass, "the chances are good that armed teachers or staff would increase not decrease the number of dead and wounded from such an attack." The piece notes that polls show majorities of teachers and the general public oppose such a plan, and says that while "arming teachers would do nothing to reduce gun violence...it might serve the interests of the gun industry."

Alabama State Legislator Says Arming Teachers Bad Idea Because Women Wouldn't Be Comfortable With Guns.

The Huffington Post (3/19, Fang) reports that Alabama state Rep. Harry Shiver (R) "says arming teachers to protect against gun violence in schools is a bad idea because 'it's mostly ladies that's teaching' and the majority of them would not feel comfortable carrying a weapon." Shiver spoke "during a legislative committee hearing last Thursday on a measure that would allow certain teachers in Alabama to carry firearms after undergoing training and gaining a recommendation from a school or police official." The bill cleared committee, the Post reports.

Mental Health Advocates Fear Focus On Cruz' Mental Background Could Spark Stigmatization.

Education Week (3/21) reports on the multiple "red flags" in the history of Parkland massacre shooter Nikolas Cruz that suggested he had "serious emotional problems," saying his records indicate that he was "prone to violent outbursts and fascinated with weapons." The piece reports that some advocates for students with mental health needs are concerned that the "intense focus on Cruz's mental health history" could negatively impact other students. The piece cites research from ED and the Secret Service indicating that "students in special education for an emotional disturbance are not more likely than their peers to be school shooters." However, "Cruz's known struggles in school have vaulted mental health to the front pages."

Experts: Security Measures At Urban Schools Make Them Less Prone To Mass Shootings.

The AP (3/19, Williams) reports that "urban districts such as Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York that installed metal detectors and other security in the 1980s and 1990s to combat gang and drug violence" could offer some answers to schools looking for "ways to impose tougher security measures in the wake of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Florida." The AP reports security experts "believe these measures have made urban districts less prone to mass shootings" and some suburban and rural districts "are now considering detectors as they rethink their security plans after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School."

Wisconsin Governor Continues To Press Legislature On School Safety Measures.

The AP (3/19) reports Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) "toured three schools Monday as part of a last-minute push to convince the Republican-controlled state Legislature to break an impasse and approve his school safety proposals, which includes a $100 million grant program to pay for armed guards." Walker has not called for "tighter gun control as Democrats have urged," but also "didn't propose arming teachers, a move some conservative lawmakers have proposed." Rather, "Walker is calling for creating a new office of school safety — under control of the attorney general — that would be in control of a $100 million grant fund. That money could go to pay for armed security

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guards at schools, but the amount of the three-year grants would go down from covering 75 percent of the costs in the first year to just 25 percent in the third."

School Safety Measure Advances In Kansas House.

The AP (3/19) reports the Kansas House Appropriations Committee on Monday cleared a bill "designed to make Kansas schools safer from gun violence" which would "require schools and state agencies to establish guidelines for fortifying schools against armed threats. It also would provide $5 million for safety measures like metal detectors and hardened glass."

School Security Technology Comes With Hefty Price Tag.

Education Week (3/19) reports on the increased focus in the wake of the Parkland massacre on such school safety upgrades as "video surveillance, door-locking systems, and other physical improvements to schools are often the focus of parents and the general public when they share concerns about the security of their schools." Such measures can "be the most important element of safety and crisis-prevention plans. But there's something else to keep in mind: The physical upgrades to schools added in the name of safety often aren't cheap."

Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.

The AP (3/19) reports that out-of-state consultants delivered a report to Kansas state lawmakers last week in which they projected "that the state's public schools could cost an additional $2 billion a year." Even though the latest report "provided new, lower estimates tied to more modest goals for improving the state's high school graduation rate and students' performance on standardized tests," some state lawmakers are nonetheless "suffering sticker shock." The AP notes state lawmakers "are facing a Kansas Supreme Court mandate to increase spending on public schools after it ruled in October that the current education funding isn't sufficient under the state constitution." While Republican state legislative leaders commissioned the report in hopes that "it would show that the state already was spending," they "appeared less anxious after the consultants testified during a committee meeting Monday." Amid those concerns, some Republican state lawmakers are "setting less ambitious educational goals than the ones that led to the big price tag."

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FROM NASSP

NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students

Have you ever wondered about the legitimacy of a particular student program, activity, or contest? Every year, NASSP publishes the NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students. It is designed to help principals, teachers, parents, and students in making decisions regarding participation in outside programs. All programs, activities, and contests listed have met specified standards based on educational value, organizational structure, financial support, promotional accuracy, and fair and appropriate adjudication. The list is in the form of an online database where you can sort by program or sponsor name, or filter by school level and discipline/type. To browse the list, visit www.nassp.org/contests.

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EDUCATION POLICY

Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED's Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.

An editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/19) criticizes the Trump administration's plans to "throw out guidelines issued by the Obama administration to reduce the blatant racial discrimination that frequently occurs when minority and white students are disciplined for the same offense." The paper explores statistics on racial disparities in school discipline and faults the Trump administration for suggesting "that the Obama disciplinary guidelines had made schools more dangerous" and saying "the policy may have even played a role in the mass murder at Stoneman Douglas High School." The piece calls on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "to make sure schoolchildren aren't receiving harsher punishments for the same behavior just because they are black or brown."

Cassidy Calls For Federal Guidelines For Schools To Fight Opioid Crisis.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/19) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) has written to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "calling for federal guidelines outlining how schools could help reduce opioid addiction through education." Cassidy suggested that ED should "conduct a comprehensive review of states' efforts to educate kids about the dangers of opioid abuse and provide guidelines on how schools can most effectively implement anti-addiction education. Cassidy wrote that Louisiana's Department of Education had recently conducted an informal review of programs and resources used in Louisiana schools to combat the opioid epidemic."

HIGHER EDUCATION

Lawyers Seek To Stop Education Department Partial Student Loan Forgiveness Plan.

The Washington Post (3/19, Douglas-Gabriel) reports that Harvard's Project on Predatory Student Lending has sought an injunction from a federal judge "to stop Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the Education Department from using earnings data to grant only partial student loan forgiveness to defrauded borrowers." The Department decided in December "to provide debt relief to former students of Corinthian Colleges by comparing the average earnings of students in similar vocational programs." Project attorneys say the Department "has no right to use the data, which is supplied by the Social Security Administration, for any purpose other than to evaluate vocational programs. And denying full relief to Corinthian students under the law is illegal, they argue."

The AP (3/19, Danilova) reports that the Project on Predatory Student Lending is representing "a group of former students defrauded by for-profit colleges" who allege ED "illegally obtained and used their Social Security data to limit their student loan relief." The AP reports that the motion filed over the weekend says ED obtained the data "from the Social Security Administration in violation of several laws as well as the Constitution."

University Of South Florida Police Struggle With Limited Resources.

The Tampa Bay (FL) Times (3/19) reports on the challenges faced by the University of South Florida Police Department, which is housed in a crumbling facility and a series of trailers. "Police ranks are stretched thin, too — a problem shared by many of Florida's university police forces, judging by a state goal of one officer per 600 students. USF falls about 16 positions short, leaving officers juggling multiple roles even as the force has worked to expand its ranks."

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MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.**
- **WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student's Rights.**
- **Organization Says Its Personalized Learning Programs Produce Reading Gains.**
- **Dueling Op-eds On Free College Tuition.**

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 05:27:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view



Good morning Cindy Romero March 20, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.

The Texas Tribune (3/19) reports the Texas Education Agency has released "a new plan for educating kids with disabilities — with limited money." The plan comes after collecting feedback and after a "federal investigation concluded Texas had not been providing kids with disabilities the tools and services they needed to learn, likely failing to educate thousands of students and violating federal law." TEA "acknowledged it has been providing a smaller and smaller percentage of kids with federally funded special education services over the past 15 years, despite a stable national trend in special education rates."

The Houston Chronicle (3/19, Webb) reports the plan calls for "spending $126.8 million more to shore up its special education practices than it first recommended in January." In the plan, "TEA officials now recommend spending $211.3 million over six years on monitoring school districts, identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services, professional development for teachers and engaging special education parents."

The AP (3/19) reports the plan "would create a professional statewide special education deployment system" and "calls for increasing special education staffing, providing better special education training for teachers and creating more tools for parents of children with suspected disabilities."

Advertisement



POLITICS & POLICY

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.

The Des Moines (IA) Register (3/19, Noble, Pfannenstiel) reports presidential adviser Ivanka Trump "observed student demonstrations in robotics, science and coding Monday morning as part of her tour of a high-tech professional development program in the Waukee School District." The visit is "part of Trump's wider efforts to support the White House's infrastructure plan, which includes measures to expand federal job training programs." Trump later told a roundtable discussion, "This is an unbelievable example of innovation in education and pairing the skills being taught in the classroom environment with the jobs in demand in modern economies."

CNN (3/19, Klein) reports she tweeted, "Incredible visit to Waukee APEX, a center where high paying jobs are seamlessly linked with motivated and highly skilled students. Through hands-on learning and #WorkforceDevelopment the careers of tomorrow are being created today!"

In Charlotte, All-Girls Auto Shop Class Reflective Of Focus On Career Readiness.

The AP (3/19) runs an article describing the all-girl auto shop class at Myers Park High School "in one of Charlotte's most prestigious neighborhoods." The article reports the school's "booming auto shop...illustrates a crucial part of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' strategy: All schools should offer pathways to hands-on careers as well as college. And those career-technical classes should try to attract students who might not traditionally sign up."

Rhode Island State Education Commissioner Stresses Importance Of CTE.

The Providence (RI) Journal (3/19, Naylor) reports Rhode Island state Education Commissioner Ken Wagner delivered his annual State of Education speech on Monday. Noting that Rhode Island schools currently offer 155 career programs, Wagner "extolled the state's commitment to career and tech education, which has come a long way from the vocational education of the 1970s and '80s," but stressed to educators that if "we only create pathways without challenging and preparing students for the real world they are about to enter, we will have wasted our time and theirs." He also "challenged the state to invest in Latino students, saying Latino families are the fastest-

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growing population in Rhode Island, but the state has the widest achievement gap between white and Latino students in the country." Additionally, Wagner stressed, "We will never have a workforce that looks like the communities they serve until we first encourage more young people, including students of color, to become teachers."

Texas High School Seniors Host Week-Long STEAM Program.

The San Antonio Express-News (3/19) reports Danbury High School seniors Yacodou Johnson, Kevin Lapaix, and Naomi Thomas developed a five-day, after-school teaching program at Broadview Middle School this month aimed at introducing more than a dozen students to STEAM, "a twist on the traditional science, technology, engineering and math – known as STEM – with the addition of an 'A' for art." During the week-long program, the three Texas seniors led special projects that "incorporated art and exposed the younger students to possible career paths in STEM fields, the peer leaders said." The Express-News notes Johnson, Lapaix, and Thomas "are in the DHS peer leadership program taught by Susan Schullery." The three seniors had "completed a pilot program with the English language learners at DHS before taking their program to Broadview."

Washington Marine Biology-Centered School Profiled.

The Seattle Times (3/19) profiles the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA), a public school in Washington where the "subject of marine ecology forms the overarching theme of nearly every lesson, even in classes on writing, math and history." ORCA is funded almost entirely by Running Start, "the 25-year-old state program that allows high-school students to take an unlimited number of community-college classes for free." The school "is not like any other school in Washington, or possibly the nation," even though founder Ardi Kveven "wishes somebody would steal the ORCA idea." Despite pitching to model "over and over again, to educators from coast to coast, no one has taken up her challenge." Notably, the 47 students who graduated from ORCA last year "netted $400,000 in college scholarships." Since ORCA "was founded in 2004 with early help from a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 425 students have graduated." About 95 percent "have gone on to a four-year university," with roughly two-thirds pursuing STEM majors.

Hawaii State Lawmakers Consider Standardized Test Reduction Bill.

On its website, KGMB-TV Honolulu (3/19) reports Hawaii state lawmakers are considering a bill that would limit "the number of standardized tests each student can be administered to just four a year, the Federal minimum" under the Every Student Succeeds Act. It "would also allow schools to apply for additional standardized testing waivers with the Hawaii Board of Education, which would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis," and grant time exemptions to eligible students with special needs. In testimony to the state legislature, Hawaii State Teacher Association president Corey Rosenlee "expressed strong support for the measure, citing the distinct variation in the number of standardized tests taken by students in each district." Rosenlee said that "most countries that outperform the United States on international exams test students only three times during their school careers." State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto, however, "dissented from Rosenlee's view about the measure, saying that the bill 'is not necessary at this time.'"

Teachers In Other States Ramp Up Activism In Wake Of West Virginia Strike.

Education Week (3/21) reports that the West Virginia teacher strike "begs the question for policymakers and K-12 leaders in other states: Could this happen here?" The piece reports that "newly emboldened teachers" in Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma "have in recent weeks ramped up their pressure in the quest for long-awaited pay raises. They've packed governors' press conferences, staged rallies in front of capitols, and threatened electoral consequences this fall if lawmakers fail to come through."

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Seventy Four Examines How Janus Ruling Could Impact States.

Seventy Four (3/19) reports that as the Supreme Court mulls the Janus v. AFSCME case, many expect the court to rule that "teachers who choose not to be union members will no longer have to pay annual fees. Because states take different approaches to teachers unions, a decision in favor of Janus will have considerable impact in some states and little to no direct effect in others." The piece says "the most likely scenario is slow but steady erosion in union members, not a steep, immediate fall."

Oklahoma District Gives Teachers, Other Staff $1,000 Bonus.

The AP (3/19) reports that district officials in Glenpool, Oklahoma "recently surprised teachers and other employees with $1,000 bonuses as a potential statewide teacher walkout looms." The AP notes that earlier this month, the district "joined many area districts on March 12 when it approved a resolution 'in support of Oklahoma public school teachers' and authorized school closings in the event of a teacher walkout."

OPERATIONS

New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Zimmerman) reports New York City's "expensive and controversial" Renewal turnaround program "saw 1,100 more applications this year, a jump city officials touted as evidence the long-floundering schools are rising in popularity." The nine percent rise in applications does not, however, "necessarily mean those schools will have a flood of new students next year," according to Chalkbeat, which explains that "3,305 students received an offer to attend a Renewal high school this year – up just 26 students from the previous year." Because students are allowed to "list up to 12 schools on their high school applications, and this year the city saw a 4 percentage point increase in the proportion of students who listed all 12 options," students may be "applying to more schools generally, not just ones in the Renewal program." Additionally, "students could be ranking Renewal schools lower on their list of choices, making it less likely they will receive an offer to attend."

Indiana State Lawmakers May Revisit School Takeover Plan During Special Session.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Cavazos) reports Indiana state lawmakers will convene "this May after an unusual summons Monday from Gov. Eric Holcomb, and it's possible they could revisit a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts." Last week, the state regular legislative session had "ended in chaos," with state lawmakers "leaving this and several other important bills unresolved when the clock ran out." Republican state lawmakers were "largely supportive of the takeover plan, and so they could revive the issue" even though Holcomb said the plan should not be pursued during a special session. Instead, "Holcomb said his biggest priorities during the special session would be getting a $12 million loan from the state's Common School Fund to Muncie schools to deal with financial difficulties stemming from declining enrollment and mismanagement of a bond issue." On Monday, state Superintendent Jennifer McCormick said "that she also would support action to get Muncie schools the money they were promised."

Future Of West Virginia State Education And Arts Department Unclear.

WVNews (3/19) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced last week "that he has fired Gayle Manchin, his secretary of education and the arts, for releasing a statement that was critical of a bill to eliminate her department," the state Department of Education and the Arts. In a statement, Manchin called the proposal "to eliminate her

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department politically motivated," and requested that Justice veto the bill. She said later that she learned of her firing "when a reporter called her and asked for a comment." Manchin also "said she's worried that federal funding supporting many of her former department's programs would be in jeopardy if the state rushes to reorganize the programs under different departments." Justice, for his part, "said in a news release that Gayle Manchin had issued her statement in defiance of the governor's office."

South Carolina State Education Superintendent Expresses Support For Small District Consolidations.

The AP (3/19) reports South Carolina state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman told reporters that she "is hopeful the Senate will go along with plans to consolidate some of the state's small school districts," and "thinks lawmakers should focus on nine small school districts that have financial problems, poor test schools and small populations." She explained that "consolidating small districts would cut administrative costs and expand academic offerings," as "smaller schools often cannot afford to offer as many different classes, especially the more challenging Advanced Placement courses." The AP notes state lawmakers "have long avoided the subject, fearing voters who don't want to lose the identity of local school systems."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.

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SAFETY & SECURITY

One Million Expected At Anti-Gun-Violence Marches This Weekend.

The AP (3/19, Peltz) reports that students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School said Monday they expect more than 1 million participants in marches this weekend "in Washington and elsewhere calling for gun regulations." More than 800 March for Our Lives demonstrations are planned around the world Saturday, sparked by the Feb. 14 shooting in Parkland, Florida. Alex Wind, a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, told the AP, "It just shows that the youth are tired of being the generation where we're locked in closets and waiting for police to come in case of a shooter."

Accused Shooter's Brother Charged With Trespassing At Florida High School.

The New York Times (3/19, Haag, Subscription Publication) reports that Zachary Cruz, the brother of accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, has been arrested on a charge of trespassing at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High

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School, where the shooting occurred. Broward County Sheriff's deputies stopped Zachary Cruz "at about 4:30 p.m. after he rode a skateboard onto school property." Cruz "told the deputies that he decided to visit the school to 'reflect on the school shooting and to soak it in,' according to the sheriff's office." According to the sheriff's office, "school officials had ordered Mr. Cruz to stay away from Stoneman Douglas High." He "was arrested on one count of trespassing on the grounds or facility of a school, a misdemeanor."

Civil Rights Groups Warn Of Possible Fallout From School Safety Measures.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 05:27:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, click here to view



Good morning David Shoup March 20, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.

The Texas Tribune (3/19) reports the Texas Education Agency has released "a new plan for educating kids with disabilities — with limited money." The plan comes after collecting feedback and after a "federal investigation concluded Texas had not been providing kids with disabilities the tools and services they needed to learn, likely failing to educate thousands of students and violating federal law." TEA "acknowledged it has been providing a smaller and smaller percentage of kids with federally funded special education services over the past 15 years, despite a stable national trend in special education rates."

The Houston Chronicle (3/19, Webb) reports the plan calls for "spending $126.8 million more to shore up its special education practices than it first recommended in January." In the plan, "TEA officials now recommend spending $211.3 million over six years on monitoring school districts, identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services, professional development for teachers and engaging special education parents."

The AP (3/19) reports the plan "would create a professional statewide special education deployment system" and "calls for increasing special education staffing, providing better special education training for teachers and creating more tools for parents of children with suspected disabilities."

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POLITICS & POLICY

Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED's Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity

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Guidelines.

An editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer (3/19) criticizes the Trump administration's plans to "throw out guidelines issued by the Obama administration to reduce the blatant racial discrimination that frequently occurs when minority and white students are disciplined for the same offense." The paper explores statistics on racial disparities in school discipline and faults the Trump administration for suggesting "that the Obama disciplinary guidelines had made schools more dangerous" and saying "the policy may have even played a role in the mass murder at Stoneman Douglas High School." The piece calls on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "to make sure schoolchildren aren't receiving harsher punishments for the same behavior just because they are black or brown."

Cassidy Calls For Federal Guidelines For Schools To Fight Opioid Crisis.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune (3/19) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) has written to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "calling for federal guidelines outlining how schools could help reduce opioid addiction through education." Cassidy suggested that ED should "conduct a comprehensive review of states' efforts to educate kids about the dangers of opioid abuse and provide guidelines on how schools can most effectively implement anti-addiction education. Cassidy wrote that Louisiana's Department of Education had recently conducted an informal review of programs and resources used in Louisiana schools to combat the opioid epidemic."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.

The Des Moines (IA) Register (3/19, Noble, Pfannenstiel) reports presidential adviser Ivanka Trump "observed student demonstrations in robotics, science and coding Monday morning as part of her tour of a high-tech professional development program in the Waukee School District." The visit is "part of Trump's wider efforts to support the White House's infrastructure plan, which includes measures to expand federal job training programs." Trump later told a roundtable discussion, "This is an unbelievable example of innovation in education and pairing the skills being taught in the classroom environment with the jobs in demand in modern economies."

CNN (3/19, Klein) reports she tweeted, "Incredible visit to Waukee APEX, a center where high paying jobs are seamlessly linked with motivated and highly skilled students. Through hands-on learning and #WorkforceDevelopment the careers of tomorrow are being created today!"

In Charlotte, All-Girls Auto Shop Class Reflective Of Focus On Career Readiness.

The AP (3/19) runs an article describing the all-girl auto shop class at Myers Park High School "in one of Charlotte's most prestigious neighborhoods." The article reports the school's "booming auto shop...illustrates a crucial part of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' strategy: All schools should offer pathways to hands-on careers as well as college. And those career-technical classes should try to attract students who might not traditionally sign up."

Rhode Island State Education Commissioner Stresses Importance Of CTE.

The Providence (RI) Journal (3/19, Naylor) reports Rhode Island state Education Commissioner Ken Wagner delivered his annual State of Education speech on Monday. Noting that Rhode Island schools currently offer 155 career programs, Wagner "extolled the state's commitment to career and tech education, which has come a long way from the vocational education of the 1970s and '80s," but stressed to educators that if "we only create pathways without challenging and preparing students for the real world they are about to enter, we will have wasted our time and theirs." He also "challenged the state to invest in Latino students, saying Latino families are the fastest-

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growing population in Rhode Island, but the state has the widest achievement gap between white and Latino students in the country." Additionally, Wagner stressed, "We will never have a workforce that looks like the communities they serve until we first encourage more young people, including students of color, to become teachers."

Texas High School Seniors Host Week-Long STEAM Program.

The San Antonio Express-News (3/19) reports Danbury High School seniors Yacodou Johnson, Kevin Lapaix, and Naomi Thomas developed a five-day, after-school teaching program at Broadview Middle School this month aimed at introducing more than a dozen students to STEAM, "a twist on the traditional science, technology, engineering and math – known as STEM – with the addition of an 'A' for art." During the week-long program, the three Texas seniors led special projects that "incorporated art and exposed the younger students to possible career paths in STEM fields, the peer leaders said." The Express-News notes Johnson, Lapaix, and Thomas "are in the DHS peer leadership program taught by Susan Schullery." The three seniors had "completed a pilot program with the English language learners at DHS before taking their program to Broadview."

Washington Marine Biology-Centered School Profiled.

The Seattle Times (3/19) profiles the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA), a public school in Washington where the "subject of marine ecology forms the overarching theme of nearly every lesson, even in classes on writing, math and history." ORCA is funded almost entirely by Running Start, "the 25-year-old state program that allows high-school students to take an unlimited number of community-college classes for free." The school "is not like any other school in Washington, or possibly the nation," even though founder Ardi Kveven "wishes somebody would steal the ORCA idea." Despite pitching to model "over and over again, to educators from coast to coast, no one has taken up her challenge." Notably, the 47 students who graduated from ORCA last year "netted $400,000 in college scholarships." Since ORCA "was founded in 2004 with early help from a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 425 students have graduated." About 95 percent "have gone on to a four-year university," with roughly two-thirds pursuing STEM majors.

Hawaii State Lawmakers Consider Standardized Test Reduction Bill.

On its website, KGMB-TV Honolulu (3/19) reports Hawaii state lawmakers are considering a bill that would limit "the number of standardized tests each student can be administered to just four a year, the Federal minimum" under the Every Student Succeeds Act. It "would also allow schools to apply for additional standardized testing waivers with the Hawaii Board of Education, which would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis," and grant time exemptions to eligible students with special needs. In testimony to the state legislature, Hawaii State Teacher Association president Corey Rosenlee "expressed strong support for the measure, citing the distinct variation in the number of standardized tests taken by students in each district." Rosenlee said that "most countries that outperform the United States on international exams test students only three times during their school careers." State Superintendent Christina Kishimoto, however, "dissented from Rosenlee's view about the measure, saying that the bill 'is not necessary at this time.'"

Teachers In Other States Ramp Up Activism In Wake Of West Virginia Strike.

Education Week (3/21) reports that the West Virginia teacher strike "begs the question for policymakers and K-12 leaders in other states: Could this happen here?" The piece reports that "newly emboldened teachers" in Arizona, Kentucky, and Oklahoma "have in recent weeks ramped up their pressure in the quest for long-awaited pay raises. They've packed governors' press conferences, staged rallies in front of capitols, and threatened electoral consequences this fall if lawmakers fail to come through."

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Seventy Four Examines How Janus Ruling Could Impact States.

Seventy Four (3/19) reports that as the Supreme Court mulls the Janus v. AFSCME case, many expect the court to rule that "teachers who choose not to be union members will no longer have to pay annual fees. Because states take different approaches to teachers unions, a decision in favor of Janus will have considerable impact in some states and little to no direct effect in others." The piece says "the most likely scenario is slow but steady erosion in union members, not a steep, immediate fall."

Oklahoma District Gives Teachers, Other Staff $1,000 Bonus.

The AP (3/19) reports that district officials in Glenpool, Oklahoma "recently surprised teachers and other employees with $1,000 bonuses as a potential statewide teacher walkout looms." The AP notes that earlier this month, the district "joined many area districts on March 12 when it approved a resolution 'in support of Oklahoma public school teachers' and authorized school closings in the event of a teacher walkout."

OPERATIONS

New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Zimmerman) reports New York City's "expensive and controversial" Renewal turnaround program "saw 1,100 more applications this year, a jump city officials touted as evidence the long-floundering schools are rising in popularity." The nine percent rise in applications does not, however, "necessarily mean those schools will have a flood of new students next year," according to Chalkbeat, which explains that "3,305 students received an offer to attend a Renewal high school this year – up just 26 students from the previous year." Because students are allowed to "list up to 12 schools on their high school applications, and this year the city saw a 4 percentage point increase in the proportion of students who listed all 12 options," students may be "applying to more schools generally, not just ones in the Renewal program." Additionally, "students could be ranking Renewal schools lower on their list of choices, making it less likely they will receive an offer to attend."

Indiana State Lawmakers May Revisit School Takeover Plan During Special Session.

Chalkbeat (3/19, Cavazos) reports Indiana state lawmakers will convene "this May after an unusual summons Monday from Gov. Eric Holcomb, and it's possible they could revisit a controversial plan to expand state takeover of the Gary and Muncie school districts." Last week, the state regular legislative session had "ended in chaos," with state lawmakers "leaving this and several other important bills unresolved when the clock ran out." Republican state lawmakers were "largely supportive of the takeover plan, and so they could revive the issue" even though Holcomb said the plan should not be pursued during a special session. Instead, "Holcomb said his biggest priorities during the special session would be getting a $12 million loan from the state's Common School Fund to Muncie schools to deal with financial difficulties stemming from declining enrollment and mismanagement of a bond issue." On Monday, state Superintendent Jennifer McCormick said "that she also would support action to get Muncie schools the money they were promised."

Future Of West Virginia State Education And Arts Department Unclear.

WVNews (3/19) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced last week "that he has fired Gayle Manchin, his secretary of education and the arts, for releasing a statement that was critical of a bill to eliminate her department," the state Department of Education and the Arts. In a statement, Manchin called the proposal "to eliminate her

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department politically motivated," and requested that Justice veto the bill. She said later that she learned of her firing "when a reporter called her and asked for a comment." Manchin also "said she's worried that federal funding supporting many of her former department's programs would be in jeopardy if the state rushes to reorganize the programs under different departments." Justice, for his part, "said in a news release that Gayle Manchin had issued her statement in defiance of the governor's office."

South Carolina State Education Superintendent Expresses Support For Small District Consolidations.

The AP (3/19) reports South Carolina state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman told reporters that she "is hopeful the Senate will go along with plans to consolidate some of the state's small school districts," and "thinks lawmakers should focus on nine small school districts that have financial problems, poor test schools and small populations." She explained that "consolidating small districts would cut administrative costs and expand academic offerings," as "smaller schools often cannot afford to offer as many different classes, especially the more challenging Advanced Placement courses." The AP notes state lawmakers "have long avoided the subject, fearing voters who don't want to lose the identity of local school systems."

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.

The AP (3/19) reports that out-of-state consultants delivered a report to Kansas state lawmakers last week in which they projected "that the state's public schools could cost an additional $2 billion a year." Even though the latest report "provided new, lower estimates tied to more modest goals for improving the state's high school graduation rate and students' performance on standardized tests," some state lawmakers are nonetheless "suffering sticker shock." The AP notes state lawmakers "are facing a Kansas Supreme Court mandate to increase spending on public schools after it ruled in October that the current education funding isn't sufficient under the state constitution." While Republican state legislative leaders commissioned the report in hopes that "it would show that the state already was spending," they "appeared less anxious after the consultants testified during a committee meeting Monday." Amid those concerns, some Republican state lawmakers are "setting less ambitious educational goals than the ones that led to the big price tag."

The Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal (3/19) reports that at the meeting on Monday, the consultants – Texas A&M University professor Lori Taylor and Jason Willis of the WestEd consulting firm – "explained their methodologies for determining how the state can achieve a 95 percent high-school graduation rate." According to their study, the graduation rate in Kansas for the 2016-17 school year was 86.1 percent. Willis told the state lawmakers that "they looked at a range of information, including current student achievement scores, the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan, and Kansas' historical patterns of performance and funding." Taylor, meanwhile, "said there was a 'strong statistically significant and positive relationship' between student outcomes and expenditures." The consultants' report also outlined "two scenarios for math and English Language Arts performances" that would increase annual spending "from $4.65 billion for the current school year to $6.44 billion or $6.72 billion in the next five years," should state lawmakers select either recommendation.

Colorado Bill, Ballot Initiative Call For Increased Education Funding.

The Littleton (CO) Independent (3/19) reports a bill before Colorado state lawmakers and an aligned ballot initiative "could increase education funding" by creating "a new public school funding distribution formula for preschool through secondary education." State House Bill 1232, which "is currently awaiting hearing by the House Education

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Committee," would provide "all 178 Colorado school districts with an increased level of funding for all students, while at the same time establishing a more equitable distribution of funding for students who are underserved and/or face the greatest challenges to being ready for college or a career when they finish high school." Meanwhile, the "Great Schools, Thriving Communities" ballot initiative would establish "a quality public education fund financed through higher taxes on incomes above $150,000 and on 'C' corporations." The Independent outlines three key measures – the Gallagher Amendment on taxable residential real property; Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; and Amendment 23 on per-pupil funding – that have complicated state education funding.

Analysis: Colorado Governor's Proposed Education Funding Boost May Not Yield Classroom Benefits. Chalkbeat (3/19, Meltzer) reports Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is seeking to increase education funding by $200 million for the next fiscal year and by an additional $100 million in the fiscal year following; however, "a lot of that money could go to offset hits to districts from anticipated reforms to the state's pension program and reductions in local tax revenue." Chalkbeat explains that Hickenlooper's "proposal comes in response to new economic forecasts released Monday that show Colorado having more money than previously expected." State Republican lawmakers "and advocates for more transportation spending have already seized on the numbers to support a plan to ask voters to approve new debt to pay for road construction and dedicate up to $300 million a year to pay off that debt." Advocates of increased K-12 spending "have pushed back," however, "out of fear that the commitment could make it harder to send more money to schools in the future."

Survey: Most Texans Support Increasing State's Share Of Education Funding.

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (3/19, Subscription Publication) reports the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium released the results of a survey on Monday that found 71 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of education funding to provide property tax relief." Additionally, 68 percent of respondents "favored increasing the state's share of public education funding to 50 percent," and "86 percent favored a requirement that recapture dollars school districts send to the state must be used for public education, and not used to fill other budget shortfalls or fund other programs." Later on Monday, the 13-member Texas Commission on Public School Finance, which "is tasked with making recommendations to the Texas Legislature by the end of the year on ways to fix the state's beleaguered school finance system," convened to "take public input for the first time." The Statesman says the "complicated" funding approach "has long been criticized as inadequate and outdated, no longer reflecting the actual expenses of teaching Texas children."

SAFETY & SECURITY

One Million Expected At Anti-Gun-Violence Marches This Weekend.

The AP (3/19, Peltz) reports that students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School said Monday they expect more than 1 million participants in marches this weekend "in Washington and elsewhere calling for gun regulations." More than 800 March for Our Lives demonstrations are planned around the world Saturday, sparked by the Feb. 14 shooting in Parkland, Florida. Alex Wind, a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, told the AP, "It just shows that the youth are tired of being the generation where we're locked in closets and waiting for police to come in case of a shooter."

Accused Shooter's Brother Charged With Trespassing At Florida High School.

The New York Times (3/19, Haag, Subscription Publication) reports that Zachary Cruz, the brother of accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, has been arrested on a charge of trespassing at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High

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‘ATTACKS WOULD END!’: Trump doubles down on arming some teachers, defends NRA

The strategy of arming teachers has many critics, including some law enforcement officers and the National Education Association, the country’s largest teachers lobby.

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Divorce, drugs, drinking: Billy Graham’s children and their absent father

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This photo of Trump's notes captures his empathy deficit better than anything

Photographers captured Trump's notes from his gun-violence listening session. At No. 5: "I hear you."

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Dana Loesch, the NRA's brash spokeswoman, dials back the rage at CNN town hall

It was a different version of Loesch than the Second Amendment firebrand who has appeared in recent NRA videos.

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GOP congresswoman claims 'so many' mass murderers 'end up being Democrats'

Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) did not give evidence to back up her claim.

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None of us who want stronger firearms laws wants to disrupt anybody else's way of life.

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Trump supports arming some teachers in the U.S. Other countries have different ideas.

A leading European expert on the issue called the U.S. debate "absurd," warning that it may increase the number of shootings.

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As an Arkansas judge, he dismissed sentences for sexual photos. Now he's going to prison.

As "community service," Joseph Boeckmann would force young men to bend over as he took "sexually gratifying" photos of them.

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Trump is right back where he started, and that's a problem for the GOP

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- Excuse me, director, I have some questions about my role in the spring play as crisis actor
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A superintendent threatens to suspend students protesting gun laws. But that's not legal.

Students were threatened with three days of suspension for protesting. Legal scholars say that amounts to a constitutional violation.

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The NRA tweeted a GIF of Poehler, which she didn't appreciate.

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‘I am not a crisis actor’: Florida teens fire back at right-wing conspiracy theorists

Parkland, Fla., students who survived last week's school have become a target of right-wing smears after calling for gun control.

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He was flashing gang signs on Facebook. It got him killed by MS-13.

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This single cartoon about school shootings is

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breaking people's hearts

The cartoon portrays a young girl reaching out to hold the hand of Aaron Feis, a victim of last week's shooting.

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A lawmaker's aide called school-shooting survivors crisis actors. Within hours, he was fired.

Benjamin Kelly, a Republican Florida aide, had said David Hogg and Emma Gonzalez "are not students here but actors that travel to various crisis when they happen."

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Democrats just flipped another seat deep in Trump country. Here's why this is happening.

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His evangelical "crusades" made him one of the most influential religious figures of his time.

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The president has yet to cross the NRA, but has privately discussed ideas that could put him at odds with the gun-rights group.

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Lindsey Vonn breaks down in tears after final Olympic downhill race

In what is expected to be her last Olympics, the ski racer wept as she talked about her late grandfather. She has one more race to go.

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‘I have to see you again’: How Trump’s alleged affair with a porn star spilled into public view

The president has denied Stormy Daniels’s allegations, detailed in a lawsuit filed this week.

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Trump's silence on Stormy Daniels is deafening

Trump called his 2016 female accusers "liars" and can't be bothered to stick to talking points. So why hasn't he said or tweeted anything about Daniels?

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‘Mr. Santorum, CPR doesn’t work if all the blood is on the ground.’

The former senator suggested that learning CPR was a better way for young people to take action in response to a mass shooting, rather than protesting gun violence and asking “someone else to solve their problem.”

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Subject: The Post Most: Fourth Austin explosion appears related to other bombings, may have been set off by tripwire, police say
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After Trump tweets, GOP rallies around Mueller — but not bills to protect him

The president called out special counsel Robert S. Mueller III by name for the first time in a fresh tirade against the Russia probe, but GOP lawmakers showed no new urgency to pass a law restraining him from ordering Mueller fired.

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Kevin Esterly met Amy Yu at church when she was 8. Recently, police say, he was signing her out of school and had rented an apartment near her home.

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Colion Noir has said the Parkland teens are pawns of a larger effort to destroy Second Amendment rights.

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In a burst of tweets, Trump insists that he’s happy with his legal team

President Trump ran through a litany of topics in a series of tweets early Sunday, bouncing from an attack by a gunman in France to his plans for a border wall to his personal legal team.

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In another blow to Trump's efforts to combat Russia probe, diGenova will no longer join legal team

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A boy was decapitated on a waterslide. The park knew the ride could kill people, officials say.

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'Never again!' Students demand action against gun violence in nation's capital

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A deputy in Houston shot and killed an unarmed black man — days after Stephon Clark's death

The woman that recorded the last moments of Danny Ray Thomas's life thought it would end differently. "He about to get Tased," a woman says in the video, laughing. A police SUV's lights flash near an apparent altercation involving Thomas and another man on a Houston street. Thomas is in white, his pants around his ankles. […]

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House election too close to call with candidates separated by couple hundred votes

Conor Lamb's campaign gave Democrats a shot in this slice of Trump country in southwest Pennsylvania. Both parties focused on the race as a harbinger for the midterms.

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The president has fired off tweets attacking the special counsel's expanding Russia investigation.

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Andrew McCabe was just offered a job by a congressman so he can get his full retirement. And it just might work.

With 20 years of law enforcement service under his belt, McCabe could take a federal job for a day to get his full retirement benefits, a former government official said.

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McCabe's firing shows yet again how readily Trump incriminates himself

McCabe hits back with a blistering denunciation of Trump.

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After McCabe firing, Trump attacks FBI, and his lawyer says Russia probe must end

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It was the third dog-related high-profile mishap by United Airlines.
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Pennsylvania jolted the national campaign for control of Congress. GOP incumbents are furiously fundraising. Democrats are looking at districts where Trump won.

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Senior aides to the president had indicated Thursday that he would sign the bill.

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McDougal spoke about the relationship she says began in 2006.

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The former U.N. ambassador will become President Trump's national security adviser next month, coinciding with summits with Kim Jong Un.

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Subject: The power of student voice - and how to amplify it
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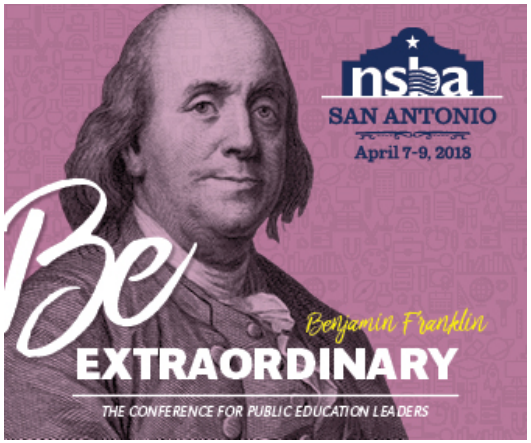
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As Gun Debate Appears To Stall In Congress, Trump To Unveil School Safety Proposals This Week.

Media coverage of the aftermath of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida casts Republicans as unwilling to move forward with gun control legislation despite strong pressure from student activists and public opinion in general. With legislative avenues seemingly stalled on Capitol Hill, Politico (2/27, Lima) reports, "White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday the...administration will reveal which policy proposals it supports on school safety by the end of the week," but already "mentioned two measures the White House supports, including the 'Fix NICS' bill spearheaded by" Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn. The Hill (2/27, Fabian) reports Sanders also "sought to push back on speculation that [President] Trump is backing away" from proposals to "to raise the age limit to buy the type of high-powered rifle used in the Parkland...shooting," telling reporters, "The president still supports raising the age limit to 21 for the purchase of certain firearms." Under the headline "Congress Looks For More Clarity From Trump As It Weighs Response To Florida School Shootings," however, the Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) illustrates lawmakers' confusion about Trump's stances by reporting that Sen. Pat Roberts "believes" the President "has backed off his call on raising the minimum age for rifle purchases."

At any rate, Reuters (2/27, Cornwell, Cowan) points out, House GOP leaders "said on Tuesday that they would not raise the minimum age for gun buyers, in a sign that one of...Trump's proposals likely will not get far on Capitol Hill." Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway reiterated on Fox News' Special Report (2/27) that Trump "supports increasing the age perhaps for possession of some firearms. He certainly supports fixing NICS, the background checks. He has also talked about mental health. He's talked about how he wants to make it more difficult for people

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who shouldn't have firearms to have them, but easier for those who should and should be allowed to carry them under the Second Amendment to do so. ... It's a complex issue. ... But this is a President, like he did on immigration, on energy policy, on taxes, he is bringing both parties and both chambers into the White House or he is going to them and he is working the phones and he is talking to them about what's possible. In the end, Congress will need to act and the President will sign into law something that is reasonable, common sense that gets us closer to keeping school children safe."

Another Politico (2/27, Schor, Woellert) story indicates "lawmakers from both parties, including some of the Democrats' strongest gun-control advocates, are planning to meet with...Trump Wednesday." Politico adds that Cornyn and his "Fix NICS" co-sponsor Sen. Chris Murphy "are both expected to attend," as are Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "chief author of legislation banning assault weapons and other control bills," and Sen. Joe Manchin, "who crafted a background-check expansion plan with Sen. Pat Toomey." The Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) reports that "in advance of the bipartisan gun summit at the White House on Wednesday, lawmakers are searching for signals from the administration," though "there is also an open question in Congress over how much Trump will actually affect the debate, with some Senate leaders pushing for more guidance from the president given his continuing focus on the shootings, while other top senators are skeptical that any guidance from the mercurial president – such as during the stalemate on immigration – will ultimately matter much."

For now, the AP (2/27, Mascaro, Daly) reports, Speaker Ryan "showed little interest Tuesday in some of the stricter gun proposals being floated by...Trump or bipartisan coalitions in Congress," and "Senate Republicans pushed" the Fix NICS bill, "a more modest measure to boost the existing background check system with new penalties and incentives." ABC World News Tonight (2/27, story 6, 1:50, Muir) said reported, "Florida students on Capitol Hill are pressing lawmakers to act on guns, but...their calls are falling flat." Speaker Ryan was shown saying, "We shouldn't be banning guns for law-abiding citizens. We should be focusing on making sure that citizens who should not get guns in the first place don't get those guns." ABC added that Fix NICS is "stalled in the Senate and likely would not have stopped the Florida shooter." ABC added that "as recently as Saturday, the President has called to raise the minimum age to purchase rifles," but "there is no legislation in the works."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Bender, Subscription Publication) reports that legislators from both parties are looking for some indication from Trump as to what kinds of gun control measures he is likely to support. Meanwhile, Trump has invited members of Congress who represent Parkland, Florida and Newtown, Connecticut – both the sites of deadly school shootings – to the White House on Wednesday.

Florida House, Senate Committees Approve Bills To Arm Teachers. The AP (2/27, Kennedy, Farrington, Anderson) reports "family members of people killed in a South Florida school shooting gave emotional testimony Tuesday during a legislative hearing to discuss passing a bill that would allow for armed teachers and raise the age limit to buy rifles." A House committee "approved the bill that would raise the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21 and creates a three-day waiting period for all gun purchase." The measure "would also create a program that allows teachers who receive law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office to carry concealed weapons in the classroom if also approved by the school district."

The Miami Herald (2/27, Bousquet) reports a Florida Senate approved a similar – but not identical – measure. Whereas the House bill would "train teachers to carry guns in class under the direction of local law enforcement – if superintendents or the school board approve," the Senate Appropriations Committee would require "that both the sheriff and school district officials in a county agree to the program before it can be adopted." The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/27, Sweeney, Fleshler) notes "Gov. Rick Scott doesn't support the part of the plan that would allow teachers to carry firearms, though he has not said whether its inclusion would mean a veto." The New York Times (2/27, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) points out that "it was unclear" whether Scott "would accept a proposal from lawmakers to arm school personnel other than teachers, such as athletic coaches who sometimes double as security monitors. He declined to clarify his position in a news conference in the Miami suburb of Doral on Tuesday."

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The Washington Post (2/28, Strauss) also reports.

Michigan House Bill To Allow Gun Training For Teachers Who Volunteer For It. The Detroit Free Press (2/27, Gray) reports that a bill "being developed" by two Republicans in the Michigan House would allow teachers to be armed. State Rep. Jim Runestad "will schedule hearings this spring on a bill that he's drafting that will allow school districts to provide access to guns in locked, undisclosed locations in school buildings to teachers who volunteer and who are trained in firearm use." The teachers "would have to go through 80 hours of training on how to shoot a gun, gun safety, how to engage with an active shooter and tactics to de-escalate a dangerous situation." The guns "would be hidden in locked compartments that would only be accessible through the thumbprint of approved school employees."

Alabama Legislature Considers Armed Volunteers In Schools. Alabama Live (2/27) reports that under a bill being considered in the Alabama legislature, "any trained school employee or citizen volunteer could join an armed security force in Alabama schools." The bill would expand on a local ordinance under which "school principals can request a volunteer armed security force." The AP (2/27) also covers this story.

Mississippi Legislators Propose Letting Teachers Carry Guns. The AP (2/27) reports that a proposal in the Mississippi state Senate would "give schools the options of arming teachers in an effort to prevent future school shootings." The legislation "would let school boards set up safety programs that would include letting teachers and other school employees with special training carry concealed guns."

Bevin, Abbott Weigh In On Trump Proposal To Arm Certain Teachers. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27) about the President's suggestion that some teachers be armed in the schools, said, "I think on a voluntary basis, purely volitional, I think it's a very good idea and worthy of being considered. I think teachers who are willing should go through an extensive training far above and beyond what it takes to be a conceal carry gun owner. Should go through a battery of psychiatric tests to ensure they are mentally able. ... But it shouldn't just be teachers, it should be available to administrators. Custodians, coaches, anyone inside that school on a voluntary basis, I think we would be foolish not to consider that as a possibility."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27), "It is important to understand that not one size fits all when it comes to the approach to address this issue. Texas is maybe different than Washington State. Even parts of Texas are different than other parts of Texas but in Texas we do have a robust program of allowing but not requiring teachers to be authorized to carry guns in schools. Not just teachers, it could be coaches or administrators or others. That is called our School Marshall program. Where people, persons who work in schools, will be authorized to carry. Sometimes it will be notified in front of a school, when a school puts up a billboard saying that teachers are armed. Don't harm any kid on this campus. Other times it is more concealed."

USA Today (2/27) editorializes that "few educators have any desire to wield firearms or be responsible for going into combat with heavily armed intruders. Even police officers with years of training still have doubts – and make mistakes – during critical moments at crime scenes." Jerome R. Corsi, "author of Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump," writes in USA Today (2/27) that "arming all teachers and school staff is no solution in situations where teachers and staff feel fully committed to dealing with educational issues," but "in cases where teachers and school staff are predisposed to be comfortable with concealed carry, as could well be the case with military veterans or retired law enforcement who make education their second career, allowing them the right to carry weapons provides the possibility of a near instant response. A would-be school shooter can be neutralized before schoolchildren are senselessly murdered."

Cruz Neighbor Says She "Begged" Police To Take Action, Was Told Cruz Was No "Immediate Threat." The Washington Times (2/27, Persons) reports "a former neighbor of Nikolas Cruz...said she 'begged' police to act regarding his disturbing behavior and threatening social media posts, CNN reported Tuesday." Joelle Guarino told CNN her son "showed her multiple posts on social media from Mr. Cruz, including one of an AR-15 and another about shooting up a school." Guarino said that at her request, "a police officer came to her home" and told

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her “there was nothing he could do.” Said Guarino, “I begged him, and he basically told me that it was not an immediate threat. He couldn’t do anything, is what he told me.”

The Washington Post (2/27) editorializes that “it is not quite right to say that...Cruz...fell through the cracks. The truth is even more unsettling,” as “many people” had been “alerted to Mr. Cruz’s troubling behavior,” including “school officials, police, state social services workers and friends” who “sought to intervene and help.” To the Post, “their failure underscores just how difficult it is to deal with mental illness.” At any rate, “the law enforcement agencies that interacted with this suspect – or should have, as was the case with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which completely botched a detailed tip — must...face a reckoning,” but “when all those reviews are completed, this much will remain true: There will always be an element of human error and unpredictability in these difficult cases.” The Post concludes that “that is why an additional reform is so logical: banning weapons of war.”

Teachers, Counselors Hoped Alternative School Would Address Cruz’s Mental Health Issues. USA Today (2/27, Murphy, Perez) reports “teachers and counselors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School hoped a transfer to an alternative school would provide mental health services for...Cruz after his behavior and discipline problems increased in 2016.” Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie “said Cruz’s situation at Douglas had deteriorated so much so that his counselors and teachers decided to refer him out of the school in early 2017,” hoping “he would return to Cross Creek School, an alternative program with smaller classes and a more comprehensive offering of mental health services.” Said Runcie, “He declined. ... When a kid turns 18, we can’t force an adult to receive those services.”

Hurricane-Proof Glass Windows May Have Prevented Additional Carnage. NBC Nightly News (2/27, story 3, 1:50, Holt) reported that it “has learned shooting suspect Nicolas Cruz may have had more plans to unleash more carnage inside his former high school. At the time he dropped his AR-15, he still had five fully loaded magazines, one marked with a swastika.” The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 3, 1:20, Glor) also reported “more people could have been injured or killed.” Cruz “began firing in the first and second floors of the freshman building, he continued to make his way up. And that is where investigators believe he planned on using a third-floor stairwell as a vantage point to shoot at students. Sources say Cruz attempted to create a sniper’s nest by shooting out a glass window, firing 16 rounds into the glass,” but “the hurricane-proof glass appeared to have stopped it from shattering.”

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Students Return To School Today. The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 4, 2:25, Glor) reported students were to “return to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School” this morning “for the first time since the shooting. They will have a half day of classes tomorrow.” CBS (Diaz) added “grief counselors will be in every classroom that’s missing a student who passed away.” The Miami Herald (2/27, Herrera) and Washington Post (2/27, Balingit), among other news outlets, also report on the students’ return to school.

Texas Civil Rights Groups Criticize Plans To Punish Student Protesters. The AP (2/27) reports the civil rights advocacy groups Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas Appleseed “have warned a Houston-area school district superintendent that his threat to punish students who disrupt classes to protest current gun laws may violate their constitutional free-speech rights.” The groups “sent a letter to Needville school district Superintendent Curtis Rhodes that expressed their concern over Rhodes’ threat. Texas ACLU staff attorney Kali Cohn said school administrators can’t censor political speech nor punish students more harshly for missing school to participate in political protest than they would for any other unexcused absence.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

West Virginia Governor Announces Deal; Teachers To Return To Class Thursday.

The Washington Post (2/27, Larimer) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced a deal to end a statewide teachers strike on Tuesday. The deal, which includes a 5% raise, clears the way for teachers to return to the

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classroom on Thursday, "with Wednesday serving as a 'cooling off day.'" The strike impacted over 277,000 students and shuttered schools in all 55 of the state's counties, and was "sparked by concerns about pay and benefits."

Reuters (2/27) reports the deal to end the four-day strike came "after thousands of teachers and their backers descended on the state capitol in Charleston demanding better benefits and a hike in wages now near the bottom among U.S. teachers." The strike began "on Thursday after Justice signed legislation to give teachers and state police a 2 percent raise."

The Seventy Four (2/27, Fay) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos weighed in on the strike earlier in the day, "saying that good teachers 'deserve better pay' but students should not miss school due to adult disagreements. In a series of tweets, she also called on 'both sides' to negotiate a compromise soon." Also reporting are NBC News (2/28), Newsweek (2/27, Swaak), and USA Today (2/27, Bacon).

Graduation Rates Among Disadvantaged Students In New Mexico Rise.

The Ruidoso (NM) News (2/27) reports that New Mexico's "high school graduation rate remains at an all-time high" of 71 percent. In addition, "since 2011, graduation rates have improved significantly for the state's Hispanic, African-American, disabled, and low-income students." Gov. Susana Martinez said when she announced the achievements on Friday, "New Mexico's students continue to show that when we hold them to high standards, they rise to the occasion."

Michigan's Career Pathways Alliance Raises Controversy.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (2/27, VanHulle) reports the Career Pathways Alliance in Michigan which seeks to "unite business leaders and educators around ways to increase Michigan's talent pool" by "recruiting new career-tech teachers directly from the private sector." The state, particularly through a House bill that "would allow career-tech teachers to teach with no requirement that they obtain a teaching credential within a set number of years," is also aiming to address a teacher shortage, but the Michigan Education Association, which represents teachers, "views the bill as 'a dilution of the teaching profession.'"

Teachers Voice Frustration Ahead Of Next Court Case Against Teachers' Unions.

Education Week (2/27, Will) reports teachers Ryan Yohn, Bruce Aster, and Brian Miller spoke to reporters at the Center for Individual Rights on Tuesday to express their "frustration at feeling voiceless and powerless under the union's current structure" and discuss Yohn v. California Teachers Association, a "case that could potentially hammer teachers' unions." The gathering came just a day after Supreme Court justices heard arguments in the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) case, which "charges that public-employee unions in 22 states shouldn't be allowed to charge 'agency' or 'fair-share' fees to workers who choose not to join but who are still represented in collective bargaining." Education Week says the Yohn case, "which is currently on hold pending a decision in Janus," goes "one step further," arguing that "teachers should have to affirmatively opt into the union – not opt out."

Indiana Lawmakers Revive Proposal To Let Districts Hire More Unlicensed Teachers.

Chalkbeat (2/27, Cavazos) reports Indiana lawmakers "revived" on Tuesday "a controversial proposal to allow district schools to hire up to 10 percent unlicensed teachers," as the legislators "said they wanted to address teaching shortages by allowing traditional public schools to have similar flexibility in hiring as charter schools." Republican Rep. Bob Behning, chairman of the House Education Committee, reintroduced the measure through an amendment to Senate Bill 387, which "now also includes provisions to allow districts to give certain teachers extra

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pay and change teacher pay scales."

Opinion: NES Basic Skills Exams Reinforce Structures Of Social Stratification.

Dr. Nicholas D. Hartlep, an assistant professor and coordinator of the Early Childhood and Elementary School Programs in the School of Urban Education at Metropolitan State University, and Dr. René Antrop-González, the school's dean, write an op-ed in Diverse Education (2/27) arguing the NES Basic Skills tests "reinforce manmade structures of social stratification that consist of exalting the worldviews of Whites, English-dominant speakers and economically privileged Christians at the top of the social order." The authors lament the fact that the "successful completion of college-level courses does not exempt [students] from having to take the NES Basic Skills exams for entry or teacher licensure," and argue the "arduous" process of applying for extended time on the NES tests for non-native English speakers is "nothing more than a modern day 'poll tax' comprised of having to navigate hurdles that pre-service teachers from privileged identities are not asked and expected to jump over."

Idaho Lawmakers Question Loan Forgiveness Bill For Rural Teachers.

The AP (2/27) reports "a handful of Idaho lawmakers say they have too many objections to a proposal" that would grant "$3,000 in student loan forgiveness a year for four years" to "up to 500 eligible teachers who work in rural schools." The House Education Committee sent HB 504 to the full House on Tuesday to be amended, "citing concerns about taking money out of the general fund to pay for loans."

Report: States Need Better Data Collection To Address Teacher Shortages.

Arizona Public Media (2/27, O'Gara) reports the National Council on Teacher Quality believes a number of states, including Arizona "aren't doing enough to collect and connect data – in particular, data on teacher preparation programs," and that doing so could help to address issues with "teacher recruitment and retainment." The council recently published a report that "asks if a state collects and maintains public data about its teacher preparation programs, whether and to what extent that data is matched to school district hiring needs, and if the state offers guidance on high-need certification areas." Without sufficient data in that regard, the council contends, "there are big gaps in the information needed to guide state-level policy decisions, and districts are deprived of a 'powerful lever' to incentivize certification in certain subjects."

OPERATIONS

Public Advocate Blasts New York's Renewal Program.

The New York Post (2/27, Algar) reports that New York City Public Advocate Letitia James "ripped" Mayor Bill de Blasio's Renewal school program at a City Council hearing on Tuesday, saying, "The Renewal schools program was announced with great fanfare in November of 2014...And three and a half years and hundreds of millions of dollars later it is hard to argue that this program has been a success." However, James also "blasted the Department of Education for opting to close teetering Renewal schools instead of plying them with additional resources." The article adds that "nine original Renewals have been already been shuttered and another eight have been proposed for closure."

Investigation Of Enrollment Fraud In DC School Becomes Public.

The Washington Post (2/27, Jamison, Strauss, Stein) reports that, according to informed government officials, an investigation by Washington, DC officials has uncovered "signs of widespread enrollment fraud" at the Duke

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Ellington School of the Arts, “one of the city’s most revered public schools.” The Post says “it is unclear how far the investigation has progressed since” it was originally shared at a meeting “attended by representatives from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education...and the office of the DC attorney general” in December. However, Mayor Muriel Bowser and State Superintendent of Education Hanseul Kang “called a news conference about” the investigation on Tuesday after the Post “published a version of” the report presented in December.

DC District, Former Chancellor Sign Separation Agreement.

The Washington Post (2/27, Stein) reports former DC Public Schools chancellor Antwan Wilson “will receive six months of pay when he severs ties with the city next week, according to a separation agreement signed Monday.” Wilson “was forced to resign from his position leading the public school system last week amid revelations that he violated school lottery system rules when he transferred his daughter to a high-performing school,” and he has since been on administrative leave. His contract will officially terminate on March 7. The Post notes that under the terms of the agreement, “Wilson did not admit wrongdoing.” Still, his “resignation was swift and unexpected, and sent another jolt through a beleaguered school system already engulfed in a graduation scandal.” It also “delivers a political blow” to Mayor Muriel Bowser, who faces re-election this year and “whose selection of Wilson, an outsider, was one of the most important and high-profile appointments of her tenure.”

Dallas District Gathers High School Students For Gun Violence Forum.

The Dallas Morning News (2/27, Smith, Writer) reports Dallas Independent School District held a student forum on Tuesday focused on mass violence. In the wake of the Parkland shooting, roughly 200 high school students “gathered to add their voices to the chorus, sharing their experiences and opinions on how to make their schools and communities safer.” Urban Specialists chief executive Omar Jahwar, the forum moderator, “tasked the students with offering their own solutions to solve the school shooting crisis, and help those who are being affected by gun violence.” He also requested that they “take an active role in being involved in the larger, national movement on student safety and gun control.” Referring to the murder of a DISD senior on Saturday, the Morning News says the gun violence issue “isn’t an abstract for DISD students, whether its a numb acceptance of the frequency of school shootings, or something more local – and more tragic.”

Maryland State Officials Urge District To Prove Efforts Remedying Diploma Scandal.

The Washington Post (2/27, George) reports that on Tuesday, Maryland state Superintendent Karen B. Salmon “called on Prince George’s County to prove it is fixing problems uncovered in a diploma scandal and took the unusual step of assigning a state employee full time to monitor those efforts for the next year.” The recommended actions “drew unanimous support from the Maryland State Board of Education a month after Prince George’s leaders appeared before the panel.” Under the plan, “the state will seek periodic written reports on the county’s progress in fixing what went wrong and request an outside audit afterward to ensure problems are resolved.” State BOE president Andrew Smarick “said the panel was alarmed by findings of a state-ordered investigation, conducted last fall after allegations of graduation rate fraud in the state’s second-largest school system.” He stressed that the state of Maryland “needs to be confident that the district’s graduates have earned their diplomas.”

More Than One Out Of 10 Oklahoma Students “Chronically Absent,” Report Finds.

Citing “the annual ImpactTulsa report,” which was released on Tuesday, the Tulsa (OK) World (2/27, Overall) reports that “more than one out of 10 Oklahoma students are ‘chronically absent,’” meaning they miss “more than a tenth of the school year, leading to lower test scores and higher dropout rates.” The report concludes chronic absence “is an early warning indicator for both low achievement and dropping out of high school,” and “calls for

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efforts to 'target student populations with chronic absenteeism and support teachers and districts with resources they need to influence change directly with students.'"

Florida County Contracts Outside Company To Potentially Operate Struggling Schools.

The Tampa (FL) Tribune (2/27, Wright) reports in its "Gradebook" blog that Florida's Pinellas County School Board on Tuesday "voted 7-0...to hire Learning Sciences International to operate Fairmount Park and Lakewood elementary schools and Azalea Middle School starting in August, if their students don't do well enough on state tests this spring." The agreement, part of a broader trend in districts throughout the state, "is the result of a controversial new state law, known by its bill name HB 7069," which "requires that any public school with three consecutive grades below a C to choose one of three 'turnaround' options." These include "reassigning students to another school, closing the school and reopening it as a charter, or contracting with an outside entity to operate the school."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Metro Atlanta Students Forced To Retake ACT After 220 Tests Lost In FedEx System.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/26, Brasch) reports a spokesman for the ACT said Monday that 220 tests taken at Lassiter High School in Marietta on Jan. 6 are missing in the FedEx system. ACT spokesman Ed Colby said, "It's a terrible situation. It's a very unfortunate situation for these students. We're doing everything we can to locate that package." He said students, facing college application deadlines, took the test against on Saturday for free. Colby also said students were refunded for their tests. A FedEx spokesman also told the AJC: "FedEx understands how important these test results are to the students and their families. We are conducting a thorough search for this shipment and continue to work very closely with ACT on this matter."

WSB-TV Atlanta (GA) Atlanta (2/26) and International Business Times (2/27, Madappa) also cover this story.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Report Finds Ohio Among Top States For Equitable Distribution Of School Funds.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (2/27, Gilchrist) says a national report released Tuesday by the nonprofit policy group The Education Trust found that Ohio "does better than almost all other states in directing school funding to poor and minority students." Ohio Office of Budget and Management Spokesman John Charlton said, "A lot of the things that the Kasich administration has tried to do ... is to direct funds to areas of the most need." The article provides further detail on the report's analysis.

Report: In Most States, Poorest Districts Receive Less Funding Than Wealthier Districts.

U.S. News & World Report (2/27) reports The Education Trust released a report Tuesday that "shine[s] a spotlight on funding gaps that plague the country's public education system." While those funding gaps "vary significantly" from state to state, the poorest districts in more than half of states "do not receive funding to address their students' increased needs," with Illinois, Missouri, New York, and Alabama ranked "among the worst." The "silver lining," however, "is that the situation seems to be improving, albeit slightly," according to The Education Trust's previous examination in 2015. The trend could even "continue given the number of states rethinking their school funding formulas in an attempt to make their education finance systems more equitable, especially for school districts that serve lots of students in need of extra supports, such as poor students, students with disabilities and those learning English."

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Kentucky State Lawmakers Say Budget Proposal Includes Additional Education Funding Revenue Sources.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (2/27) reports Kentucky state House Democratic Whip Dennis Keene and state Rep. Kelly Flood "said they were among a group of Democrats given an advance briefing late Tuesday afternoon on the budget plan of the majority Republicans" that "they were told House Republicans will propose to come up with additional money through a 50-cent increase in Kentucky's 60-cent per pack cigarette tax and a new tax of 25 cents per dosage of opioid drugs." The revenue from those tax increases, according to the two state lawmakers, "would allow the budget to increase funding for the main public school program known as Support Education Excellence in Kentucky as well as restore at least some of the cut that Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget would have made in funding to school districts for student transportation." According to Keene, however, "It's not all crystal clear. ... The briefing lasted about an hour and we weren't given anything in writing."

Colorado Grass-Roots Movement Seeks Ballot Initiative On New Funding Formula.

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (2/27) reports a local Colorado branch of "the bipartisan grass-roots movement Great Schools Thriving Communities launched its petition drive to place Initiative 93," aimed at replacing "the 1994 education funding formula often maligned as unfair and outdated," before voters this year. Thus far, "171 of the state's 178 superintendents are behind the initiative, with the seven holdouts mostly from rural districts." If "placed on the ballot for potential voter approval" and passed by a 55 percent margin, it "would amend the state constitution to increase taxes $1.6 billion annually, with that money placed into a Public Education Fund and earmarked for preschool through high school education." The initiative is "designed to work in conjunction with" a bill that "would amend the state constitution to create a new school funding distribution formula – if and when money become available." The Chieftain notes the new funding formula emphasizes "full-day kindergarten, special education, English language learners and gift/talented students."

Iowa State Governor Receives Education Funding Bill.

The AP (2/27) reports Iowa's Republican-controlled state Senate voted Monday in favor of "a bill that will provide a 1 percent increase, or about $32 million in new spending, toward Iowa's roughly $3.2 billion education budget" for the next school year. The measure was sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds, as the Republican-controlled state House already "approved the same legislation earlier this month." A separate bill to include an additional $14 million in one-time funds "was approved in a separate bill," and it, too, "heads to Reynolds." Some teachers warned "the funding boost won't be enough to cover rising costs and will force budget cuts," although Republican state lawmakers "say they're prioritizing education amid ongoing budget constraints." The AP notes that for weeks, state lawmakers "were at odds," especially on the issue of "whether to include additional money for transportation and per-pupil inequity spending." Some educators warned the education funding measure

SAFETY & SECURITY

Researchers: School Shootings Have Been Declining Since Early 1990s.

The Washington Times (2/27, Boyer) reports that "despite the horror of the high school massacre in Florida, US schools overall are safer today than they were in the early 1990s, and there is not an epidemic of such shootings, a new academic study is reporting." According to "researchers at Northeastern University...mass school shootings are extremely rare," and "shootings involving students have been declining since the 1990s." Back then, say the

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researchers, “four times as many children were killed in schools.” The Times adds “the researchers used data collected by USA Today, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report, Congressional Research Service, Gun Violence Archive, Stanford Geospatial Center and Stanford Libraries, Mother Jones, Everytown for Gun Safety, and a New York City Police Department report on active shooters.”

School Security Sees Widespread Changes Since Columbine.

USA Today (2/27, Toppo) reports on the changes to school security in districts across the country in the wake of the Columbine massacre, noting that schools now require such measures as keycard entry, video surveillance, and other measures. In 1999, “just 19% of schools said they used security cameras to monitor buildings. By the 2013-14 school year, 75% had the devices up and running.”

Baltimore Sun School Security Investigation Yields Mixed Results.

The Baltimore Sun (2/27) reports that Baltimore Sun Media Group reporters were sent to 18 Baltimore-area schools on Monday “to experience security protocols in the wake of the Parkland” massacre. “Local journalists went to elementary, middle and high schools in the city and surrounding counties Monday to determine whether the systems’ protocols match the reality.” A number of schools “allowed a reporter inside without requiring verbal identification before entering. Some schools did not ask for a driver’s license at the front desk. A few had unlocked front doors.”

Secret Service School Shootings Study Discussed.

Jeff Daniels writes in The Conversation (US) (2/27, Daniels) that “what often gets overlooked in the conversation” on preventing school shootings “is research on the subject that has already been done,” including a major study from the Secret Service. Daniels says, “Following the publication of the Secret Service study on school shootings, my research on averted school shootings found that schools that prevented a shooting had done some of the things recommended by the Secret Service. The case in Florida shows that many of these recommendations were followed and people spoke up when they saw something wrong. The issue is whether authorities need more power to intervene once they have been made aware of a potential threat, or whether they just need to do a better job with the power they already have.”

Anti-Government Militia Calls On Members To Defend Schools.

The Washington Post (2/27, Eltagouri) reports Stewart Rhodes, “leader of an extremist anti-government group” the Oath Keepers, “ has a solution to stop school shootings: Send every school in the country a former police officer or military veteran, armed with an assault rifle, to defend students.” Rhodes is “calling on the tens of thousands of members of his far-right militia group to work unpaid, rotating shifts at schools at all levels, including colleges.”

Indianapolis Student Brings Legal Challenge To District Over Bathroom Use.

USA Today (2/27, Hussein, Star) reports that a high school junior in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. in Indiana who “is noted as female on his birth certificate but identifies as male” is saying that “he is being unlawfully discriminated against after a request to use the bathroom of his choosing was denied by school officials.” The article says the complaint follows a federal appeals court ruling last May “in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage,” and the suicide of an Evansville student whose family “said he was a target of bullying because of his sexual identity.”

The Indianapolis Star (2/27) reports the district “is facing a legal challenge to its policy on transgender students’ use of bathrooms,” noting that the complaint “comes after a federal appeals court in May ruled in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage.”

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Commentary: Teaching Social And Emotional Learning Can Prevent School Bullying.

In a piece for U.S. News & World Report (2/27), Ulrich Boser, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, writes that “a growing body of research shows that schools can prevent bullying” by “helping students develop social-emotional skills.” However, this “can be challenging for some schools. For one, school leaders are under significant pressure to improve academic progress, and so many schools neglect the social and emotional side of learning. Plus, social-emotional skills may seem a little vague, and so educators do not get much guidance on what to teach or even how to teach it.”

New Jersey Students Protest Teacher’s Suspension Over School Safety Comments.

The Hill (2/27, Thomsen) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that hundreds of students on Tuesday walked out of Cherry Hill East High School in Camden County, New Jersey “to protest the suspension of” AP history teacher Timothy Locke “over comments he made sharing concerns about the possibility of a school shooting.” In addition, students held a protest in the school auditorium on Tuesday and 500 have signed a petition supporting the teacher.

New York’s Gov. Cuomo, Sen. DeFrancisco Debate School Spending.

The New York Post (2/27, Conley) reports Sen. John DeFrancisco, “GOP gubernatorial hopeful” for New York, “blasted Gov. Cuomo on Tuesday, saying he failed to release most of $2 billion in school funding, some of which could be used for safety measures.” In response, Cuomo’s administration explained the funds, which “voters approved through a bond act nearly four years ago,” can only be made available to schools after they apply for the money. “The state regularly processes applications and only has 10 outstanding before the review board that Cuomo controls, his office said,” and “both sides agree only $400 million has been spent.”

Melania Trump Launches Initiative To Promote Well-Being Of US Children.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (2/27, Ross) reports first lady Melania Trump on Monday gave “a speech on kindness, compassion and positive social media habits that may or may not be consequential to her husband’s administration and to her own legacy.” The speech was part of Mrs. Trump’s announcement of “an initiative to promote ‘the well-being’ of America’s children – an effort that she says will involve ‘promoting values such as encouragement, kindness, compassion, and respect in our children.’” The article also speculates as to the motivation behind the first lady’s speech.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Trump Floats Improved Mental Health Care, Says He May Have Confronted Parkland Shooter Unarmed.**
- **West Virginia Teacher Strike Expected To Continue Tuesday.**
- **Philly Introduces Philadelphia Board Of Education Nominees.**
- **Author Discusses New Book On Impact Of Technology On Children.**
- **Utah Lawmakers Considering Plans To Equalize School Funding.**

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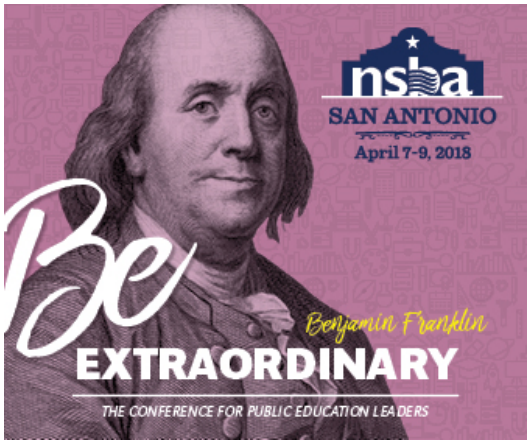
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LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



As Gun Debate Appears To Stall In Congress, Trump To Unveil School Safety Proposals This Week.

Media coverage of the aftermath of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida casts Republicans as unwilling to move forward with gun control legislation despite strong pressure from student activists and public opinion in general. With legislative avenues seemingly stalled on Capitol Hill, Politico (2/27, Lima) reports, “White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday the...administration will reveal which policy proposals it supports on school safety by the end of the week,” but already “mentioned two measures the White House supports, including the ‘Fix NICS’ bill spearheaded by” Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn. The Hill (2/27, Fabian) reports Sanders also “sought to push back on speculation that [President] Trump is backing away” from proposals to “to raise the age limit to buy the type of high-powered rifle used in the Parkland...shooting,” telling reporters, “The president still supports raising the age limit to 21 for the purchase of certain firearms.” Under the headline “Congress Looks For More Clarity From Trump As It Weighs Response To Florida School Shootings,” however, the Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) illustrates lawmakers’ confusion about Trump’s stances by reporting that Sen. Pat Roberts “believes” the President “has backed off his call on raising the minimum age for rifle purchases.”

At any rate, Reuters (2/27, Cornwell, Cowan) points out, House GOP leaders “said on Tuesday that they would not raise the minimum age for gun buyers, in a sign that one of...Trump’s proposals likely will not get far on Capitol Hill.” Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway reiterated on Fox News’ Special Report (2/27) that Trump “supports increasing the age perhaps for possession of some firearms. He certainly supports fixing NICS, the background checks. He has also talked about mental health. He’s talked about how he wants to make it more difficult for people

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who shouldn't have firearms to have them, but easier for those who should and should be allowed to carry them under the Second Amendment to do so. ... It's a complex issue. ... But this is a President, like he did on immigration, on energy policy, on taxes, he is bringing both parties and both chambers into the White House or he is going to them and he is working the phones and he is talking to them about what's possible. In the end, Congress will need to act and the President will sign into law something that is reasonable, common sense that gets us closer to keeping school children safe."

Another Politico (2/27, Schor, Woellert) story indicates "lawmakers from both parties, including some of the Democrats' strongest gun-control advocates, are planning to meet with...Trump Wednesday." Politico adds that Cornyn and his "Fix NICS" co-sponsor Sen. Chris Murphy "are both expected to attend," as are Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "chief author of legislation banning assault weapons and other control bills," and Sen. Joe Manchin, "who crafted a background-check expansion plan with Sen. Pat Toomey." The Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) reports that "in advance of the bipartisan gun summit at the White House on Wednesday, lawmakers are searching for signals from the administration," though "there is also an open question in Congress over how much Trump will actually affect the debate, with some Senate leaders pushing for more guidance from the president given his continuing focus on the shootings, while other top senators are skeptical that any guidance from the mercurial president – such as during the stalemate on immigration – will ultimately matter much."

For now, the AP (2/27, Mascaro, Daly) reports, Speaker Ryan "showed little interest Tuesday in some of the stricter gun proposals being floated by...Trump or bipartisan coalitions in Congress," and "Senate Republicans pushed" the Fix NICS bill, "a more modest measure to boost the existing background check system with new penalties and incentives." ABC World News Tonight (2/27, story 6, 1:50, Muir) said reported, "Florida students on Capitol Hill are pressing lawmakers to act on guns, but...their calls are falling flat." Speaker Ryan was shown saying, "We shouldn't be banning guns for law-abiding citizens. We should be focusing on making sure that citizens who should not get guns in the first place don't get those guns." ABC added that Fix NICS is "stalled in the Senate and likely would not have stopped the Florida shooter." ABC added that "as recently as Saturday, the President has called to raise the minimum age to purchase rifles," but "there is no legislation in the works."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Bender, Subscription Publication) reports that legislators from both parties are looking for some indication from Trump as to what kinds of gun control measures he is likely to support. Meanwhile, Trump has invited members of Congress who represent Parkland, Florida and Newtown, Connecticut – both the sites of deadly school shootings – to the White House on Wednesday.

Florida House, Senate Committees Approve Bills To Arm Teachers. The AP (2/27, Kennedy, Farrington, Anderson) reports "family members of people killed in a South Florida school shooting gave emotional testimony Tuesday during a legislative hearing to discuss passing a bill that would allow for armed teachers and raise the age limit to buy rifles." A House committee "approved the bill that would raise the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21 and creates a three-day waiting period for all gun purchase." The measure "would also create a program that allows teachers who receive law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office to carry concealed weapons in the classroom if also approved by the school district."

The Miami Herald (2/27, Bousquet) reports a Florida Senate approved a similar – but not identical – measure. Whereas the House bill would "train teachers to carry guns in class under the direction of local law enforcement – if superintendents or the school board approve," the Senate Appropriations Committee would require "that both the sheriff and school district officials in a county agree to the program before it can be adopted." The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/27, Sweeney, Fleshler) notes "Gov. Rick Scott doesn't support the part of the plan that would allow teachers to carry firearms, though he has not said whether its inclusion would mean a veto." The New York Times (2/27, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) points out that "it was unclear" whether Scott "would accept a proposal from lawmakers to arm school personnel other than teachers, such as athletic coaches who sometimes double as security monitors. He declined to clarify his position in a news conference in the Miami suburb of Doral on Tuesday."

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The Washington Post (2/28, Strauss) also reports.

Michigan House Bill To Allow Gun Training For Teachers Who Volunteer For It. The Detroit Free Press (2/27, Gray) reports that a bill "being developed" by two Republicans in the Michigan House would allow teachers to be armed. State Rep. Jim Runestad "will schedule hearings this spring on a bill that he's drafting that will allow school districts to provide access to guns in locked, undisclosed locations in school buildings to teachers who volunteer and who are trained in firearm use." The teachers "would have to go through 80 hours of training on how to shoot a gun, gun safety, how to engage with an active shooter and tactics to de-escalate a dangerous situation." The guns "would be hidden in locked compartments that would only be accessible through the thumbprint of approved school employees."

Alabama Legislature Considers Armed Volunteers In Schools. Alabama Live (2/27) reports that under a bill being considered in the Alabama legislature, "any trained school employee or citizen volunteer could join an armed security force in Alabama schools." The bill would expand on a local ordinance under which "school principals can request a volunteer armed security force." The AP (2/27) also covers this story.

Mississippi Legislators Propose Letting Teachers Carry Guns. The AP (2/27) reports that a proposal in the Mississippi state Senate would "give schools the options of arming teachers in an effort to prevent future school shootings." The legislation "would let school boards set up safety programs that would include letting teachers and other school employees with special training carry concealed guns."

Bevin, Abbott Weigh In On Trump Proposal To Arm Certain Teachers. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27) about the President's suggestion that some teachers be armed in the schools, said, "I think on a voluntary basis, purely volitional, I think it's a very good idea and worthy of being considered. I think teachers who are willing should go through an extensive training far above and beyond what it takes to be a conceal carry gun owner. Should go through a battery of psychiatric tests to ensure they are mentally able. ... But it shouldn't just be teachers, it should be available to administrators. Custodians, coaches, anyone inside that school on a voluntary basis, I think we would be foolish not to consider that as a possibility."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27), "It is important to understand that not one size fits all when it comes to the approach to address this issue. Texas is maybe different than Washington State. Even parts of Texas are different than other parts of Texas but in Texas we do have a robust program of allowing but not requiring teachers to be authorized to carry guns in schools. Not just teachers, it could be coaches or administrators or others. That is called our School Marshall program. Where people, persons who work in schools, will be authorized to carry. Sometimes it will be notified in front of a school, when a school puts up a billboard saying that teachers are armed. Don't harm any kid on this campus. Other times it is more concealed."

USA Today (2/27) editorializes that "few educators have any desire to wield firearms or be responsible for going into combat with heavily armed intruders. Even police officers with years of training still have doubts – and make mistakes – during critical moments at crime scenes." Jerome R. Corsi, "author of Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump," writes in USA Today (2/27) that "arming all teachers and school staff is no solution in situations where teachers and staff feel fully committed to dealing with educational issues," but "in cases where teachers and school staff are predisposed to be comfortable with concealed carry, as could well be the case with military veterans or retired law enforcement who make education their second career, allowing them the right to carry weapons provides the possibility of a near instant response. A would-be school shooter can be neutralized before schoolchildren are senselessly murdered."

Cruz Neighbor Says She "Begged" Police To Take Action, Was Told Cruz Was No "Immediate Threat." The Washington Times (2/27, Persons) reports "a former neighbor of Nikolas Cruz...said she 'begged' police to act regarding his disturbing behavior and threatening social media posts, CNN reported Tuesday." Joelle Guarino told CNN her son "showed her multiple posts on social media from Mr. Cruz, including one of an AR-15 and another about shooting up a school." Guarino said that at her request, "a police officer came to her home" and told

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her “there was nothing he could do.” Said Guarino, “I begged him, and he basically told me that it was not an immediate threat. He couldn’t do anything, is what he told me.”

The Washington Post (2/27) editorializes that “it is not quite right to say that...Cruz...fell through the cracks. The truth is even more unsettling,” as “many people” had been “alerted to Mr. Cruz’s troubling behavior,” including “school officials, police, state social services workers and friends” who “sought to intervene and help.” To the Post, “their failure underscores just how difficult it is to deal with mental illness.” At any rate, “the law enforcement agencies that interacted with this suspect – or should have, as was the case with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which completely botched a detailed tip — must...face a reckoning,” but “when all those reviews are completed, this much will remain true: There will always be an element of human error and unpredictability in these difficult cases.” The Post concludes that “that is why an additional reform is so logical: banning weapons of war.”

Teachers, Counselors Hoped Alternative School Would Address Cruz’s Mental Health Issues. USA Today (2/27, Murphy, Perez) reports “teachers and counselors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School hoped a transfer to an alternative school would provide mental health services for...Cruz after his behavior and discipline problems increased in 2016.” Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie “said Cruz’s situation at Douglas had deteriorated so much so that his counselors and teachers decided to refer him out of the school in early 2017,” hoping “he would return to Cross Creek School, an alternative program with smaller classes and a more comprehensive offering of mental health services.” Said Runcie, “He declined. ... When a kid turns 18, we can’t force an adult to receive those services.”

Hurricane-Proof Glass Windows May Have Prevented Additional Carnage. NBC Nightly News (2/27, story 3, 1:50, Holt) reported that it “has learned shooting suspect Nicolas Cruz may have had more plans to unleash more carnage inside his former high school. At the time he dropped his AR-15, he still had five fully loaded magazines, one marked with a swastika.” The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 3, 1:20, Glor) also reported “more people could have been injured or killed.” Cruz “began firing in the first and second floors of the freshman building, he continued to make his way up. And that is where investigators believe he planned on using a third-floor stairwell as a vantage point to shoot at students. Sources say Cruz attempted to create a sniper’s nest by shooting out a glass window, firing 16 rounds into the glass,” but “the hurricane-proof glass appeared to have stopped it from shattering.”

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Students Return To School Today. The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 4, 2:25, Glor) reported students were to “return to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School” this morning “for the first time since the shooting. They will have a half day of classes tomorrow.” CBS (Diaz) added “grief counselors will be in every classroom that’s missing a student who passed away.” The Miami Herald (2/27, Herrera) and Washington Post (2/27, Balingit), among other news outlets, also report on the students’ return to school.

Texas Civil Rights Groups Criticize Plans To Punish Student Protesters. The AP (2/27) reports the civil rights advocacy groups Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas Appleseed “have warned a Houston-area school district superintendent that his threat to punish students who disrupt classes to protest current gun laws may violate their constitutional free-speech rights.” The groups “sent a letter to Needville school district Superintendent Curtis Rhodes that expressed their concern over Rhodes’ threat. Texas ACLU staff attorney Kali Cohn said school administrators can’t censor political speech nor punish students more harshly for missing school to participate in political protest than they would for any other unexcused absence.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

West Virginia Governor Announces Deal; Teachers To Return To Class Thursday.

The Washington Post (2/27, Larimer) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced a deal to end a statewide teachers strike on Tuesday. The deal, which includes a 5% raise, clears the way for teachers to return to the

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classroom on Thursday, "with Wednesday serving as a 'cooling off day.'" The strike impacted over 277,000 students and shuttered schools in all 55 of the state's counties, and was "sparked by concerns about pay and benefits."

Reuters (2/27) reports the deal to end the four-day strike came "after thousands of teachers and their backers descended on the state capitol in Charleston demanding better benefits and a hike in wages now near the bottom among U.S. teachers." The strike began "on Thursday after Justice signed legislation to give teachers and state police a 2 percent raise."

The Seventy Four (2/27, Fay) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos weighed in on the strike earlier in the day, "saying that good teachers 'deserve better pay' but students should not miss school due to adult disagreements. In a series of tweets, she also called on 'both sides' to negotiate a compromise soon." Also reporting are NBC News (2/28), Newsweek (2/27, Swaak), and USA Today (2/27, Bacon).

Graduation Rates Among Disadvantaged Students In New Mexico Rise.

The Ruidoso (NM) News (2/27) reports that New Mexico's "high school graduation rate remains at an all-time high" of 71 percent. In addition, "since 2011, graduation rates have improved significantly for the state's Hispanic, African-American, disabled, and low-income students." Gov. Susana Martinez said when she announced the achievements on Friday, "New Mexico's students continue to show that when we hold them to high standards, they rise to the occasion."

Michigan's Career Pathways Alliance Raises Controversy.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (2/27, VanHulle) reports the Career Pathways Alliance in Michigan which seeks to "unite business leaders and educators around ways to increase Michigan's talent pool" by "recruiting new career-tech teachers directly from the private sector." The state, particularly through a House bill that "would allow career-tech teachers to teach with no requirement that they obtain a teaching credential within a set number of years," is also aiming to address a teacher shortage, but the Michigan Education Association, which represents teachers, "views the bill as 'a dilution of the teaching profession.'"

Teachers Voice Frustration Ahead Of Next Court Case Against Teachers' Unions.

Education Week (2/27, Will) reports teachers Ryan Yohn, Bruce Aster, and Brian Miller spoke to reporters at the Center for Individual Rights on Tuesday to express their "frustration at feeling voiceless and powerless under the union's current structure" and discuss Yohn v. California Teachers Association, a "case that could potentially hammer teachers' unions." The gathering came just a day after Supreme Court justices heard arguments in the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) case, which "charges that public-employee unions in 22 states shouldn't be allowed to charge 'agency' or 'fair-share' fees to workers who choose not to join but who are still represented in collective bargaining." Education Week says the Yohn case, "which is currently on hold pending a decision in Janus," goes "one step further," arguing that "teachers should have to affirmatively opt into the union – not opt out."

Indiana Lawmakers Revive Proposal To Let Districts Hire More Unlicensed Teachers.

Chalkbeat (2/27, Cavazos) reports Indiana lawmakers "revived" on Tuesday "a controversial proposal to allow district schools to hire up to 10 percent unlicensed teachers," as the legislators "said they wanted to address teaching shortages by allowing traditional public schools to have similar flexibility in hiring as charter schools." Republican Rep. Bob Behning, chairman of the House Education Committee, reintroduced the measure through an amendment to Senate Bill 387, which "now also includes provisions to allow districts to give certain teachers extra

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pay and change teacher pay scales."

Opinion: NES Basic Skills Exams Reinforce Structures Of Social Stratification.

Dr. Nicholas D. Hartlep, an assistant professor and coordinator of the Early Childhood and Elementary School Programs in the School of Urban Education at Metropolitan State University, and Dr. René Antrop-González, the school's dean, write an op-ed in Diverse Education (2/27) arguing the NES Basic Skills tests "reinforce manmade structures of social stratification that consist of exalting the worldviews of Whites, English-dominant speakers and economically privileged Christians at the top of the social order." The authors lament the fact that the "successful completion of college-level courses does not exempt [students] from having to take the NES Basic Skills exams for entry or teacher licensure," and argue the "arduous" process of applying for extended time on the NES tests for non-native English speakers is "nothing more than a modern day 'poll tax' comprised of having to navigate hurdles that pre-service teachers from privileged identities are not asked and expected to jump over."

Idaho Lawmakers Question Loan Forgiveness Bill For Rural Teachers.

The AP (2/27) reports "a handful of Idaho lawmakers say they have too many objections to a proposal" that would grant "$3,000 in student loan forgiveness a year for four years" to "up to 500 eligible teachers who work in rural schools." The House Education Committee sent HB 504 to the full House on Tuesday to be amended, "citing concerns about taking money out of the general fund to pay for loans."

Report: States Need Better Data Collection To Address Teacher Shortages.

Arizona Public Media (2/27, O'Gara) reports the National Council on Teacher Quality believes a number of states, including Arizona "aren't doing enough to collect and connect data – in particular, data on teacher preparation programs," and that doing so could help to address issues with "teacher recruitment and retainment." The council recently published a report that "asks if a state collects and maintains public data about its teacher preparation programs, whether and to what extent that data is matched to school district hiring needs, and if the state offers guidance on high-need certification areas." Without sufficient data in that regard, the council contends, "there are big gaps in the information needed to guide state-level policy decisions, and districts are deprived of a 'powerful lever' to incentivize certification in certain subjects."

OPERATIONS

Public Advocate Blasts New York's Renewal Program.

The New York Post (2/27, Algar) reports that New York City Public Advocate Letitia James "ripped" Mayor Bill de Blasio's Renewal school program at a City Council hearing on Tuesday, saying, "The Renewal schools program was announced with great fanfare in November of 2014...And three and a half years and hundreds of millions of dollars later it is hard to argue that this program has been a success." However, James also "blasted the Department of Education for opting to close teetering Renewal schools instead of plying them with additional resources." The article adds that "nine original Renewals have been already been shuttered and another eight have been proposed for closure."

Investigation Of Enrollment Fraud In DC School Becomes Public.

The Washington Post (2/27, Jamison, Strauss, Stein) reports that, according to informed government officials, an investigation by Washington, DC officials has uncovered "signs of widespread enrollment fraud" at the Duke

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Ellington School of the Arts, “one of the city’s most revered public schools.” The Post says “it is unclear how far the investigation has progressed since” it was originally shared at a meeting “attended by representatives from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education...and the office of the DC attorney general” in December. However, Mayor Muriel Bowser and State Superintendent of Education Hanseul Kang “called a news conference about” the investigation on Tuesday after the Post “published a version of” the report presented in December.

DC District, Former Chancellor Sign Separation Agreement.

The Washington Post (2/27, Stein) reports former DC Public Schools chancellor Antwan Wilson “will receive six months of pay when he severs ties with the city next week, according to a separation agreement signed Monday.” Wilson “was forced to resign from his position leading the public school system last week amid revelations that he violated school lottery system rules when he transferred his daughter to a high-performing school,” and he has since been on administrative leave. His contract will officially terminate on March 7. The Post notes that under the terms of the agreement, “Wilson did not admit wrongdoing.” Still, his “resignation was swift and unexpected, and sent another jolt through a beleaguered school system already engulfed in a graduation scandal.” It also “delivers a political blow” to Mayor Muriel Bowser, who faces re-election this year and “whose selection of Wilson, an outsider, was one of the most important and high-profile appointments of her tenure.”

Dallas District Gathers High School Students For Gun Violence Forum.

The Dallas Morning News (2/27, Smith, Writer) reports Dallas Independent School District held a student forum on Tuesday focused on mass violence. In the wake of the Parkland shooting, roughly 200 high school students “gathered to add their voices to the chorus, sharing their experiences and opinions on how to make their schools and communities safer.” Urban Specialists chief executive Omar Jahwar, the forum moderator, “tasked the students with offering their own solutions to solve the school shooting crisis, and help those who are being affected by gun violence.” He also requested that they “take an active role in being involved in the larger, national movement on student safety and gun control.” Referring to the murder of a DISD senior on Saturday, the Morning News says the gun violence issue “isn’t an abstract for DISD students, whether its a numb acceptance of the frequency of school shootings, or something more local – and more tragic.”

Maryland State Officials Urge District To Prove Efforts Remedying Diploma Scandal.

The Washington Post (2/27, George) reports that on Tuesday, Maryland state Superintendent Karen B. Salmon “called on Prince George’s County to prove it is fixing problems uncovered in a diploma scandal and took the unusual step of assigning a state employee full time to monitor those efforts for the next year.” The recommended actions “drew unanimous support from the Maryland State Board of Education a month after Prince George’s leaders appeared before the panel.” Under the plan, “the state will seek periodic written reports on the county’s progress in fixing what went wrong and request an outside audit afterward to ensure problems are resolved.” State BOE president Andrew Smarick “said the panel was alarmed by findings of a state-ordered investigation, conducted last fall after allegations of graduation rate fraud in the state’s second-largest school system.” He stressed that the state of Maryland “needs to be confident that the district’s graduates have earned their diplomas.”

More Than One Out Of 10 Oklahoma Students “Chronically Absent,” Report Finds.

Citing “the annual ImpactTulsa report,” which was released on Tuesday, the Tulsa (OK) World (2/27, Overall) reports that “more than one out of 10 Oklahoma students are ‘chronically absent,’” meaning they miss “more than a tenth of the school year, leading to lower test scores and higher dropout rates.” The report concludes chronic absence “is an early warning indicator for both low achievement and dropping out of high school,” and “calls for

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efforts to 'target student populations with chronic absenteeism and support teachers and districts with resources they need to influence change directly with students.'"

Florida County Contracts Outside Company To Potentially Operate Struggling Schools.

The Tampa (FL) Tribune (2/27, Wright) reports in its "Gradebook" blog that Florida's Pinellas County School Board on Tuesday "voted 7-0...to hire Learning Sciences International to operate Fairmount Park and Lakewood elementary schools and Azalea Middle School starting in August, if their students don't do well enough on state tests this spring." The agreement, part of a broader trend in districts throughout the state, "is the result of a controversial new state law, known by its bill name HB 7069," which "requires that any public school with three consecutive grades below a C to choose one of three 'turnaround' options." These include "reassigning students to another school, closing the school and reopening it as a charter, or contracting with an outside entity to operate the school."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Metro Atlanta Students Forced To Retake ACT After 220 Tests Lost In FedEx System.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/26, Brasch) reports a spokesman for the ACT said Monday that 220 tests taken at Lassiter High School in Marietta on Jan. 6 are missing in the FedEx system. ACT spokesman Ed Colby said, "It's a terrible situation. It's a very unfortunate situation for these students. We're doing everything we can to locate that package." He said students, facing college application deadlines, took the test against on Saturday for free. Colby also said students were refunded for their tests. A FedEx spokesman also told the AJC: "FedEx understands how important these test results are to the students and their families. We are conducting a thorough search for this shipment and continue to work very closely with ACT on this matter."

WSB-TV Atlanta (GA) Atlanta (2/26) and International Business Times (2/27, Madappa) also cover this story.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Report Finds Ohio Among Top States For Equitable Distribution Of School Funds.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (2/27, Gilchrist) says a national report released Tuesday by the nonprofit policy group The Education Trust found that Ohio "does better than almost all other states in directing school funding to poor and minority students." Ohio Office of Budget and Management Spokesman John Charlton said, "A lot of the things that the Kasich administration has tried to do ... is to direct funds to areas of the most need." The article provides further detail on the report's analysis.

Report: In Most States, Poorest Districts Receive Less Funding Than Wealthier Districts.

U.S. News & World Report (2/27) reports The Education Trust released a report Tuesday that "shine[s] a spotlight on funding gaps that plague the country's public education system." While those funding gaps "vary significantly" from state to state, the poorest districts in more than half of states "do not receive funding to address their students' increased needs," with Illinois, Missouri, New York, and Alabama ranked "among the worst." The "silver lining," however, "is that the situation seems to be improving, albeit slightly," according to The Education Trust's previous examination in 2015. The trend could even "continue given the number of states rethinking their school funding formulas in an attempt to make their education finance systems more equitable, especially for school districts that serve lots of students in need of extra supports, such as poor students, students with disabilities and those learning English."

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Kentucky State Lawmakers Say Budget Proposal Includes Additional Education Funding Revenue Sources.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (2/27) reports Kentucky state House Democratic Whip Dennis Keene and state Rep. Kelly Flood "said they were among a group of Democrats given an advance briefing late Tuesday afternoon on the budget plan of the majority Republicans" that "they were told House Republicans will propose to come up with additional money through a 50-cent increase in Kentucky's 60-cent per pack cigarette tax and a new tax of 25 cents per dosage of opioid drugs." The revenue from those tax increases, according to the two state lawmakers, "would allow the budget to increase funding for the main public school program known as Support Education Excellence in Kentucky as well as restore at least some of the cut that Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget would have made in funding to school districts for student transportation." According to Keene, however, "It's not all crystal clear. ... The briefing lasted about an hour and we weren't given anything in writing."

Colorado Grass-Roots Movement Seeks Ballot Initiative On New Funding Formula.

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (2/27) reports a local Colorado branch of "the bipartisan grass-roots movement Great Schools Thriving Communities launched its petition drive to place Initiative 93," aimed at replacing "the 1994 education funding formula often maligned as unfair and outdated," before voters this year. Thus far, "171 of the state's 178 superintendents are behind the initiative, with the seven holdouts mostly from rural districts." If "placed on the ballot for potential voter approval" and passed by a 55 percent margin, it "would amend the state constitution to increase taxes $1.6 billion annually, with that money placed into a Public Education Fund and earmarked for preschool through high school education." The initiative is "designed to work in conjunction with" a bill that "would amend the state constitution to create a new school funding distribution formula – if and when money become available." The Chieftain notes the new funding formula emphasizes "full-day kindergarten, special education, English language learners and gift/talented students."

Iowa State Governor Receives Education Funding Bill.

The AP (2/27) reports Iowa's Republican-controlled state Senate voted Monday in favor of "a bill that will provide a 1 percent increase, or about $32 million in new spending, toward Iowa's roughly $3.2 billion education budget" for the next school year. The measure was sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds, as the Republican-controlled state House already "approved the same legislation earlier this month." A separate bill to include an additional $14 million in one-time funds "was approved in a separate bill," and it, too, "heads to Reynolds." Some teachers warned "the funding boost won't be enough to cover rising costs and will force budget cuts," although Republican state lawmakers "say they're prioritizing education amid ongoing budget constraints." The AP notes that for weeks, state lawmakers "were at odds," especially on the issue of "whether to include additional money for transportation and per-pupil inequity spending." Some educators warned the education funding measure

SAFETY & SECURITY

Researchers: School Shootings Have Been Declining Since Early 1990s.

The Washington Times (2/27, Boyer) reports that "despite the horror of the high school massacre in Florida, US schools overall are safer today than they were in the early 1990s, and there is not an epidemic of such shootings, a new academic study is reporting." According to "researchers at Northeastern University...mass school shootings are extremely rare," and "shootings involving students have been declining since the 1990s." Back then, say the

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researchers, “four times as many children were killed in schools.” The Times adds “the researchers used data collected by USA Today, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report, Congressional Research Service, Gun Violence Archive, Stanford Geospatial Center and Stanford Libraries, Mother Jones, Everytown for Gun Safety, and a New York City Police Department report on active shooters.”

School Security Sees Widespread Changes Since Columbine.

USA Today (2/27, Toppo) reports on the changes to school security in districts across the country in the wake of the Columbine massacre, noting that schools now require such measures as keycard entry, video surveillance, and other measures. In 1999, “just 19% of schools said they used security cameras to monitor buildings. By the 2013-14 school year, 75% had the devices up and running.”

Baltimore Sun School Security Investigation Yields Mixed Results.

The Baltimore Sun (2/27) reports that Baltimore Sun Media Group reporters were sent to 18 Baltimore-area schools on Monday “to experience security protocols in the wake of the Parkland” massacre. “Local journalists went to elementary, middle and high schools in the city and surrounding counties Monday to determine whether the systems’ protocols match the reality.” A number of schools “allowed a reporter inside without requiring verbal identification before entering. Some schools did not ask for a driver’s license at the front desk. A few had unlocked front doors.”

Secret Service School Shootings Study Discussed.

Jeff Daniels writes in The Conversation (US) (2/27, Daniels) that “what often gets overlooked in the conversation” on preventing school shootings “is research on the subject that has already been done,” including a major study from the Secret Service. Daniels says, “Following the publication of the Secret Service study on school shootings, my research on averted school shootings found that schools that prevented a shooting had done some of the things recommended by the Secret Service. The case in Florida shows that many of these recommendations were followed and people spoke up when they saw something wrong. The issue is whether authorities need more power to intervene once they have been made aware of a potential threat, or whether they just need to do a better job with the power they already have.”

Anti-Government Militia Calls On Members To Defend Schools.

The Washington Post (2/27, Eltagouri) reports Stewart Rhodes, “leader of an extremist anti-government group” the Oath Keepers, “ has a solution to stop school shootings: Send every school in the country a former police officer or military veteran, armed with an assault rifle, to defend students.” Rhodes is “calling on the tens of thousands of members of his far-right militia group to work unpaid, rotating shifts at schools at all levels, including colleges.”

Indianapolis Student Brings Legal Challenge To District Over Bathroom Use.

USA Today (2/27, Hussein, Star) reports that a high school junior in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. in Indiana who “is noted as female on his birth certificate but identifies as male” is saying that “he is being unlawfully discriminated against after a request to use the bathroom of his choosing was denied by school officials.” The article says the complaint follows a federal appeals court ruling last May “in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage,” and the suicide of an Evansville student whose family “said he was a target of bullying because of his sexual identity.”

The Indianapolis Star (2/27) reports the district “is facing a legal challenge to its policy on transgender students’ use of bathrooms,” noting that the complaint “comes after a federal appeals court in May ruled in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage.”

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Commentary: Teaching Social And Emotional Learning Can Prevent School Bullying.

In a piece for U.S. News & World Report (2/27), Ulrich Boser, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, writes that “a growing body of research shows that schools can prevent bullying” by “helping students develop social-emotional skills.” However, this “can be challenging for some schools. For one, school leaders are under significant pressure to improve academic progress, and so many schools neglect the social and emotional side of learning. Plus, social-emotional skills may seem a little vague, and so educators do not get much guidance on what to teach or even how to teach it.”

New Jersey Students Protest Teacher’s Suspension Over School Safety Comments.

The Hill (2/27, Thomsen) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that hundreds of students on Tuesday walked out of Cherry Hill East High School in Camden County, New Jersey “to protest the suspension of” AP history teacher Timothy Locke “over comments he made sharing concerns about the possibility of a school shooting.” In addition, students held a protest in the school auditorium on Tuesday and 500 have signed a petition supporting the teacher.

New York’s Gov. Cuomo, Sen. DeFrancisco Debate School Spending.

The New York Post (2/27, Conley) reports Sen. John DeFrancisco, “GOP gubernatorial hopeful” for New York, “blasted Gov. Cuomo on Tuesday, saying he failed to release most of $2 billion in school funding, some of which could be used for safety measures.” In response, Cuomo’s administration explained the funds, which “voters approved through a bond act nearly four years ago,” can only be made available to schools after they apply for the money. “The state regularly processes applications and only has 10 outstanding before the review board that Cuomo controls, his office said,” and “both sides agree only $400 million has been spent.”

Melania Trump Launches Initiative To Promote Well-Being Of US Children.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (2/27, Ross) reports first lady Melania Trump on Monday gave “a speech on kindness, compassion and positive social media habits that may or may not be consequential to her husband’s administration and to her own legacy.” The speech was part of Mrs. Trump’s announcement of “an initiative to promote ‘the well-being’ of America’s children – an effort that she says will involve ‘promoting values such as encouragement, kindness, compassion, and respect in our children.’” The article also speculates as to the motivation behind the first lady’s speech.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Trump Floats Improved Mental Health Care, Says He May Have Confronted Parkland Shooter Unarmed.**
- **West Virginia Teacher Strike Expected To Continue Tuesday.**
- **Philly Introduces Philadelphia Board Of Education Nominees.**
- **Author Discusses New Book On Impact Of Technology On Children.**
- **Utah Lawmakers Considering Plans To Equalize School Funding.**

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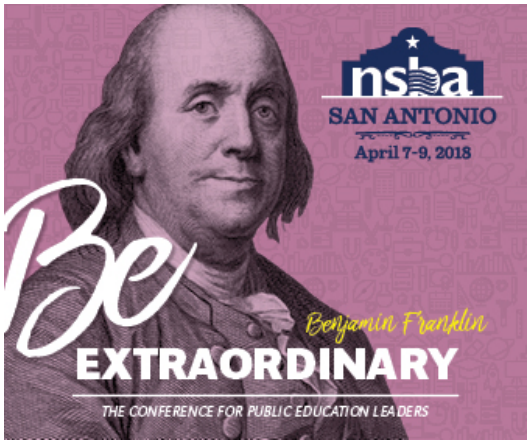
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LEADING THE NEWS

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As Gun Debate Appears To Stall In Congress, Trump To Unveil School Safety Proposals This Week.

Media coverage of the aftermath of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida casts Republicans as unwilling to move forward with gun control legislation despite strong pressure from student activists and public opinion in general. With legislative avenues seemingly stalled on Capitol Hill, Politico (2/27, Lima) reports, "White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday the...administration will reveal which policy proposals it supports on school safety by the end of the week," but already "mentioned two measures the White House supports, including the 'Fix NICS' bill spearheaded by" Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn. The Hill (2/27, Fabian) reports Sanders also "sought to push back on speculation that [President] Trump is backing away" from proposals to "to raise the age limit to buy the type of high-powered rifle used in the Parkland...shooting," telling reporters, "The president still supports raising the age limit to 21 for the purchase of certain firearms." Under the headline "Congress Looks For More Clarity From Trump As It Weighs Response To Florida School Shootings," however, the Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) illustrates lawmakers' confusion about Trump's stances by reporting that Sen. Pat Roberts "believes" the President "has backed off his call on raising the minimum age for rifle purchases."

At any rate, Reuters (2/27, Cornwell, Cowan) points out, House GOP leaders "said on Tuesday that they would not raise the minimum age for gun buyers, in a sign that one of...Trump's proposals likely will not get far on Capitol Hill." Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway reiterated on Fox News' Special Report (2/27) that Trump "supports increasing the age perhaps for possession of some firearms. He certainly supports fixing NICS, the background checks. He has also talked about mental health. He's talked about how he wants to make it more difficult for people

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who shouldn't have firearms to have them, but easier for those who should and should be allowed to carry them under the Second Amendment to do so. ... It's a complex issue. ... But this is a President, like he did on immigration, on energy policy, on taxes, he is bringing both parties and both chambers into the White House or he is going to them and he is working the phones and he is talking to them about what's possible. In the end, Congress will need to act and the President will sign into law something that is reasonable, common sense that gets us closer to keeping school children safe."

Another Politico (2/27, Schor, Woellert) story indicates "lawmakers from both parties, including some of the Democrats' strongest gun-control advocates, are planning to meet with...Trump Wednesday." Politico adds that Cornyn and his "Fix NICS" co-sponsor Sen. Chris Murphy "are both expected to attend," as are Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "chief author of legislation banning assault weapons and other control bills," and Sen. Joe Manchin, "who crafted a background-check expansion plan with Sen. Pat Toomey." The Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) reports that "in advance of the bipartisan gun summit at the White House on Wednesday, lawmakers are searching for signals from the administration," though "there is also an open question in Congress over how much Trump will actually affect the debate, with some Senate leaders pushing for more guidance from the president given his continuing focus on the shootings, while other top senators are skeptical that any guidance from the mercurial president – such as during the stalemate on immigration – will ultimately matter much."

For now, the AP (2/27, Mascaro, Daly) reports, Speaker Ryan "showed little interest Tuesday in some of the stricter gun proposals being floated by...Trump or bipartisan coalitions in Congress," and "Senate Republicans pushed" the Fix NICS bill, "a more modest measure to boost the existing background check system with new penalties and incentives." ABC World News Tonight (2/27, story 6, 1:50, Muir) said reported, "Florida students on Capitol Hill are pressing lawmakers to act on guns, but...their calls are falling flat." Speaker Ryan was shown saying, "We shouldn't be banning guns for law-abiding citizens. We should be focusing on making sure that citizens who should not get guns in the first place don't get those guns." ABC added that Fix NICS is "stalled in the Senate and likely would not have stopped the Florida shooter." ABC added that "as recently as Saturday, the President has called to raise the minimum age to purchase rifles," but "there is no legislation in the works."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Bender, Subscription Publication) reports that legislators from both parties are looking for some indication from Trump as to what kinds of gun control measures he is likely to support. Meanwhile, Trump has invited members of Congress who represent Parkland, Florida and Newtown, Connecticut – both the sites of deadly school shootings – to the White House on Wednesday.

Florida House, Senate Committees Approve Bills To Arm Teachers. The AP (2/27, Kennedy, Farrington, Anderson) reports "family members of people killed in a South Florida school shooting gave emotional testimony Tuesday during a legislative hearing to discuss passing a bill that would allow for armed teachers and raise the age limit to buy rifles." A House committee "approved the bill that would raise the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21 and creates a three-day waiting period for all gun purchase." The measure "would also create a program that allows teachers who receive law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office to carry concealed weapons in the classroom if also approved by the school district."

The Miami Herald (2/27, Bousquet) reports a Florida Senate approved a similar – but not identical – measure. Whereas the House bill would "train teachers to carry guns in class under the direction of local law enforcement – if superintendents or the school board approve," the Senate Appropriations Committee would require "that both the sheriff and school district officials in a county agree to the program before it can be adopted." The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/27, Sweeney, Fleshler) notes "Gov. Rick Scott doesn't support the part of the plan that would allow teachers to carry firearms, though he has not said whether its inclusion would mean a veto." The New York Times (2/27, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) points out that "it was unclear" whether Scott "would accept a proposal from lawmakers to arm school personnel other than teachers, such as athletic coaches who sometimes double as security monitors. He declined to clarify his position in a news conference in the Miami suburb of Doral on Tuesday."

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The Washington Post (2/28, Strauss) also reports.

Michigan House Bill To Allow Gun Training For Teachers Who Volunteer For It. The Detroit Free Press (2/27, Gray) reports that a bill "being developed" by two Republicans in the Michigan House would allow teachers to be armed. State Rep. Jim Runestad "will schedule hearings this spring on a bill that he's drafting that will allow school districts to provide access to guns in locked, undisclosed locations in school buildings to teachers who volunteer and who are trained in firearm use." The teachers "would have to go through 80 hours of training on how to shoot a gun, gun safety, how to engage with an active shooter and tactics to de-escalate a dangerous situation." The guns "would be hidden in locked compartments that would only be accessible through the thumbprint of approved school employees."

Alabama Legislature Considers Armed Volunteers In Schools. Alabama Live (2/27) reports that under a bill being considered in the Alabama legislature, "any trained school employee or citizen volunteer could join an armed security force in Alabama schools." The bill would expand on a local ordinance under which "school principals can request a volunteer armed security force." The AP (2/27) also covers this story.

Mississippi Legislators Propose Letting Teachers Carry Guns. The AP (2/27) reports that a proposal in the Mississippi state Senate would "give schools the options of arming teachers in an effort to prevent future school shootings." The legislation "would let school boards set up safety programs that would include letting teachers and other school employees with special training carry concealed guns."

Bevin, Abbott Weigh In On Trump Proposal To Arm Certain Teachers. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27) about the President's suggestion that some teachers be armed in the schools, said, "I think on a voluntary basis, purely volitional, I think it's a very good idea and worthy of being considered. I think teachers who are willing should go through an extensive training far above and beyond what it takes to be a conceal carry gun owner. Should go through a battery of psychiatric tests to ensure they are mentally able. ... But it shouldn't just be teachers, it should be available to administrators. Custodians, coaches, anyone inside that school on a voluntary basis, I think we would be foolish not to consider that as a possibility."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27), "It is important to understand that not one size fits all when it comes to the approach to address this issue. Texas is maybe different than Washington State. Even parts of Texas are different than other parts of Texas but in Texas we do have a robust program of allowing but not requiring teachers to be authorized to carry guns in schools. Not just teachers, it could be coaches or administrators or others. That is called our School Marshall program. Where people, persons who work in schools, will be authorized to carry. Sometimes it will be notified in front of a school, when a school puts up a billboard saying that teachers are armed. Don't harm any kid on this campus. Other times it is more concealed."

USA Today (2/27) editorializes that "few educators have any desire to wield firearms or be responsible for going into combat with heavily armed intruders. Even police officers with years of training still have doubts – and make mistakes – during critical moments at crime scenes." Jerome R. Corsi, "author of Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump," writes in USA Today (2/27) that "arming all teachers and school staff is no solution in situations where teachers and staff feel fully committed to dealing with educational issues," but "in cases where teachers and school staff are predisposed to be comfortable with concealed carry, as could well be the case with military veterans or retired law enforcement who make education their second career, allowing them the right to carry weapons provides the possibility of a near instant response. A would-be school shooter can be neutralized before schoolchildren are senselessly murdered."

Cruz Neighbor Says She "Begged" Police To Take Action, Was Told Cruz Was No "Immediate Threat." The Washington Times (2/27, Persons) reports "a former neighbor of Nikolas Cruz...said she 'begged' police to act regarding his disturbing behavior and threatening social media posts, CNN reported Tuesday." Joelle Guarino told CNN her son "showed her multiple posts on social media from Mr. Cruz, including one of an AR-15 and another about shooting up a school." Guarino said that at her request, "a police officer came to her home" and told

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her “there was nothing he could do.” Said Guarino, “I begged him, and he basically told me that it was not an immediate threat. He couldn’t do anything, is what he told me.”

The Washington Post (2/27) editorializes that “it is not quite right to say that...Cruz...fell through the cracks. The truth is even more unsettling,” as “many people” had been “alerted to Mr. Cruz’s troubling behavior,” including “school officials, police, state social services workers and friends” who “sought to intervene and help.” To the Post, “their failure underscores just how difficult it is to deal with mental illness.” At any rate, “the law enforcement agencies that interacted with this suspect – or should have, as was the case with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which completely botched a detailed tip — must...face a reckoning,” but “when all those reviews are completed, this much will remain true: There will always be an element of human error and unpredictability in these difficult cases.” The Post concludes that “that is why an additional reform is so logical: banning weapons of war.”

Teachers, Counselors Hoped Alternative School Would Address Cruz’s Mental Health Issues. USA Today (2/27, Murphy, Perez) reports “teachers and counselors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School hoped a transfer to an alternative school would provide mental health services for...Cruz after his behavior and discipline problems increased in 2016.” Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie “said Cruz’s situation at Douglas had deteriorated so much so that his counselors and teachers decided to refer him out of the school in early 2017,” hoping “he would return to Cross Creek School, an alternative program with smaller classes and a more comprehensive offering of mental health services.” Said Runcie, “He declined. ... When a kid turns 18, we can’t force an adult to receive those services.”

Hurricane-Proof Glass Windows May Have Prevented Additional Carnage. NBC Nightly News (2/27, story 3, 1:50, Holt) reported that it “has learned shooting suspect Nicolas Cruz may have had more plans to unleash more carnage inside his former high school. At the time he dropped his AR-15, he still had five fully loaded magazines, one marked with a swastika.” The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 3, 1:20, Glor) also reported “more people could have been injured or killed.” Cruz “began firing in the first and second floors of the freshman building, he continued to make his way up. And that is where investigators believe he planned on using a third-floor stairwell as a vantage point to shoot at students. Sources say Cruz attempted to create a sniper’s nest by shooting out a glass window, firing 16 rounds into the glass,” but “the hurricane-proof glass appeared to have stopped it from shattering.”

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Students Return To School Today. The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 4, 2:25, Glor) reported students were to “return to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School” this morning “for the first time since the shooting. They will have a half day of classes tomorrow.” CBS (Diaz) added “grief counselors will be in every classroom that’s missing a student who passed away.” The Miami Herald (2/27, Herrera) and Washington Post (2/27, Balingit), among other news outlets, also report on the students’ return to school.

Texas Civil Rights Groups Criticize Plans To Punish Student Protesters. The AP (2/27) reports the civil rights advocacy groups Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas Appleseed “have warned a Houston-area school district superintendent that his threat to punish students who disrupt classes to protest current gun laws may violate their constitutional free-speech rights.” The groups “sent a letter to Needville school district Superintendent Curtis Rhodes that expressed their concern over Rhodes’ threat. Texas ACLU staff attorney Kali Cohn said school administrators can’t censor political speech nor punish students more harshly for missing school to participate in political protest than they would for any other unexcused absence.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

West Virginia Governor Announces Deal; Teachers To Return To Class Thursday.

The Washington Post (2/27, Larimer) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced a deal to end a statewide teachers strike on Tuesday. The deal, which includes a 5% raise, clears the way for teachers to return to the

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classroom on Thursday, "with Wednesday serving as a 'cooling off day.'" The strike impacted over 277,000 students and shuttered schools in all 55 of the state's counties, and was "sparked by concerns about pay and benefits."

Reuters (2/27) reports the deal to end the four-day strike came "after thousands of teachers and their backers descended on the state capitol in Charleston demanding better benefits and a hike in wages now near the bottom among U.S. teachers." The strike began "on Thursday after Justice signed legislation to give teachers and state police a 2 percent raise."

The Seventy Four (2/27, Fay) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos weighed in on the strike earlier in the day, "saying that good teachers 'deserve better pay' but students should not miss school due to adult disagreements. In a series of tweets, she also called on 'both sides' to negotiate a compromise soon." Also reporting are NBC News (2/28), Newsweek (2/27, Swaak), and USA Today (2/27, Bacon).

Graduation Rates Among Disadvantaged Students In New Mexico Rise.

The Ruidoso (NM) News (2/27) reports that New Mexico's "high school graduation rate remains at an all-time high" of 71 percent. In addition, "since 2011, graduation rates have improved significantly for the state's Hispanic, African-American, disabled, and low-income students." Gov. Susana Martinez said when she announced the achievements on Friday, "New Mexico's students continue to show that when we hold them to high standards, they rise to the occasion."

Michigan's Career Pathways Alliance Raises Controversy.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (2/27, VanHulle) reports the Career Pathways Alliance in Michigan which seeks to "unite business leaders and educators around ways to increase Michigan's talent pool" by "recruiting new career-tech teachers directly from the private sector." The state, particularly through a House bill that "would allow career-tech teachers to teach with no requirement that they obtain a teaching credential within a set number of years," is also aiming to address a teacher shortage, but the Michigan Education Association, which represents teachers, "views the bill as 'a dilution of the teaching profession.'"

Teachers Voice Frustration Ahead Of Next Court Case Against Teachers' Unions.

Education Week (2/27, Will) reports teachers Ryan Yohn, Bruce Aster, and Brian Miller spoke to reporters at the Center for Individual Rights on Tuesday to express their "frustration at feeling voiceless and powerless under the union's current structure" and discuss Yohn v. California Teachers Association, a "case that could potentially hammer teachers' unions." The gathering came just a day after Supreme Court justices heard arguments in the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) case, which "charges that public-employee unions in 22 states shouldn't be allowed to charge 'agency' or 'fair-share' fees to workers who choose not to join but who are still represented in collective bargaining." Education Week says the Yohn case, "which is currently on hold pending a decision in Janus," goes "one step further," arguing that "teachers should have to affirmatively opt into the union – not opt out."

Indiana Lawmakers Revive Proposal To Let Districts Hire More Unlicensed Teachers.

Chalkbeat (2/27, Cavazos) reports Indiana lawmakers "revived" on Tuesday "a controversial proposal to allow district schools to hire up to 10 percent unlicensed teachers," as the legislators "said they wanted to address teaching shortages by allowing traditional public schools to have similar flexibility in hiring as charter schools." Republican Rep. Bob Behning, chairman of the House Education Committee, reintroduced the measure through an amendment to Senate Bill 387, which "now also includes provisions to allow districts to give certain teachers extra

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pay and change teacher pay scales."

Opinion: NES Basic Skills Exams Reinforce Structures Of Social Stratification.

Dr. Nicholas D. Hartlep, an assistant professor and coordinator of the Early Childhood and Elementary School Programs in the School of Urban Education at Metropolitan State University, and Dr. René Antrop-González, the school's dean, write an op-ed in Diverse Education (2/27) arguing the NES Basic Skills tests "reinforce manmade structures of social stratification that consist of exalting the worldviews of Whites, English-dominant speakers and economically privileged Christians at the top of the social order." The authors lament the fact that the "successful completion of college-level courses does not exempt [students] from having to take the NES Basic Skills exams for entry or teacher licensure," and argue the "arduous" process of applying for extended time on the NES tests for non-native English speakers is "nothing more than a modern day 'poll tax' comprised of having to navigate hurdles that pre-service teachers from privileged identities are not asked and expected to jump over."

Idaho Lawmakers Question Loan Forgiveness Bill For Rural Teachers.

The AP (2/27) reports "a handful of Idaho lawmakers say they have too many objections to a proposal" that would grant "$3,000 in student loan forgiveness a year for four years" to "up to 500 eligible teachers who work in rural schools." The House Education Committee sent HB 504 to the full House on Tuesday to be amended, "citing concerns about taking money out of the general fund to pay for loans."

Report: States Need Better Data Collection To Address Teacher Shortages.

Arizona Public Media (2/27, O'Gara) reports the National Council on Teacher Quality believes a number of states, including Arizona "aren't doing enough to collect and connect data – in particular, data on teacher preparation programs," and that doing so could help to address issues with "teacher recruitment and retainment." The council recently published a report that "asks if a state collects and maintains public data about its teacher preparation programs, whether and to what extent that data is matched to school district hiring needs, and if the state offers guidance on high-need certification areas." Without sufficient data in that regard, the council contends, "there are big gaps in the information needed to guide state-level policy decisions, and districts are deprived of a 'powerful lever' to incentivize certification in certain subjects."

OPERATIONS

Public Advocate Blasts New York's Renewal Program.

The New York Post (2/27, Algar) reports that New York City Public Advocate Letitia James "ripped" Mayor Bill de Blasio's Renewal school program at a City Council hearing on Tuesday, saying, "The Renewal schools program was announced with great fanfare in November of 2014...And three and a half years and hundreds of millions of dollars later it is hard to argue that this program has been a success." However, James also "blasted the Department of Education for opting to close teetering Renewal schools instead of plying them with additional resources." The article adds that "nine original Renewals have been already been shuttered and another eight have been proposed for closure."

Investigation Of Enrollment Fraud In DC School Becomes Public.

The Washington Post (2/27, Jamison, Strauss, Stein) reports that, according to informed government officials, an investigation by Washington, DC officials has uncovered "signs of widespread enrollment fraud" at the Duke

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Ellington School of the Arts, “one of the city’s most revered public schools.” The Post says “it is unclear how far the investigation has progressed since” it was originally shared at a meeting “attended by representatives from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education...and the office of the DC attorney general” in December. However, Mayor Muriel Bowser and State Superintendent of Education Hanseul Kang “called a news conference about” the investigation on Tuesday after the Post “published a version of” the report presented in December.

DC District, Former Chancellor Sign Separation Agreement.

The Washington Post (2/27, Stein) reports former DC Public Schools chancellor Antwan Wilson “will receive six months of pay when he severs ties with the city next week, according to a separation agreement signed Monday.” Wilson “was forced to resign from his position leading the public school system last week amid revelations that he violated school lottery system rules when he transferred his daughter to a high-performing school,” and he has since been on administrative leave. His contract will officially terminate on March 7. The Post notes that under the terms of the agreement, “Wilson did not admit wrongdoing.” Still, his “resignation was swift and unexpected, and sent another jolt through a beleaguered school system already engulfed in a graduation scandal.” It also “delivers a political blow” to Mayor Muriel Bowser, who faces re-election this year and “whose selection of Wilson, an outsider, was one of the most important and high-profile appointments of her tenure.”

Dallas District Gathers High School Students For Gun Violence Forum.

The Dallas Morning News (2/27, Smith, Writer) reports Dallas Independent School District held a student forum on Tuesday focused on mass violence. In the wake of the Parkland shooting, roughly 200 high school students “gathered to add their voices to the chorus, sharing their experiences and opinions on how to make their schools and communities safer.” Urban Specialists chief executive Omar Jahwar, the forum moderator, “tasked the students with offering their own solutions to solve the school shooting crisis, and help those who are being affected by gun violence.” He also requested that they “take an active role in being involved in the larger, national movement on student safety and gun control.” Referring to the murder of a DISD senior on Saturday, the Morning News says the gun violence issue “isn’t an abstract for DISD students, whether its a numb acceptance of the frequency of school shootings, or something more local – and more tragic.”

Maryland State Officials Urge District To Prove Efforts Remedying Diploma Scandal.

The Washington Post (2/27, George) reports that on Tuesday, Maryland state Superintendent Karen B. Salmon “called on Prince George’s County to prove it is fixing problems uncovered in a diploma scandal and took the unusual step of assigning a state employee full time to monitor those efforts for the next year.” The recommended actions “drew unanimous support from the Maryland State Board of Education a month after Prince George’s leaders appeared before the panel.” Under the plan, “the state will seek periodic written reports on the county’s progress in fixing what went wrong and request an outside audit afterward to ensure problems are resolved.” State BOE president Andrew Smarick “said the panel was alarmed by findings of a state-ordered investigation, conducted last fall after allegations of graduation rate fraud in the state’s second-largest school system.” He stressed that the state of Maryland “needs to be confident that the district’s graduates have earned their diplomas.”

More Than One Out Of 10 Oklahoma Students “Chronically Absent,” Report Finds.

Citing “the annual ImpactTulsa report,” which was released on Tuesday, the Tulsa (OK) World (2/27, Overall) reports that “more than one out of 10 Oklahoma students are ‘chronically absent,’” meaning they miss “more than a tenth of the school year, leading to lower test scores and higher dropout rates.” The report concludes chronic absence “is an early warning indicator for both low achievement and dropping out of high school,” and “calls for

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efforts to 'target student populations with chronic absenteeism and support teachers and districts with resources they need to influence change directly with students.'"

Florida County Contracts Outside Company To Potentially Operate Struggling Schools.

The Tampa (FL) Tribune (2/27, Wright) reports in its "Gradebook" blog that Florida's Pinellas County School Board on Tuesday "voted 7-0...to hire Learning Sciences International to operate Fairmount Park and Lakewood elementary schools and Azalea Middle School starting in August, if their students don't do well enough on state tests this spring." The agreement, part of a broader trend in districts throughout the state, "is the result of a controversial new state law, known by its bill name HB 7069," which "requires that any public school with three consecutive grades below a C to choose one of three 'turnaround' options." These include "reassigning students to another school, closing the school and reopening it as a charter, or contracting with an outside entity to operate the school."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Metro Atlanta Students Forced To Retake ACT After 220 Tests Lost In FedEx System.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/26, Brasch) reports a spokesman for the ACT said Monday that 220 tests taken at Lassiter High School in Marietta on Jan. 6 are missing in the FedEx system. ACT spokesman Ed Colby said, "It's a terrible situation. It's a very unfortunate situation for these students. We're doing everything we can to locate that package." He said students, facing college application deadlines, took the test against on Saturday for free. Colby also said students were refunded for their tests. A FedEx spokesman also told the AJC: "FedEx understands how important these test results are to the students and their families. We are conducting a thorough search for this shipment and continue to work very closely with ACT on this matter."

WSB-TV Atlanta (GA) Atlanta (2/26) and International Business Times (2/27, Madappa) also cover this story.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Report Finds Ohio Among Top States For Equitable Distribution Of School Funds.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (2/27, Gilchrist) says a national report released Tuesday by the nonprofit policy group The Education Trust found that Ohio "does better than almost all other states in directing school funding to poor and minority students." Ohio Office of Budget and Management Spokesman John Charlton said, "A lot of the things that the Kasich administration has tried to do ... is to direct funds to areas of the most need." The article provides further detail on the report's analysis.

Report: In Most States, Poorest Districts Receive Less Funding Than Wealthier Districts.

U.S. News & World Report (2/27) reports The Education Trust released a report Tuesday that "shine[s] a spotlight on funding gaps that plague the country's public education system." While those funding gaps "vary significantly" from state to state, the poorest districts in more than half of states "do not receive funding to address their students' increased needs," with Illinois, Missouri, New York, and Alabama ranked "among the worst." The "silver lining," however, "is that the situation seems to be improving, albeit slightly," according to The Education Trust's previous examination in 2015. The trend could even "continue given the number of states rethinking their school funding formulas in an attempt to make their education finance systems more equitable, especially for school districts that serve lots of students in need of extra supports, such as poor students, students with disabilities and those learning English."

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Kentucky State Lawmakers Say Budget Proposal Includes Additional Education Funding Revenue Sources.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (2/27) reports Kentucky state House Democratic Whip Dennis Keene and state Rep. Kelly Flood "said they were among a group of Democrats given an advance briefing late Tuesday afternoon on the budget plan of the majority Republicans" that "they were told House Republicans will propose to come up with additional money through a 50-cent increase in Kentucky's 60-cent per pack cigarette tax and a new tax of 25 cents per dosage of opioid drugs." The revenue from those tax increases, according to the two state lawmakers, "would allow the budget to increase funding for the main public school program known as Support Education Excellence in Kentucky as well as restore at least some of the cut that Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget would have made in funding to school districts for student transportation." According to Keene, however, "It's not all crystal clear. ... The briefing lasted about an hour and we weren't given anything in writing."

Colorado Grass-Roots Movement Seeks Ballot Initiative On New Funding Formula.

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (2/27) reports a local Colorado branch of "the bipartisan grass-roots movement Great Schools Thriving Communities launched its petition drive to place Initiative 93," aimed at replacing "the 1994 education funding formula often maligned as unfair and outdated," before voters this year. Thus far, "171 of the state's 178 superintendents are behind the initiative, with the seven holdouts mostly from rural districts." If "placed on the ballot for potential voter approval" and passed by a 55 percent margin, it "would amend the state constitution to increase taxes $1.6 billion annually, with that money placed into a Public Education Fund and earmarked for preschool through high school education." The initiative is "designed to work in conjunction with" a bill that "would amend the state constitution to create a new school funding distribution formula – if and when money become available." The Chieftain notes the new funding formula emphasizes "full-day kindergarten, special education, English language learners and gift/talented students."

Iowa State Governor Receives Education Funding Bill.

The AP (2/27) reports Iowa's Republican-controlled state Senate voted Monday in favor of "a bill that will provide a 1 percent increase, or about $32 million in new spending, toward Iowa's roughly $3.2 billion education budget" for the next school year. The measure was sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds, as the Republican-controlled state House already "approved the same legislation earlier this month." A separate bill to include an additional $14 million in one-time funds "was approved in a separate bill," and it, too, "heads to Reynolds." Some teachers warned "the funding boost won't be enough to cover rising costs and will force budget cuts," although Republican state lawmakers "say they're prioritizing education amid ongoing budget constraints." The AP notes that for weeks, state lawmakers "were at odds," especially on the issue of "whether to include additional money for transportation and per-pupil inequity spending." Some educators warned the education funding measure

SAFETY & SECURITY

Researchers: School Shootings Have Been Declining Since Early 1990s.

The Washington Times (2/27, Boyer) reports that "despite the horror of the high school massacre in Florida, US schools overall are safer today than they were in the early 1990s, and there is not an epidemic of such shootings, a new academic study is reporting." According to "researchers at Northeastern University...mass school shootings are extremely rare," and "shootings involving students have been declining since the 1990s." Back then, say the

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researchers, “four times as many children were killed in schools.” The Times adds “the researchers used data collected by USA Today, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report, Congressional Research Service, Gun Violence Archive, Stanford Geospatial Center and Stanford Libraries, Mother Jones, Everytown for Gun Safety, and a New York City Police Department report on active shooters.”

School Security Sees Widespread Changes Since Columbine.

USA Today (2/27, Toppo) reports on the changes to school security in districts across the country in the wake of the Columbine massacre, noting that schools now require such measures as keycard entry, video surveillance, and other measures. In 1999, “just 19% of schools said they used security cameras to monitor buildings. By the 2013-14 school year, 75% had the devices up and running.”

Baltimore Sun School Security Investigation Yields Mixed Results.

The Baltimore Sun (2/27) reports that Baltimore Sun Media Group reporters were sent to 18 Baltimore-area schools on Monday “to experience security protocols in the wake of the Parkland” massacre. “Local journalists went to elementary, middle and high schools in the city and surrounding counties Monday to determine whether the systems’ protocols match the reality.” A number of schools “allowed a reporter inside without requiring verbal identification before entering. Some schools did not ask for a driver’s license at the front desk. A few had unlocked front doors.”

Secret Service School Shootings Study Discussed.

Jeff Daniels writes in The Conversation (US) (2/27, Daniels) that “what often gets overlooked in the conversation” on preventing school shootings “is research on the subject that has already been done,” including a major study from the Secret Service. Daniels says, “Following the publication of the Secret Service study on school shootings, my research on averted school shootings found that schools that prevented a shooting had done some of the things recommended by the Secret Service. The case in Florida shows that many of these recommendations were followed and people spoke up when they saw something wrong. The issue is whether authorities need more power to intervene once they have been made aware of a potential threat, or whether they just need to do a better job with the power they already have.”

Anti-Government Militia Calls On Members To Defend Schools.

The Washington Post (2/27, Eltagouri) reports Stewart Rhodes, “leader of an extremist anti-government group” the Oath Keepers, “ has a solution to stop school shootings: Send every school in the country a former police officer or military veteran, armed with an assault rifle, to defend students.” Rhodes is “calling on the tens of thousands of members of his far-right militia group to work unpaid, rotating shifts at schools at all levels, including colleges.”

Indianapolis Student Brings Legal Challenge To District Over Bathroom Use.

USA Today (2/27, Hussein, Star) reports that a high school junior in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. in Indiana who “is noted as female on his birth certificate but identifies as male” is saying that “he is being unlawfully discriminated against after a request to use the bathroom of his choosing was denied by school officials.” The article says the complaint follows a federal appeals court ruling last May “in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage,” and the suicide of an Evansville student whose family “said he was a target of bullying because of his sexual identity.”

The Indianapolis Star (2/27) reports the district “is facing a legal challenge to its policy on transgender students’ use of bathrooms,” noting that the complaint “comes after a federal appeals court in May ruled in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage.”

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Commentary: Teaching Social And Emotional Learning Can Prevent School Bullying.

In a piece for U.S. News & World Report (2/27), Ulrich Boser, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, writes that “a growing body of research shows that schools can prevent bullying” by “helping students develop social-emotional skills.” However, this “can be challenging for some schools. For one, school leaders are under significant pressure to improve academic progress, and so many schools neglect the social and emotional side of learning. Plus, social-emotional skills may seem a little vague, and so educators do not get much guidance on what to teach or even how to teach it.”

New Jersey Students Protest Teacher’s Suspension Over School Safety Comments.

The Hill (2/27, Thomsen) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that hundreds of students on Tuesday walked out of Cherry Hill East High School in Camden County, New Jersey “to protest the suspension of” AP history teacher Timothy Locke “over comments he made sharing concerns about the possibility of a school shooting.” In addition, students held a protest in the school auditorium on Tuesday and 500 have signed a petition supporting the teacher.

New York’s Gov. Cuomo, Sen. DeFrancisco Debate School Spending.

The New York Post (2/27, Conley) reports Sen. John DeFrancisco, “GOP gubernatorial hopeful” for New York, “blasted Gov. Cuomo on Tuesday, saying he failed to release most of $2 billion in school funding, some of which could be used for safety measures.” In response, Cuomo’s administration explained the funds, which “voters approved through a bond act nearly four years ago,” can only be made available to schools after they apply for the money. “The state regularly processes applications and only has 10 outstanding before the review board that Cuomo controls, his office said,” and “both sides agree only $400 million has been spent.”

Melania Trump Launches Initiative To Promote Well-Being Of US Children.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (2/27, Ross) reports first lady Melania Trump on Monday gave “a speech on kindness, compassion and positive social media habits that may or may not be consequential to her husband’s administration and to her own legacy.” The speech was part of Mrs. Trump’s announcement of “an initiative to promote ‘the well-being’ of America’s children – an effort that she says will involve ‘promoting values such as encouragement, kindness, compassion, and respect in our children.’” The article also speculates as to the motivation behind the first lady’s speech.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Trump Floats Improved Mental Health Care, Says He May Have Confronted Parkland Shooter Unarmed.**
- **West Virginia Teacher Strike Expected To Continue Tuesday.**
- **Philly Introduces Philadelphia Board Of Education Nominees.**
- **Author Discusses New Book On Impact Of Technology On Children.**
- **Utah Lawmakers Considering Plans To Equalize School Funding.**

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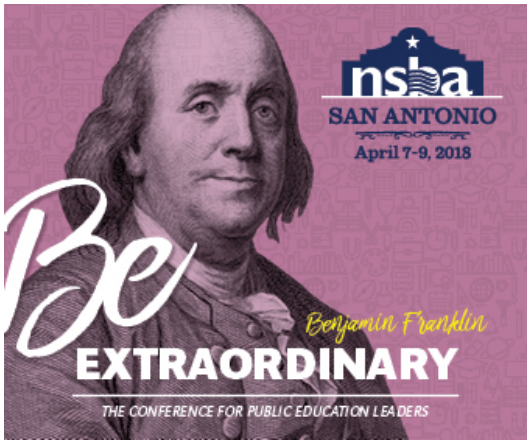
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February 28, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



As Gun Debate Appears To Stall In Congress, Trump To Unveil School Safety Proposals This Week.

Media coverage of the aftermath of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida casts Republicans as unwilling to move forward with gun control legislation despite strong pressure from student activists and public opinion in general. With legislative avenues seemingly stalled on Capitol Hill, Politico (2/27, Lima) reports, “White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday the...administration will reveal which policy proposals it supports on school safety by the end of the week,” but already “mentioned two measures the White House supports, including the ‘Fix NICS’ bill spearheaded by” Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn. The Hill (2/27, Fabian) reports Sanders also “sought to push back on speculation that [President] Trump is backing away” from proposals to “to raise the age limit to buy the type of high-powered rifle used in the Parkland...shooting,” telling reporters, “The president still supports raising the age limit to 21 for the purchase of certain firearms.” Under the headline “Congress Looks For More Clarity From Trump As It Weighs Response To Florida School Shootings,” however, the Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) illustrates lawmakers’ confusion about Trump’s stances by reporting that Sen. Pat Roberts “believes” the President “has backed off his call on raising the minimum age for rifle purchases.”

At any rate, Reuters (2/27, Cornwell, Cowan) points out, House GOP leaders “said on Tuesday that they would not raise the minimum age for gun buyers, in a sign that one of...Trump’s proposals likely will not get far on Capitol Hill.” Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway reiterated on Fox News’ Special Report (2/27) that Trump “supports increasing the age perhaps for possession of some firearms. He certainly supports fixing NICS, the background checks. He has also talked about mental health. He’s talked about how he wants to make it more difficult for people

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who shouldn't have firearms to have them, but easier for those who should and should be allowed to carry them under the Second Amendment to do so. ... It's a complex issue. ... But this is a President, like he did on immigration, on energy policy, on taxes, he is bringing both parties and both chambers into the White House or he is going to them and he is working the phones and he is talking to them about what's possible. In the end, Congress will need to act and the President will sign into law something that is reasonable, common sense that gets us closer to keeping school children safe."

Another Politico (2/27, Schor, Woellert) story indicates "lawmakers from both parties, including some of the Democrats' strongest gun-control advocates, are planning to meet with...Trump Wednesday." Politico adds that Cornyn and his "Fix NICS" co-sponsor Sen. Chris Murphy "are both expected to attend," as are Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "chief author of legislation banning assault weapons and other control bills," and Sen. Joe Manchin, "who crafted a background-check expansion plan with Sen. Pat Toomey." The Washington Post (2/27, Kim, DeBonis) reports that "in advance of the bipartisan gun summit at the White House on Wednesday, lawmakers are searching for signals from the administration," though "there is also an open question in Congress over how much Trump will actually affect the debate, with some Senate leaders pushing for more guidance from the president given his continuing focus on the shootings, while other top senators are skeptical that any guidance from the mercurial president – such as during the stalemate on immigration – will ultimately matter much."

For now, the AP (2/27, Mascaro, Daly) reports, Speaker Ryan "showed little interest Tuesday in some of the stricter gun proposals being floated by...Trump or bipartisan coalitions in Congress," and "Senate Republicans pushed" the Fix NICS bill, "a more modest measure to boost the existing background check system with new penalties and incentives." ABC World News Tonight (2/27, story 6, 1:50, Muir) said reported, "Florida students on Capitol Hill are pressing lawmakers to act on guns, but...their calls are falling flat." Speaker Ryan was shown saying, "We shouldn't be banning guns for law-abiding citizens. We should be focusing on making sure that citizens who should not get guns in the first place don't get those guns." ABC added that Fix NICS is "stalled in the Senate and likely would not have stopped the Florida shooter." ABC added that "as recently as Saturday, the President has called to raise the minimum age to purchase rifles," but "there is no legislation in the works."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Bender, Subscription Publication) reports that legislators from both parties are looking for some indication from Trump as to what kinds of gun control measures he is likely to support. Meanwhile, Trump has invited members of Congress who represent Parkland, Florida and Newtown, Connecticut – both the sites of deadly school shootings – to the White House on Wednesday.

Florida House, Senate Committees Approve Bills To Arm Teachers. The AP (2/27, Kennedy, Farrington, Anderson) reports "family members of people killed in a South Florida school shooting gave emotional testimony Tuesday during a legislative hearing to discuss passing a bill that would allow for armed teachers and raise the age limit to buy rifles." A House committee "approved the bill that would raise the minimum age to buy rifles from 18 to 21 and creates a three-day waiting period for all gun purchase." The measure "would also create a program that allows teachers who receive law enforcement training and are deputized by the local sheriff's office to carry concealed weapons in the classroom if also approved by the school district."

The Miami Herald (2/27, Bousquet) reports a Florida Senate approved a similar – but not identical – measure. Whereas the House bill would "train teachers to carry guns in class under the direction of local law enforcement – if superintendents or the school board approve," the Senate Appropriations Committee would require "that both the sheriff and school district officials in a county agree to the program before it can be adopted." The South Florida Sun Sentinel (2/27, Sweeney, Fleshler) notes "Gov. Rick Scott doesn't support the part of the plan that would allow teachers to carry firearms, though he has not said whether its inclusion would mean a veto." The New York Times (2/27, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) points out that "it was unclear" whether Scott "would accept a proposal from lawmakers to arm school personnel other than teachers, such as athletic coaches who sometimes double as security monitors. He declined to clarify his position in a news conference in the Miami suburb of Doral on Tuesday."

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The Washington Post (2/28, Strauss) also reports.

Michigan House Bill To Allow Gun Training For Teachers Who Volunteer For It. The Detroit Free Press (2/27, Gray) reports that a bill "being developed" by two Republicans in the Michigan House would allow teachers to be armed. State Rep. Jim Runestad "will schedule hearings this spring on a bill that he's drafting that will allow school districts to provide access to guns in locked, undisclosed locations in school buildings to teachers who volunteer and who are trained in firearm use." The teachers "would have to go through 80 hours of training on how to shoot a gun, gun safety, how to engage with an active shooter and tactics to de-escalate a dangerous situation." The guns "would be hidden in locked compartments that would only be accessible through the thumbprint of approved school employees."

Alabama Legislature Considers Armed Volunteers In Schools. Alabama Live (2/27) reports that under a bill being considered in the Alabama legislature, "any trained school employee or citizen volunteer could join an armed security force in Alabama schools." The bill would expand on a local ordinance under which "school principals can request a volunteer armed security force." The AP (2/27) also covers this story.

Mississippi Legislators Propose Letting Teachers Carry Guns. The AP (2/27) reports that a proposal in the Mississippi state Senate would "give schools the options of arming teachers in an effort to prevent future school shootings." The legislation "would let school boards set up safety programs that would include letting teachers and other school employees with special training carry concealed guns."

Bevin, Abbott Weigh In On Trump Proposal To Arm Certain Teachers. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, asked on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27) about the President's suggestion that some teachers be armed in the schools, said, "I think on a voluntary basis, purely volitional, I think it's a very good idea and worthy of being considered. I think teachers who are willing should go through an extensive training far above and beyond what it takes to be a conceal carry gun owner. Should go through a battery of psychiatric tests to ensure they are mentally able. ... But it shouldn't just be teachers, it should be available to administrators. Custodians, coaches, anyone inside that school on a voluntary basis, I think we would be foolish not to consider that as a possibility."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said on Fox News' Fox & Friends (2/27), "It is important to understand that not one size fits all when it comes to the approach to address this issue. Texas is maybe different than Washington State. Even parts of Texas are different than other parts of Texas but in Texas we do have a robust program of allowing but not requiring teachers to be authorized to carry guns in schools. Not just teachers, it could be coaches or administrators or others. That is called our School Marshall program. Where people, persons who work in schools, will be authorized to carry. Sometimes it will be notified in front of a school, when a school puts up a billboard saying that teachers are armed. Don't harm any kid on this campus. Other times it is more concealed."

USA Today (2/27) editorializes that "few educators have any desire to wield firearms or be responsible for going into combat with heavily armed intruders. Even police officers with years of training still have doubts – and make mistakes – during critical moments at crime scenes." Jerome R. Corsi, "author of Killing the Deep State: The Fight to Save President Trump," writes in USA Today (2/27) that "arming all teachers and school staff is no solution in situations where teachers and staff feel fully committed to dealing with educational issues," but "in cases where teachers and school staff are predisposed to be comfortable with concealed carry, as could well be the case with military veterans or retired law enforcement who make education their second career, allowing them the right to carry weapons provides the possibility of a near instant response. A would-be school shooter can be neutralized before schoolchildren are senselessly murdered."

Cruz Neighbor Says She "Begged" Police To Take Action, Was Told Cruz Was No "Immediate Threat." The Washington Times (2/27, Persons) reports "a former neighbor of Nikolas Cruz...said she 'begged' police to act regarding his disturbing behavior and threatening social media posts, CNN reported Tuesday." Joelle Guarino told CNN her son "showed her multiple posts on social media from Mr. Cruz, including one of an AR-15 and another about shooting up a school." Guarino said that at her request, "a police officer came to her home" and told

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her “there was nothing he could do.” Said Guarino, “I begged him, and he basically told me that it was not an immediate threat. He couldn’t do anything, is what he told me.”

The Washington Post (2/27) editorializes that “it is not quite right to say that...Cruz...fell through the cracks. The truth is even more unsettling,” as “many people” had been “alerted to Mr. Cruz’s troubling behavior,” including “school officials, police, state social services workers and friends” who “sought to intervene and help.” To the Post, “their failure underscores just how difficult it is to deal with mental illness.” At any rate, “the law enforcement agencies that interacted with this suspect – or should have, as was the case with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which completely botched a detailed tip — must...face a reckoning,” but “when all those reviews are completed, this much will remain true: There will always be an element of human error and unpredictability in these difficult cases.” The Post concludes that “that is why an additional reform is so logical: banning weapons of war.”

Teachers, Counselors Hoped Alternative School Would Address Cruz’s Mental Health Issues. USA Today (2/27, Murphy, Perez) reports “teachers and counselors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School hoped a transfer to an alternative school would provide mental health services for...Cruz after his behavior and discipline problems increased in 2016.” Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie “said Cruz’s situation at Douglas had deteriorated so much so that his counselors and teachers decided to refer him out of the school in early 2017,” hoping “he would return to Cross Creek School, an alternative program with smaller classes and a more comprehensive offering of mental health services.” Said Runcie, “He declined. ... When a kid turns 18, we can’t force an adult to receive those services.”

Hurricane-Proof Glass Windows May Have Prevented Additional Carnage. NBC Nightly News (2/27, story 3, 1:50, Holt) reported that it “has learned shooting suspect Nicolas Cruz may have had more plans to unleash more carnage inside his former high school. At the time he dropped his AR-15, he still had five fully loaded magazines, one marked with a swastika.” The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 3, 1:20, Glor) also reported “more people could have been injured or killed.” Cruz “began firing in the first and second floors of the freshman building, he continued to make his way up. And that is where investigators believe he planned on using a third-floor stairwell as a vantage point to shoot at students. Sources say Cruz attempted to create a sniper’s nest by shooting out a glass window, firing 16 rounds into the glass,” but “the hurricane-proof glass appeared to have stopped it from shattering.”

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Students Return To School Today. The CBS Evening News (2/27, story 4, 2:25, Glor) reported students were to “return to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School” this morning “for the first time since the shooting. They will have a half day of classes tomorrow.” CBS (Diaz) added “grief counselors will be in every classroom that’s missing a student who passed away.” The Miami Herald (2/27, Herrera) and Washington Post (2/27, Balingit), among other news outlets, also report on the students’ return to school.

Texas Civil Rights Groups Criticize Plans To Punish Student Protesters. The AP (2/27) reports the civil rights advocacy groups Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project, and Texas Appleseed “have warned a Houston-area school district superintendent that his threat to punish students who disrupt classes to protest current gun laws may violate their constitutional free-speech rights.” The groups “sent a letter to Needville school district Superintendent Curtis Rhodes that expressed their concern over Rhodes’ threat. Texas ACLU staff attorney Kali Cohn said school administrators can’t censor political speech nor punish students more harshly for missing school to participate in political protest than they would for any other unexcused absence.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

West Virginia Governor Announces Deal; Teachers To Return To Class Thursday.

The Washington Post (2/27, Larimer) reports West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice announced a deal to end a statewide teachers strike on Tuesday. The deal, which includes a 5% raise, clears the way for teachers to return to the

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classroom on Thursday, "with Wednesday serving as a 'cooling off day.'" The strike impacted over 277,000 students and shuttered schools in all 55 of the state's counties, and was "sparked by concerns about pay and benefits."

Reuters (2/27) reports the deal to end the four-day strike came "after thousands of teachers and their backers descended on the state capitol in Charleston demanding better benefits and a hike in wages now near the bottom among U.S. teachers." The strike began "on Thursday after Justice signed legislation to give teachers and state police a 2 percent raise."

The Seventy Four (2/27, Fay) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos weighed in on the strike earlier in the day, "saying that good teachers 'deserve better pay' but students should not miss school due to adult disagreements. In a series of tweets, she also called on 'both sides' to negotiate a compromise soon." Also reporting are NBC News (2/28), Newsweek (2/27, Swaak), and USA Today (2/27, Bacon).

Graduation Rates Among Disadvantaged Students In New Mexico Rise.

The Ruidoso (NM) News (2/27) reports that New Mexico's "high school graduation rate remains at an all-time high" of 71 percent. In addition, "since 2011, graduation rates have improved significantly for the state's Hispanic, African-American, disabled, and low-income students." Gov. Susana Martinez said when she announced the achievements on Friday, "New Mexico's students continue to show that when we hold them to high standards, they rise to the occasion."

Michigan's Career Pathways Alliance Raises Controversy.

Bridge Magazine (MI) (2/27, VanHulle) reports the Career Pathways Alliance in Michigan which seeks to "unite business leaders and educators around ways to increase Michigan's talent pool" by "recruiting new career-tech teachers directly from the private sector." The state, particularly through a House bill that "would allow career-tech teachers to teach with no requirement that they obtain a teaching credential within a set number of years," is also aiming to address a teacher shortage, but the Michigan Education Association, which represents teachers, "views the bill as 'a dilution of the teaching profession.'"

Teachers Voice Frustration Ahead Of Next Court Case Against Teachers' Unions.

Education Week (2/27, Will) reports teachers Ryan Yohn, Bruce Aster, and Brian Miller spoke to reporters at the Center for Individual Rights on Tuesday to express their "frustration at feeling voiceless and powerless under the union's current structure" and discuss Yohn v. California Teachers Association, a "case that could potentially hammer teachers' unions." The gathering came just a day after Supreme Court justices heard arguments in the Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) case, which "charges that public-employee unions in 22 states shouldn't be allowed to charge 'agency' or 'fair-share' fees to workers who choose not to join but who are still represented in collective bargaining." Education Week says the Yohn case, "which is currently on hold pending a decision in Janus," goes "one step further," arguing that "teachers should have to affirmatively opt into the union – not opt out."

Indiana Lawmakers Revive Proposal To Let Districts Hire More Unlicensed Teachers.

Chalkbeat (2/27, Cavazos) reports Indiana lawmakers "revived" on Tuesday "a controversial proposal to allow district schools to hire up to 10 percent unlicensed teachers," as the legislators "said they wanted to address teaching shortages by allowing traditional public schools to have similar flexibility in hiring as charter schools." Republican Rep. Bob Behning, chairman of the House Education Committee, reintroduced the measure through an amendment to Senate Bill 387, which "now also includes provisions to allow districts to give certain teachers extra

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pay and change teacher pay scales."

Opinion: NES Basic Skills Exams Reinforce Structures Of Social Stratification.

Dr. Nicholas D. Hartlep, an assistant professor and coordinator of the Early Childhood and Elementary School Programs in the School of Urban Education at Metropolitan State University, and Dr. René Antrop-González, the school's dean, write an op-ed in Diverse Education (2/27) arguing the NES Basic Skills tests "reinforce manmade structures of social stratification that consist of exalting the worldviews of Whites, English-dominant speakers and economically privileged Christians at the top of the social order." The authors lament the fact that the "successful completion of college-level courses does not exempt [students] from having to take the NES Basic Skills exams for entry or teacher licensure," and argue the "arduous" process of applying for extended time on the NES tests for non-native English speakers is "nothing more than a modern day 'poll tax' comprised of having to navigate hurdles that pre-service teachers from privileged identities are not asked and expected to jump over."

Idaho Lawmakers Question Loan Forgiveness Bill For Rural Teachers.

The AP (2/27) reports "a handful of Idaho lawmakers say they have too many objections to a proposal" that would grant "$3,000 in student loan forgiveness a year for four years" to "up to 500 eligible teachers who work in rural schools." The House Education Committee sent HB 504 to the full House on Tuesday to be amended, "citing concerns about taking money out of the general fund to pay for loans."

Report: States Need Better Data Collection To Address Teacher Shortages.

Arizona Public Media (2/27, O'Gara) reports the National Council on Teacher Quality believes a number of states, including Arizona "aren't doing enough to collect and connect data – in particular, data on teacher preparation programs," and that doing so could help to address issues with "teacher recruitment and retainment." The council recently published a report that "asks if a state collects and maintains public data about its teacher preparation programs, whether and to what extent that data is matched to school district hiring needs, and if the state offers guidance on high-need certification areas." Without sufficient data in that regard, the council contends, "there are big gaps in the information needed to guide state-level policy decisions, and districts are deprived of a 'powerful lever' to incentivize certification in certain subjects."

OPERATIONS

Public Advocate Blasts New York's Renewal Program.

The New York Post (2/27, Algar) reports that New York City Public Advocate Letitia James "ripped" Mayor Bill de Blasio's Renewal school program at a City Council hearing on Tuesday, saying, "The Renewal schools program was announced with great fanfare in November of 2014...And three and a half years and hundreds of millions of dollars later it is hard to argue that this program has been a success." However, James also "blasted the Department of Education for opting to close teetering Renewal schools instead of plying them with additional resources." The article adds that "nine original Renewals have been already been shuttered and another eight have been proposed for closure."

Investigation Of Enrollment Fraud In DC School Becomes Public.

The Washington Post (2/27, Jamison, Strauss, Stein) reports that, according to informed government officials, an investigation by Washington, DC officials has uncovered "signs of widespread enrollment fraud" at the Duke

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Ellington School of the Arts, “one of the city’s most revered public schools.” The Post says “it is unclear how far the investigation has progressed since” it was originally shared at a meeting “attended by representatives from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education...and the office of the DC attorney general” in December. However, Mayor Muriel Bowser and State Superintendent of Education Hanseul Kang “called a news conference about” the investigation on Tuesday after the Post “published a version of” the report presented in December.

DC District, Former Chancellor Sign Separation Agreement.

The Washington Post (2/27, Stein) reports former DC Public Schools chancellor Antwan Wilson “will receive six months of pay when he severs ties with the city next week, according to a separation agreement signed Monday.” Wilson “was forced to resign from his position leading the public school system last week amid revelations that he violated school lottery system rules when he transferred his daughter to a high-performing school,” and he has since been on administrative leave. His contract will officially terminate on March 7. The Post notes that under the terms of the agreement, “Wilson did not admit wrongdoing.” Still, his “resignation was swift and unexpected, and sent another jolt through a beleaguered school system already engulfed in a graduation scandal.” It also “delivers a political blow” to Mayor Muriel Bowser, who faces re-election this year and “whose selection of Wilson, an outsider, was one of the most important and high-profile appointments of her tenure.”

Dallas District Gathers High School Students For Gun Violence Forum.

The Dallas Morning News (2/27, Smith, Writer) reports Dallas Independent School District held a student forum on Tuesday focused on mass violence. In the wake of the Parkland shooting, roughly 200 high school students “gathered to add their voices to the chorus, sharing their experiences and opinions on how to make their schools and communities safer.” Urban Specialists chief executive Omar Jahwar, the forum moderator, “tasked the students with offering their own solutions to solve the school shooting crisis, and help those who are being affected by gun violence.” He also requested that they “take an active role in being involved in the larger, national movement on student safety and gun control.” Referring to the murder of a DISD senior on Saturday, the Morning News says the gun violence issue “isn’t an abstract for DISD students, whether its a numb acceptance of the frequency of school shootings, or something more local – and more tragic.”

Maryland State Officials Urge District To Prove Efforts Remedying Diploma Scandal.

The Washington Post (2/27, George) reports that on Tuesday, Maryland state Superintendent Karen B. Salmon “called on Prince George’s County to prove it is fixing problems uncovered in a diploma scandal and took the unusual step of assigning a state employee full time to monitor those efforts for the next year.” The recommended actions “drew unanimous support from the Maryland State Board of Education a month after Prince George’s leaders appeared before the panel.” Under the plan, “the state will seek periodic written reports on the county’s progress in fixing what went wrong and request an outside audit afterward to ensure problems are resolved.” State BOE president Andrew Smarick “said the panel was alarmed by findings of a state-ordered investigation, conducted last fall after allegations of graduation rate fraud in the state’s second-largest school system.” He stressed that the state of Maryland “needs to be confident that the district’s graduates have earned their diplomas.”

More Than One Out Of 10 Oklahoma Students “Chronically Absent,” Report Finds.

Citing “the annual ImpactTulsa report,” which was released on Tuesday, the Tulsa (OK) World (2/27, Overall) reports that “more than one out of 10 Oklahoma students are ‘chronically absent,’” meaning they miss “more than a tenth of the school year, leading to lower test scores and higher dropout rates.” The report concludes chronic absence “is an early warning indicator for both low achievement and dropping out of high school,” and “calls for

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efforts to 'target student populations with chronic absenteeism and support teachers and districts with resources they need to influence change directly with students.'"

Florida County Contracts Outside Company To Potentially Operate Struggling Schools.

The Tampa (FL) Tribune (2/27, Wright) reports in its "Gradebook" blog that Florida's Pinellas County School Board on Tuesday "voted 7-0...to hire Learning Sciences International to operate Fairmount Park and Lakewood elementary schools and Azalea Middle School starting in August, if their students don't do well enough on state tests this spring." The agreement, part of a broader trend in districts throughout the state, "is the result of a controversial new state law, known by its bill name HB 7069," which "requires that any public school with three consecutive grades below a C to choose one of three 'turnaround' options." These include "reassigning students to another school, closing the school and reopening it as a charter, or contracting with an outside entity to operate the school."

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Metro Atlanta Students Forced To Retake ACT After 220 Tests Lost In FedEx System.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2/26, Brasch) reports a spokesman for the ACT said Monday that 220 tests taken at Lassiter High School in Marietta on Jan. 6 are missing in the FedEx system. ACT spokesman Ed Colby said, "It's a terrible situation. It's a very unfortunate situation for these students. We're doing everything we can to locate that package." He said students, facing college application deadlines, took the test against on Saturday for free. Colby also said students were refunded for their tests. A FedEx spokesman also told the AJC: "FedEx understands how important these test results are to the students and their families. We are conducting a thorough search for this shipment and continue to work very closely with ACT on this matter."

WSB-TV Atlanta (GA) Atlanta (2/26) and International Business Times (2/27, Madappa) also cover this story.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Report Finds Ohio Among Top States For Equitable Distribution Of School Funds.

The Columbus (OH) Dispatch (2/27, Gilchrist) says a national report released Tuesday by the nonprofit policy group The Education Trust found that Ohio "does better than almost all other states in directing school funding to poor and minority students." Ohio Office of Budget and Management Spokesman John Charlton said, "A lot of the things that the Kasich administration has tried to do ... is to direct funds to areas of the most need." The article provides further detail on the report's analysis.

Report: In Most States, Poorest Districts Receive Less Funding Than Wealthier Districts.

U.S. News & World Report (2/27) reports The Education Trust released a report Tuesday that "shine[s] a spotlight on funding gaps that plague the country's public education system." While those funding gaps "vary significantly" from state to state, the poorest districts in more than half of states "do not receive funding to address their students' increased needs," with Illinois, Missouri, New York, and Alabama ranked "among the worst." The "silver lining," however, "is that the situation seems to be improving, albeit slightly," according to The Education Trust's previous examination in 2015. The trend could even "continue given the number of states rethinking their school funding formulas in an attempt to make their education finance systems more equitable, especially for school districts that serve lots of students in need of extra supports, such as poor students, students with disabilities and those learning English."

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Kentucky State Lawmakers Say Budget Proposal Includes Additional Education Funding Revenue Sources.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (2/27) reports Kentucky state House Democratic Whip Dennis Keene and state Rep. Kelly Flood "said they were among a group of Democrats given an advance briefing late Tuesday afternoon on the budget plan of the majority Republicans" that "they were told House Republicans will propose to come up with additional money through a 50-cent increase in Kentucky's 60-cent per pack cigarette tax and a new tax of 25 cents per dosage of opioid drugs." The revenue from those tax increases, according to the two state lawmakers, "would allow the budget to increase funding for the main public school program known as Support Education Excellence in Kentucky as well as restore at least some of the cut that Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget would have made in funding to school districts for student transportation." According to Keene, however, "It's not all crystal clear. ... The briefing lasted about an hour and we weren't given anything in writing."

Colorado Grass-Roots Movement Seeks Ballot Initiative On New Funding Formula.

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain (2/27) reports a local Colorado branch of "the bipartisan grass-roots movement Great Schools Thriving Communities launched its petition drive to place Initiative 93," aimed at replacing "the 1994 education funding formula often maligned as unfair and outdated," before voters this year. Thus far, "171 of the state's 178 superintendents are behind the initiative, with the seven holdouts mostly from rural districts." If "placed on the ballot for potential voter approval" and passed by a 55 percent margin, it "would amend the state constitution to increase taxes $1.6 billion annually, with that money placed into a Public Education Fund and earmarked for preschool through high school education." The initiative is "designed to work in conjunction with" a bill that "would amend the state constitution to create a new school funding distribution formula – if and when money become available." The Chieftain notes the new funding formula emphasizes "full-day kindergarten, special education, English language learners and gift/talented students."

Iowa State Governor Receives Education Funding Bill.

The AP (2/27) reports Iowa's Republican-controlled state Senate voted Monday in favor of "a bill that will provide a 1 percent increase, or about $32 million in new spending, toward Iowa's roughly $3.2 billion education budget" for the next school year. The measure was sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds, as the Republican-controlled state House already "approved the same legislation earlier this month." A separate bill to include an additional $14 million in one-time funds "was approved in a separate bill," and it, too, "heads to Reynolds." Some teachers warned "the funding boost won't be enough to cover rising costs and will force budget cuts," although Republican state lawmakers "say they're prioritizing education amid ongoing budget constraints." The AP notes that for weeks, state lawmakers "were at odds," especially on the issue of "whether to include additional money for transportation and per-pupil inequity spending." Some educators warned the education funding measure

SAFETY & SECURITY

Researchers: School Shootings Have Been Declining Since Early 1990s.

The Washington Times (2/27, Boyer) reports that "despite the horror of the high school massacre in Florida, US schools overall are safer today than they were in the early 1990s, and there is not an epidemic of such shootings, a new academic study is reporting." According to "researchers at Northeastern University...mass school shootings are extremely rare," and "shootings involving students have been declining since the 1990s." Back then, say the

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researchers, “four times as many children were killed in schools.” The Times adds “the researchers used data collected by USA Today, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report, Congressional Research Service, Gun Violence Archive, Stanford Geospatial Center and Stanford Libraries, Mother Jones, Everytown for Gun Safety, and a New York City Police Department report on active shooters.”

School Security Sees Widespread Changes Since Columbine.

USA Today (2/27, Toppo) reports on the changes to school security in districts across the country in the wake of the Columbine massacre, noting that schools now require such measures as keycard entry, video surveillance, and other measures. In 1999, “just 19% of schools said they used security cameras to monitor buildings. By the 2013-14 school year, 75% had the devices up and running.”

Baltimore Sun School Security Investigation Yields Mixed Results.

The Baltimore Sun (2/27) reports that Baltimore Sun Media Group reporters were sent to 18 Baltimore-area schools on Monday “to experience security protocols in the wake of the Parkland” massacre. “Local journalists went to elementary, middle and high schools in the city and surrounding counties Monday to determine whether the systems’ protocols match the reality.” A number of schools “allowed a reporter inside without requiring verbal identification before entering. Some schools did not ask for a driver’s license at the front desk. A few had unlocked front doors.”

Secret Service School Shootings Study Discussed.

Jeff Daniels writes in The Conversation (US) (2/27, Daniels) that “what often gets overlooked in the conversation” on preventing school shootings “is research on the subject that has already been done,” including a major study from the Secret Service. Daniels says, “Following the publication of the Secret Service study on school shootings, my research on averted school shootings found that schools that prevented a shooting had done some of the things recommended by the Secret Service. The case in Florida shows that many of these recommendations were followed and people spoke up when they saw something wrong. The issue is whether authorities need more power to intervene once they have been made aware of a potential threat, or whether they just need to do a better job with the power they already have.”

Anti-Government Militia Calls On Members To Defend Schools.

The Washington Post (2/27, Eltagouri) reports Stewart Rhodes, “leader of an extremist anti-government group” the Oath Keepers, “ has a solution to stop school shootings: Send every school in the country a former police officer or military veteran, armed with an assault rifle, to defend students.” Rhodes is “calling on the tens of thousands of members of his far-right militia group to work unpaid, rotating shifts at schools at all levels, including colleges.”

Indianapolis Student Brings Legal Challenge To District Over Bathroom Use.

USA Today (2/27, Hussein, Star) reports that a high school junior in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. in Indiana who “is noted as female on his birth certificate but identifies as male” is saying that “he is being unlawfully discriminated against after a request to use the bathroom of his choosing was denied by school officials.” The article says the complaint follows a federal appeals court ruling last May “in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage,” and the suicide of an Evansville student whose family “said he was a target of bullying because of his sexual identity.”

The Indianapolis Star (2/27) reports the district “is facing a legal challenge to its policy on transgender students’ use of bathrooms,” noting that the complaint “comes after a federal appeals court in May ruled in favor of a transgender student who challenged a Wisconsin school district’s policy limiting his bathroom usage.”

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Commentary: Teaching Social And Emotional Learning Can Prevent School Bullying.

In a piece for U.S. News & World Report (2/27), Ulrich Boser, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, writes that “a growing body of research shows that schools can prevent bullying” by “helping students develop social-emotional skills.” However, this “can be challenging for some schools. For one, school leaders are under significant pressure to improve academic progress, and so many schools neglect the social and emotional side of learning. Plus, social-emotional skills may seem a little vague, and so educators do not get much guidance on what to teach or even how to teach it.”

New Jersey Students Protest Teacher’s Suspension Over School Safety Comments.

The Hill (2/27, Thomsen) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that hundreds of students on Tuesday walked out of Cherry Hill East High School in Camden County, New Jersey “to protest the suspension of” AP history teacher Timothy Locke “over comments he made sharing concerns about the possibility of a school shooting.” In addition, students held a protest in the school auditorium on Tuesday and 500 have signed a petition supporting the teacher.

New York’s Gov. Cuomo, Sen. DeFrancisco Debate School Spending.

The New York Post (2/27, Conley) reports Sen. John DeFrancisco, “GOP gubernatorial hopeful” for New York, “blasted Gov. Cuomo on Tuesday, saying he failed to release most of $2 billion in school funding, some of which could be used for safety measures.” In response, Cuomo’s administration explained the funds, which “voters approved through a bond act nearly four years ago,” can only be made available to schools after they apply for the money. “The state regularly processes applications and only has 10 outstanding before the review board that Cuomo controls, his office said,” and “both sides agree only $400 million has been spent.”

Melania Trump Launches Initiative To Promote Well-Being Of US Children.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (2/27, Ross) reports first lady Melania Trump on Monday gave “a speech on kindness, compassion and positive social media habits that may or may not be consequential to her husband’s administration and to her own legacy.” The speech was part of Mrs. Trump’s announcement of “an initiative to promote ‘the well-being’ of America’s children – an effort that she says will involve ‘promoting values such as encouragement, kindness, compassion, and respect in our children.’” The article also speculates as to the motivation behind the first lady’s speech.

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Trump Floats Improved Mental Health Care, Says He May Have Confronted Parkland Shooter Unarmed.**
- **West Virginia Teacher Strike Expected To Continue Tuesday.**
- **Philly Introduces Philadelphia Board Of Education Nominees.**
- **Author Discusses New Book On Impact Of Technology On Children.**
- **Utah Lawmakers Considering Plans To Equalize School Funding.**

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25-Year-Old Textbooks and Holes in the Ceiling: Inside America's Public Schools
April 16, The New York Times
From broken laptops to books held together with duct tape, America's public school educators share what a decade of budget cuts has wrought in their schools. nytimes.com

After Parkland, Schools Grapple with Threats — And the Best Ways to Respond
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schools are struggling to equip students with future-proof skills. nbcnews.com

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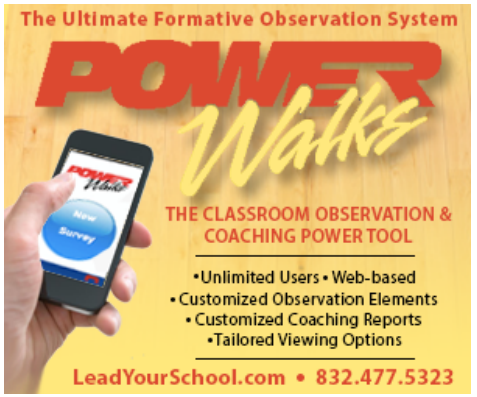
School Food Should Be Good Food, Especially Breakfast
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Through school breakfast partnerships and programs, public schools in Virginia served about 10 million more breakfasts last school year compared with the same time four years ago. richmond.com

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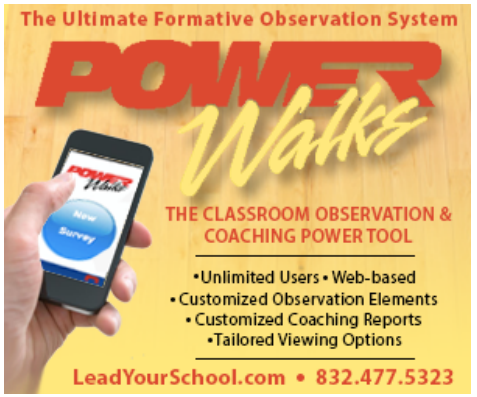
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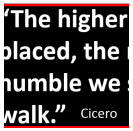
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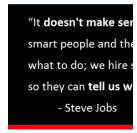
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Jena Muller on LinkedIn

Transitioning veterans are given advice on the kind of photo they should use for their Linkedin profile. I have decided to weigh...



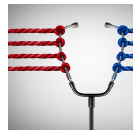
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Recommended for you

Take Politics Out of Healthcare

Craig Hasday on LinkedIn

Three additional states have joined California in an investigation of the third largest insurer in the United States – Aetna –...



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41 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Dear Next Community Devastated by School Gun Violence - Sincerely, Parkland

Lonny Anger on LinkedIn

This letter is directed to YOU and your community. Not the other person who liked it and you happened to read it, not the person...



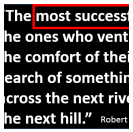
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"Risk is a big part of success. If someone tells me they want to achieve exceptional success without taking substantial risks, they aren't serious."

Oleg Vishnepolsky on LinkedIn

"The risk of a wrong decision is better than the terror of indecision." Maimonides "Only those who will risk going...



5163 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

My First Five Years at Logitech

Alastair Curtis on LinkedIn

I’m nearing my five year anniversary with Logitech. And it’s milestones like this that make you pause to reflect on the journey...



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You are receiving highlight emails.

This email was intended for Jesse Fuentes (Director of Secondary Instruction at Carlsbad Municipal Schools). Learn why we included this.

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From: "LinkedIn" <news@linkedin.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Feb 2018 04:26:18 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Why star workers make bad bosses
To: "Nancy Phipps" <phippsn@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Nancy Phipps

Why star workers make bad bosses

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16 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Empowering every person to be future ready

Mary Snapp on LinkedIn

Beattyville, a town of about 1,200 people in eastern Kentucky, is a good place to see what can happen when rapid change disrupts...

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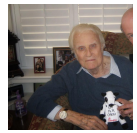
406 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Remembering Billy Graham

Dan T. Cathy on LinkedIn

Billy Graham left an indelible mark on me. I can still see the large group of people listening to him speak at the Ponce de Leon...



2097 people are talking about this

Video: Member video highlight



Adam Varga

Product Designer & Art Director

I'm very bad with kanjis so I'm currently building an augmented reality app to teach myself.

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493 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Be better today than you were yesterday. A word of encouragement after failure is as important as of praise after success.

Oleg Vishnepolsky on LinkedIn

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Oleg Vishnepolsky on LinkedIn

Failure is not opposite to success, it is part of success. "No person should be in a management position who get...



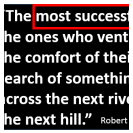
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"Risk is a big part of success. If someone tells me they want to achieve exceptional success without taking substantial risks, they aren't serious."

Oleg Vishnepolsky on LinkedIn

"The risk of a wrong decision is better than the terror of indecision." Maimonides "Only those who will risk going...



4907 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Dear Next Community Devastated by School Gun Violence - Sincerely, Parkland

Lonny Anger on LinkedIn

This letter is directed to YOU and your community. Not the other person who liked it and you happened to read it, not the person...



766 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

Highlights from HPE’s First Quarter Earnings Results | HPE Newsroom

news.hpe.com

CEO Antonio Neri shares his thoughts on the first quarter of 2018, and what’s in store for the rest of the year



2 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

True measure of a leader is how they treat everyone, not just those they need to impress.

Oleg Vishnepolsky on LinkedIn

Jim, a middle level manager, was routinely pressured by the division's president. However, none of Jim's employee felt...



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7169 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

My First Five Years at Logitech

Alastair Curtis on LinkedIn

I'm nearing my five year anniversary with Logitech. And it's milestones like this that make you pause to reflect on the journey...



233 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

With Black Panther: The Album Soundtrack At Number One In The US, Are We Witnessing A Soundtrack Renaissance?

Zach Fuller on LinkedIn

With the film sitting atop the box US office, Black Panther: The Album, executively produced by Kendrick Lamar, has managed a...



383 people are talking about this

Recommended for you

The Need for AI Development

Hoyong Jung on LinkedIn

Artificial Intelligence(AI) seems to be taking over humans' roles, as frequently shown from the movies such as The Terminator,...



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This email was intended for Nancy Phipps. Learn why we included this.

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From: "The NCHERM Group" <ncherm1@ncherm.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2018 07:03:46 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Your Bi-Weekly Newsletter from The NCHERM Group
To: <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The NCHERM Group. Don't forget to add ncherm1@ncherm.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Systems-level Solutions for Safer Schools and Campuses

THE NCHERM GROUP LLC

Monday, March 5, 2018

Explore the 2018 January-March Promotion for ATIXA New Membership

ATIXA announces new incentives towards new membership!

Purchase a new Individual, Institutional, or Super Member level of membership and receive the following promotional items:



- A hard copy of *The ATIXA Playbook: Best Practices for the Post-Regulatory Era*.
- Choose any three of the forthcoming ATIXA *20 Minutes to Train*ed modules.

As a reminder, the following substantial benefits apply to ATIXA Individual Membership:

- Access to the best source materials and training on Title IX
- Access to multiple Communities of Practice, including Investigator, Advocate and Prevention, K-12, Student, and ADA/504
- Title IX Legal Updates
- An active and pertinent professional listserv
- The ability to access individual Community of Practice listservs
- Weekly newsletters

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- The ATIXA VAWA Brochure Template
- ATIXA Tip of the Week
- Access to all versions of the ATIXA One Policy, One Process Model
- Clery Act Annual Security Report Template Language to Comply with VAWA Section 304
- 15% member discounts on many ATIXA events, products, and services
- 15% member discounts on ATIXA Protocols and Resources
- Access to the OCR Investigation Finding Letter Database
- Access to Partner and Sponsor organization resources and discounts
- Access to the most comprehensive online Title IX resource library available
- Membership roster access

Additionally, ATIXA Institutional Membership allows for an unlimited number of Individual memberships at the campus level.

ATIXA Super Members have access to products and services valued at over $10,000 if purchased on an "a la carte" basis, for one low annual fee, and will have access to special events, bonus content, and enhanced direct access to the ATIXA "brain trust" of the nation's foremost Title IX experts. ATIXA Super Members get the following additional benefits:

- Two complimentary registrations to the ATIXA Annual Conference
- MaxStack: A Database for Title IX Case Documentation from ATIXA & Maxient (must be a current Maxient client to utilize)
- The ATIXA 250-page "Investigation In a Box" Kit
- 250 Tokens for Online Trainings through the Continuing Certification Credits (CCC) Program
- Unlimited access to the ATIXA Mandated Reporter Online Training for Employees
- Super Member socials at the ATIXA Annual Conference and other four-day Certification Events
- Networking opportunities in person with The NCHERM Group Partners
- Two annual Q&A based webinars with The NCHERM Group Partners
- All certification event training materials

For any additional information and/or to discuss this promotional offer in detail, contact Ryan McDavis, Executive Director, at (610) 993-0229, ext. 1009.

January-March Promotion Available for Final-Eyes Clients

The NCHERM Group announces new incentives towards subscribing to Final-Eyes Off-Site Investigation Services!

You've been trained to investigate civil rights violations. You have experience investigating sexual misconduct complaints. You've been through every detail, twice. Yet, some cases still leave you feeling uneasy. Have you asked every question? Is there anything you're missing? This flat-fee, off-site support and review service is offered at two levels and priced based on your investigation report volume. Final-Eyes is the reassurance you need when there is zero margin for error on campus sexual misconduct cases. Have the confidence that one of the nation's foremost experts on Title IX has laid final eyes on your findings, sanctions, and/or remedies and thinks you are on the right track.

Final-Eyes Includes:

- Initial investigation report review (Standard Level)
- Phone/email consultation with the Coordinator/Investigators to roadmap and investigation from inception (Plus Level)
- Consultation with the Coordinator on gatekeeping decisions (Plus Level)
- Light support for investigators during the investigation as needed (Plus Level)
- Second-round review of revised reports (Plus Level)

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Purchase Final-Eyes service by March 31 and receive the following promotional items:

- A hard copy of *The ATIXA Playbook: Best Practices for the Post-Regulatory Era*.
- Complimentary upgrade from Standard to Plus Level of Final-Eyes services.

For any additional information and/or to discuss this promotional offer in detail, contact Ryan McDavis, Vice President for Client and Member Relations, at (610) 993-0229, ext. 1009.

Check Out the 2018 January-March Promotion for NaBITA Campus Memberships

NaBITA announces new incentives toward becoming a member at the Enhanced or Charter level!*



NaBITA Enhanced members receive the following benefits:

- Weekly member newsletter featuring a Tip of the Week and Resource Spotlight
- Access to the NaBITA Listserv
- One free registration to the Annual NaBITA Conference and 20% discount for all other attendees from your campus
- 10% discounted registration to Certification Trainings and Online Trainings
- Access to the NaBITA Membership List
- Access to the Member Resource Materials
- Two free NaBITA Online Trainings
- Access to the NaBITA Ask the Experts Consultation

Upgrade to an Enhanced Campus Membership prior to March 31, 2018 and receive additional promotional items:

- **1-hour long consultation call/webinar/Skype session with NaBITA Executive Director, Brian Van Brunt ($350 value)**. Brian has offered classes in counseling theory, ethics, program evaluation, statistics, and sociology for both graduate and undergraduate students. He is frequently an invited keynote speaker and has offered training to law enforcement, homeland security, FBI, college faculty, and staff. He developed the Structured Interview for Violence Risk Assessment (SIVRA-35) and lead the charge on developing The CARE Team Manual.

Upgrade to a Charter Campus Membership prior to March 31, 2018 and receive an additional promotional item *:

- **All four NaBITA Conduct Videos ($419 value)**. The NCHERM Group's Online Trainings now offers a series of easy-to-use video training tools to help Behavioral Intervention Team members and conduct officials hone their skills. Each video offers a brief vignette lasting just a few minutes, in which a student and administrator talk about an incident. Supplemental materials include a transcript of the video, leader's guide, and set of questions and answers for use in training and discussion applications, plus a set of key takeaways from each case.

Download the Membership Registration Form to join NaBITA and begin using your Campus Membership benefits today.

This promotion applies only to Enhanced/Charter Level members, including any upgrades from the Individual, Case Manager, or Standard membership levels. This promotion does not apply to renewing Enhanced/Charter members.

* The Charter level of Membership includes two-years of Enhanced level benefits for $2,200.

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For any additional information or to discuss this promotional offer in detail, contact Ryan McDavis, Vice President for Client and Member Relations at (610) 993-0229, ext. 1009.

Learn More About Our On-Site Training - *Protests and Student Activism*



The last of the Millennials to make their way through college are social justice activists. They want to leave their mark, and aren't bashful about making demands, occupying buildings and harnessing social media to effect social change. Bringing down a dean or a president is symbolic, and they are as interested in symbolic change as in actual change. The issues important to them are inclusion, diversity, race, sexual violence, sexual harassment, climate, inequality, historical reckoning, and more. Administrators can't be tone deaf today, or you'll soon have their treadmarks on your back.

This session will examine topics including student lists of demands, the faculty/staff role in encouraging student protests, and protest management itself. Special attention will be paid to managing the media cycle and ways to invite conversation about organizational change that can either provoke a crisis or defuse the potential for traumatic confrontation

For more information, please contact Kate Halligan at 610-579-3725 or kate@ncherm.org.

Spotlight on our Consultants: Gentry McCreary, Ph.D.



Dr. Gentry McCreary's unique experiences as both a scholar and practitioner allow him to serve as a valuable resource for campuses and inter/national fraternal organizations grappling with hazing, risk management and substance abuse problems. He has worked for over fourteen years in higher education in the areas of Title IX, student conduct and fraternity/sorority life and has devoted a significant amount of scholarly attention to hazing, brotherhood, sisterhood and moral development. His award-winning research examines the relationships between hazing and moral development, and he is a frequently sought-out expert on hazing prevention.

To book a consultation, please contact Megan Birster, Director of Marketing Outreach & Business Development, at (610) 993-0229, ext. 1015.

Upcoming Events from The NCHERM Group

ATIXA Civil Rights Investigator Training & Certification Course Level One

- May 22 & 23, 2018 in Saint Bonaventure, NY
- June 20 & 21, 2018 in Des Plaines, IL
- July 9 & 10, 2018 in Spokane, WA
- July 19 & 20, 2018 in Galloway, NJ
- July 26 & 27, 2018 in Boulder, CO

ATIXA Civil Rights Investigator Training & Certification Course Level Two

- May 17 & 18, 2018 in Salisbury, NC
- June 28 & 29, 2018 in Berkeley, CA

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- August 21 & 22, 2018 in Sturtevant, WI
- October 22 & 23, 2018 in Seattle, WA

ATIXA Civil Rights Investigator Training & Certification Course Level Three
- September 20 & 21, 2018 in Detroit, MI
- September 24 & 25, 2018 in San Jose, CA

ATIXA Civil Rights Investigator Training & Certification Course Level Four
- March 28 & 29, 2018 in Oklahoma City, OK
- June 25 & 26, 2018 in Rochester, NY
- July 25 & 26, 2018 in San Francisco, CA
- August 1 & 2, 2018 in Baltimore, MD

504 Coordinator Training & Certification Course
- April 9, 2018 in Fayetteville, AR
- June 11, 2018 in Portland, OR

Student Conduct Hearing Board Panel Training
- March 8 & 9, 2018 in Greenville, NC

NaBITA Case Management & Intervention Certification Course
- April 24 & 25, 2018 in Memphis, TN
- September 26 & 27, 2018 in Norco, CA

NaBITA BIT Best Practices Certification Course
- May 21, 22 & 23, 2018 in Columbus, OH
- July 17, 18 & 19, 2018 in Stevens Point, WI

NaBITA BIT Foundations Certification Course
- June 14 & 15, 2018 in West Barnstable, MA
- August 20 & 21, 2018 in Pasadena, CA

NaBITA Advanced Violence Risk Assessment Certification Course
- April 30 & May 1, 2018 in Denver, CO

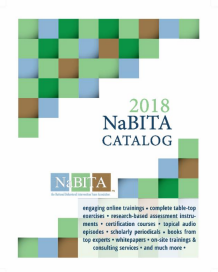
Featured Memberships, Products, and Services Available from The NCHERM Group







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TITLE IX TODAY TITLE IX.COM NCHERM

The NCHERM Group in the News

A Student Is Being Investigated for Breaking Into His School. His Explanation: He Was Sleepwalking.

Hanover High School Among At Least 10 Virginia Schools Where Police Investigated Recent Social Media Threats

Norfolk 7th-Grader Charged With Threatening School Shooting, Police Investigate Similar Incidents in Area

Association Helps Schools See Warning Signs for Gun Violence

Should Someone Charged With Domestic Violence Be Allowed to Own A Gun?

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From: "NYTimes.com" <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 03:53:32 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Your Friday Briefing
To: <gavin.mack@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

View in Browser | Add nytdirect@nytimes.com to your address book.

The New York Times

Morning Briefing

Friday, March 23, 2018

NYTimes.com »

Your Friday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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John Bolton, named by President Trump as national security adviser, wrote last month that a pre-emptive strike could be a “perfectly legitimate” response to the threat of North Korea. Sam Hodgson for The New York Times

Good morning.

Here’s what you need to know:

White House wheel keeps on turnin’

• If President Trump wanted a national security adviser who matched his blunt, confrontational approach to the world, he found him. Meet John Bolton.

Mr. Trump dumped Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster on Thursday in favor of Mr. Bolton, who has called for military action against North Korea and has said the Iran nuclear deal is a “massive strategic blunder.” He doesn’t like the U.N., either.

The shake-up creates one of the most hawkish national security teams of any White House in years.

• **Separately**, John Dowd resigned on Thursday as Mr. Trump’s lead lawyer for the special counsel investigation. The two men disagreed over the president’s desire to be questioned by investigators.

China strikes back on tariffs

• Beijing announced today that it would impose tariffs on $3 billion worth of American-produced goods, hours after President Trump imposed tariffs on as much as $60 billion worth of Chinese

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goods.

The prospect of a trade war sent U.S. stocks lower on Thursday. Shares in Asia fell more than 4 percent today, and European stocks are down.

• **The Trump administration's** stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum begin today, but it granted brief exemptions to some allies and said it might impose import quotas.

Not the budget the president asked for

• The Senate passed a $1.3 trillion spending bill early this morning that will keep the federal government open through September. Funding would otherwise have expired tonight.

The measure provides big increases to military and domestic programs and rebuffs the Trump administration's efforts to sharply scale back the scope of government. Here's a breakdown of what's in the deal .

• **The House approved the bill** Thursday afternoon, less than 24 hours after the 2,232-page plan had been unveiled.

They've tuned in. Will they turn out?

• More than 800 student-led demonstrations are planned this weekend to call for an end to gun violence. Here's a map of scheduled protests across the U.S. and around the world.

Whether the young activists inspired by March for Our Lives will become a disruptive force depends in large part on whether they stay organized and register to vote.

• **Separately, the 16-year-old girl** who was shot at a school in Maryland on Tuesday will be removed from life support, her parents said.

"The Daily": Racism's punishing reach

• A landmark 30-year study is debunking long-held theories about racial and class inequalities.

Listen on a computer, an iOS device or an Android device.

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Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets across France on Thursday, as civil servants and railway workers demonstrated against President Emmanuel Macron's policies.

Philippe Huguen/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

For more on Thursday's protests, click here.

Business

- **The much-awaited antitrust trial** involving AT&T's proposed merger with Time Warner began on Thursday with starkly different visions of a future media landscape.
- **Citigroup is setting restrictions** on the sale of firearms by its business customers. It's the first Wall Street bank to take a stance on gun control.
- **Martin Shkreli** went to prison for fraud, and so far Elizabeth Holmes of Theranos has not. Our business columnist asks if that's fair .

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

- **We have answers** to questions about preparing a "green funeral."
- **Movie-themed vacations** are surprisingly easy to plan.

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• **Recipe of the day:** End the week with the perfect snack, chips and creamy queso.

What We're Reading

Our journalists recommend these great pieces:

• **"After Alabama decided** this week to become the third state to legalize execution by nitrogen gas, I pulled up this astonishing and comprehensive article, which lays out various execution methods that some states can use." [The Marshall Project]

"And I listened again to the inaugural episode of one of my favorite podcasts. The riveting episode "Cruel and Unusual" examines nitrogen gas's antecedent, the lethal injection, and makes a case, of sorts, for the integrity of the firing squad." [Radiolab's "More Perfect"]

— **Jan Hoffman**, *health and behavior reporter*

• **"A group of freelance theater critics**, all once affiliated with print publications, banded together to publish online reviews of Broadway and Off Broadway shows." [New York Stage Review]

— **Michael Paulson**, *theater reporter*

Noteworthy

• **The last days of the Las Vegas gunman**

Using surveillance footage, we pieced together the final week in the life of Stephen Paddock, who killed 58 people in October. He plays video poker, laughs with hotel employees and hauls bag after bag of weapons to his suite.

• **The Biggest Apple**

New York City's population reached a record high of over 8.6 million last year, according to census data.

• **Quiz time!**

Did you keep up with this week's news? Test yourself.

• **Top of the charts**

Two of this week's best-seller lists have debuts at No. 1: Clive Cussler and Graham Brown's thriller "The Rising Sea" in hardcover fiction, and Michael Isikoff and David Corn's look at the 2016 presidential election, "Russian Roulette," in hardcover nonfiction.

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And “A Brief History of Time” returns to our paperback nonfiction list in the top spot. Its author, Stephen Hawking, died last week.

- **Ready for the weekend**

At the movies, our critics liked “Isle of Dogs,” directed by Wes Anderson, and “Pacific Rim Uprising,” starring John Boyega.

We recommend 10 new books, and TV offerings based on your available viewing time.

If you’re in New York City, here are 14 pop, rock and jazz concerts to check out, 23 art exhibitions and seven things to do with kids.

And “Frozen” has arrived on Broadway. The stage musical adaptation of the animated blockbuster is beautiful, our theater critic writes, but a bit confusing.

- **Best of late-night TV**

Trevor Noah addressed this week’s war of words between President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden: “Personally I have no idea who would win this fight. I mean, Biden seems scrappy, but if 70 years of McDonald’s couldn’t take Trump down, I don’t know what can.”

- **Quotation of the day**

“People in the U.S. and China have for years said the wolf is coming, the wolf is coming, but the wolf hasn’t come. This time, the wolf is coming.”

— *Shi Yinhong, a professor at Renmin University in Beijing, warning that leaders have been slow to realize the gravity of a brewing trade battle.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here’s an image of today’s front page, and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

It’s a shortcut used the world over — and even beyond, having been uttered at least once during a space mission.

On this day in 1839, The Boston Morning Post published “O.K.” for the first known time, using the abbreviation next to the words “all correct.” (It’s not written “okay,” The Times stylebook says.)

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It’s all correct.

Frank Duenzl/Picture-Alliance, via Associated Press

There have been many theories about its origin, but the most likely is that O.K. was an abbreviation for the deliberately misspelled “orl korrect” (all correct), and the expression gained prominence in the mid-19th century.

Allen Walker Read, a longtime English professor at Columbia University, debunked some theories in the 1960s, including that the term had come from Andrew Jackson’s poor spelling, from a Native American word or from an Army biscuit.

Today, O.K. is “an Americanism adopted by virtually every language, and one of the first words spoken on the moon,” the Times obituary of Mr. Read noted in 2002.

The professor didn’t “appreciate having ‘O.K.’ overshadow the hundreds of other etymologies he divined,” it continued. He also tracked early uses of Dixie, Podunk and the “almighty dollar.”

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In the 1920s, Mr. Read hitchhiked through western Iowa hunting down the word “blizzard.”

“A man called Lightnin’ Ellis had first used the word for a snowstorm in 1870,” he learned. “Within 10 years, it had spread throughout the Midwest.”

Charles McDermid contributed reporting.

———

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The New York Times

Morning Briefing

Friday, March 2, 2018

NYTimes.com »

Your Friday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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President Trump said on Thursday that he would impose stiff tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. He later met with the top lobbyist from the National Rifle Association, who said Mr. Trump had retreated from his support a day earlier for gun control measures. Tom Brenner/The New York Times

Good morning.

Here's what you need to know:

The N.R.A. quickly regains a friend

• President Trump and the top lobbyist for the National Rifle Association had positive things to say after a meeting at the White House on Thursday, suggesting that the president's embrace of comprehensive gun control might be short-lived.

A day earlier, Mr. Trump had supported expanding background checks to purchases at gun shows and on the internet, a measure that conservatives vowed would not become law.

In the aftermath of the Florida school shooting last month, Mr. Trump has also suggested arming teachers to combat gun violence. We visited schools that already do.

• **Many Americans can buy a gun in less than an hour**. We examined requirements in 15 countries.

Global trade war looms

• President Trump's sudden decision on Thursday to impose stiff, sweeping tariffs on steel and aluminum imports rattled markets, his pro-trade advisers and other countries, particularly Canada.

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Who wins, who loses, and what will be the effect on consumers? Our chief economics correspondent explains.

Mr. Trump's chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, had warned that he might resign if the president went ahead with the plan, a legal review of which hasn't been completed.

• **Our correspondents** report that the chaotic rollout reflects the dysfunction at the White House. The chief of staff, John Kelly, jokingly summed up the mood: "God punished me."

A new threat from Moscow

• President Vladimir Putin announced a new generation of nuclear weapons on Thursday, including what he described as an "invincible" missile and a nuclear torpedo that could outsmart American defenses.

His announcement, during his annual state of the nation address, focused on a vulnerability of American-designed defenses: They are based on the assumption that missiles fly high and can be destroyed well before they reach their targets.

But the new Russian weapons, Mr. Putin said, travel low and too fast for defenders to react.

• **Some experts suggested** that Mr. Putin was bluffing, and American officials said that the nuclear cruise missile was not yet operational.

Colder than the North Pole

• Subfreezing temperatures have spread across much of Europe this past week, from Poland to Spain.

The Arctic itself is balmy by comparison: The North Pole is above the freezing mark in the dead of winter. One of our climate reporters explains what's going on .

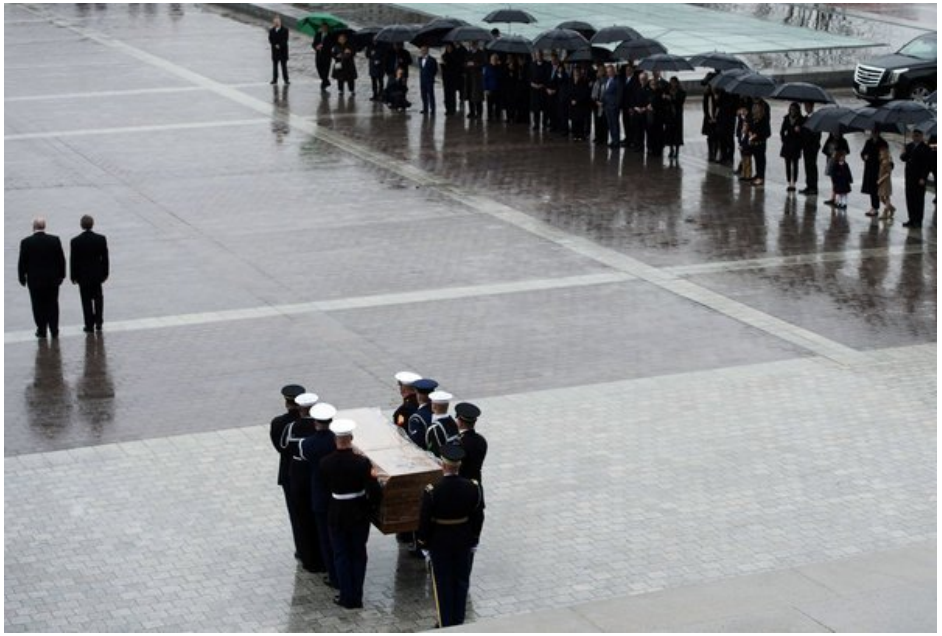
• **Across the Atlantic**, alerts have been issued along the East Coast, which is being menaced by a dangerous nor'easter .

"The Daily": Frustrated with Washington

• Representative Tom Rooney, a Florida Republican, talks about the Russia investigation, gun control and his decision not to run for re-election.

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The Rev. Billy Graham's casket was carried from the U.S. Capitol, where his body lay in honor on Wednesday and Thursday.

Pool photo by Saul Loeb

For more on the Rev. Billy Graham's funeral today, which President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are expected to attend, click here.

Business

• **Georgia lawmakers** approved a bill that removed a tax break proposal highly coveted by Delta Air Lines.

The move was retribution for a decision by the company, one of the state's largest employers, to end a promotional discount for members of the National Rifle Association.

• **The Weinstein Company** might have a buyer after all. An investor group said on Thursday that it had reached an agreement to buy most of the assets of the near-bankrupt film and TV studio, just days after a deal had been declared all but dead.

• **Facebook** allows ads to feature a man's bare chest. A woman's bare back is another matter .

• **U.S. stocks** were down on Thursday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

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- **Natural cleaning** can go beyond baking soda and vinegar. Ketchup, vodka and other household items can help.

- **Is that bump** a spider bite? Probably not — most spiders only bite defensively.

- **Learn how** to make flawless rice, every time.

Noteworthy

- **The $31,000 dining room set**

Ben Carson, the secretary of housing and urban development, is attempting to cancel an order for a customized table and other furniture after an investigation was announced into the refurbishment of his office.

- **The week in good news**

Read how a Broadway musical has inspired trips to Newfoundland to meet "nice people" and six other stories that brightened our week.

- **Quiz time!**

Did you keep up with this week's news? Test yourself.

- **Ready for the weekend**

At the movies, our critic liked " Red Sparrow," starring Jennifer Lawrence as a Russian ballerina-turned-spy.

The Academy Awards are Sunday. Our veteran observer shares what to expect (and not expect) as well as her predictions.

(And because we love quizzes as much as you do, here's one for movie lovers .)

We recommend new offerings on streaming services as well as seven books.

Finally, the Metropolitan Museum of Art now requires nonresidents of New York State to pay $25. (Our reporter found that a Yankees cap might be enough for free entry.)

- **Today's number: 383**

That's the new telephone country code for Kosovo, its first even though it's celebrating its 10th anniversary as an independent country.

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- **Best of late-night TV**

With reports of discord in the Trump administration, “White House tours must be getting *really* interesting,” Stephen Colbert said.

- **Quotation of the day**

“Oh God — I just need a good look at you.”

— *Marina Krim, stopping on her way to the witness stand to confront her former nanny, Yoselyn Ortega, for the first time since Ms. Ortega killed two of Ms. Krim’s children in their New York apartment in 2012. Ms. Ortega faces murder charges and has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here’s an image of today’s front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

He’s 13.5 inches tall and weighs a (relatively) hefty 8.5 pounds. He’s been handed out more than 3,000 times since 1929. And he’s one of the world’s most famous statuettes. You’ll probably know him as Oscar.

The winners of Sunday’s 90th Academy Awards will take home the bronze, 24-karat gold-plated figure of a knight holding a crusader’s sword, which is officially called the Academy Award of Merit. (Bone up on the Best Picture nominees here.)

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Where did Oscar get his name? It depends whom you ask.

Valerie Macon/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

But where did the name come from?

One explanation is that Margaret Herrick, the librarian for the Academy who would later become its executive director, saw the statue in 1931 and said it reminded her of her uncle Oscar.

Others say the nickname came from the actress Bette Davis, who said the statue reminded her of her first husband, Harmon Oscar Nelson Jr.

A third version has it that the Hollywood columnist Sidney Skolsky coined the term when he referred to an old vaudeville joke “Will you have a cigar, Oscar?” in a 1934 column.

No matter who was responsible, it stuck. The Academy officially adopted the name in 1939.

Claire Moses contributed reporting.

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Your Friday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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Wayne LaPierre, head of the National Rifle Association, told the Conservative Political Action Conference on Thursday that those calling for gun control after the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., were engaged in “the shameful politicization of tragedy,” adding: “They hate individual freedom.” Pete Marovich for The New York Times

Good morning.

Here’s what you need to know:

New passion in a stale fight

• Within hours of last week’s school shooting in Florida, the machinery of the American gun debate ground into motion. Again.

Some things seem different this time, particularly the teenagers who have confronted politicians with an intensity and composure rarely seen in recent years.

Still, veterans of both sides say the dynamics have not changed, and the National Rifle Association remains as strong as ever.

• **The head of the gun rights group**, Wayne LaPierre, offered a fierce defense of the Second Amendment on Thursday, warning the annual Conservative Political Action Conference of what he said was a socialist plot to “eradicate all individual freedoms.”

For teachers, a gun and a bonus

• President Trump promoted the idea of arming highly trained teachers to combat gun violence.

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“You give them a little bit of a bonus, so practically for free, you have now made the school into a hardened target,” Mr. Trump said Thursday. Educators were less enthusiastic about the idea.

We reviewed laws governing guns in the U.S. and how effective they’ve been at curbing violence.

• **Also on Thursday**, the only armed sheriff’s deputy at the site of last week’s shooting resigned after surveillance video showed him taking cover outside rather than entering the school. “He never went in,” the sheriff said.

A prison death, and cries for change

• Kavous Seyed Emami, an Iranian-Canadian environmentalist, died in a prison in Tehran this month. Officials said he killed himself. They also say he was a spy.

His family doubts the official account of his death, which has become something of a rallying cry as a growing number of prominent Iranians and Westerners have been imprisoned.

• **The arrests**, analysts say, are part of a struggle between conservatives clinging to the revolution and those trying to respond to widespread calls for change.

Gold for a Russian, if not for Russia

The figure skater Alina Zagitova today became the first Russian athlete to win a gold medal at this year’s Winter Olympics. Her home country has been barred from the Games because of a doping scheme.

Ivanka Trump has arrived in South Korea, and will meet with President Moon Jae-in before attending the closing ceremony.

A miracle on ice? Maybe not, but the U.S. men’s curling team had never defeated Canada in Olympic competition before doing it twice in four days. “I think it was heroic,” one curler said.

• **Here are** the rest of today’s Olympic results . Find all our coverage here.

“The Daily”: Mental health and mass shootings

• How can the mental health system stop gun violence when mental illness is so rarely the cause of it?

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Paul Manafort, President Trump's former campaign chairman, in November. He and his business partner face additional charges of money laundering, according to an indictment that was unsealed Thursday. The charges do not involve Mr. Trump or his campaign.

Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press

Business

• **The Chinese government** said today that it had seized control of Anbang Insurance Group, the troubled company that owns the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York and other marquee properties.

• **Donald Trump Jr.** is in India on behalf of the family business, again raising concerns about the lines between the Trump White House and the Trump Organization.

Word that he planned a speech on foreign policy has taken the controversy to a new level.

• **Gathering complaints** about nursing home evictions have caught the attention of regulators. Discharges often coincide with the end of Medicare coverage.

• **U.S. stocks** were mixed on Thursday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

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- **Manage stress** like an Olympic biathlete.

- **How to prepare** your community for any disaster.

- **Recipe of the day:** This weekend, try flaky chicken hand pies.

Noteworthy

- **Partisan writing you shouldn't miss**

Writers from across the political spectrum discuss gun control.

- **Is America "a nation of immigrants"?**

No longer, according to the federal agency that issues green cards and grants citizenship.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has dropped the phrase from its mission statement.

- **The week in good news**

It isn't all bad out there .

- **Quiz time!**

Did you keep up with this week's news? Test yourself.

- **Ready for the weekend**

At the movies, we review " Annihilation," starring Natalie Portman; " Game Night," with Rachel McAdams; and " The Young Karl Marx."

Our critic also rewatched Woody Allen films to see if they held up in the #MeToo moment.

It is, perhaps, a production for our times. "Jerry Springer — The Opera" has returned to New York; our theater critic calls it "a hilarious and unexpectedly touching origin portrait of how we became who we are today."

We recommend 10 new books, what to watch on TV and seven classical concerts in New York.

Finally, for Gen Xers like your briefing writer, the Breeders were part of the soundtrack of the '90s. The band has re-formed, and they spoke to us about their fights, addictions and newfound

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sobriety.

- **Best of late-night TV**

Trevor Noah summed up Senator Marco Rubio's response about contributions from the National Rifle Association: "He looked like a dad trying to explain to his son why he cheated on his mom."

- **Quotation of the day**

"There's an unacceptably large number of younger miners who have end-stage disease, and the only choice is to get a lung transplant or wait it out and die."

— *David Blackley, an epidemiologist who led research that identified the largest cluster of advanced black lung cases ever officially recorded.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here's an image of today's front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

Many hockey goaltenders wear artfully decorated masks as expressions of identity.

The mask of Matt Dalton, the Canadian-born goalie for South Korea's national team, includes the flag of his naturalized country. It also features an image of Adm. Yi Sun-shin, a Korean naval commander who is celebrated for 23 victories against Japanese invaders in the 16th century.

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The man on the mask is a South Korean admiral from the 16th century.

Yonhap

Korean schoolchildren are taught of Admiral Yi's military prowess and ingenuity.

Admiral Yi invented the geobukseon, or "turtle ship" — the world's first armored maritime craft. The ships were covered in protective metal and spikes, and the front had a cannon shaped like a dragon's head.

In the Battle of Myeongnyang in 1597, he defeated a Japanese fleet of hundreds with just 13 ships.

Unfortunately for Mr. Dalton, the goalie, the International Olympic Committee deemed his mask political and didn't allow him to wear it during the Winter Games. I.O.C. guidelines state that "no item may feature the wording or lyrics from national anthems, motivational words, public/political messaging or slogans related to national identity."

The South Korean hockey team was eliminated this week, but Mr. Dalton — and his Yi mask — have gained a loyal fan base.

Inyoung Kang contributed reporting.

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By CHRIS STANFORD

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Gazing through the border fence into the U.S. from Tijuana, Mexico. For the photographer, John Moore, the immigration debate extends well beyond the physical border — a line where fear and hope collide to shape American politics. John Moore/Getty Images

Good morning.

Here's what you need to know:

The Stormy Daniels interview

• "That's a beautiful little girl, it would be a shame if something happened to her mom."

In a "60 Minutes" interview broadcast on Sunday, the pornographic film star said that she and her daughter were approached in Las Vegas in 2011 by a man who told her: "Leave Trump alone. Forget the story."

The actress, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, told Anderson Cooper that the threat was behind her decision to strike a $130,000 deal for her silence about an alleged affair with Donald Trump. She is now suing to get out of that agreement.

• **Our profile of Ms. Clifford** was one of our most popular articles over the weekend.

Marches could echo in midterm elections

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• The rallies protesting gun violence drew hundreds of thousands around the U.S. and the world over the weekend, and Democratic and Republican leaders say the issue could play a major role in voting in November.

Opinion polls show wide support for gun control. Republicans are fighting to maintain their appeal with the party's dwindling moderate wing in the suburbs, but the gun debate also poses problems for some Democrats, who will be defending Senate seats in strongly conservative states.

The March for Our Lives demonstrations were led by young people but they had the financial backing and organizational muscle of adults. Here are photographs from the protests.

• **While we're on the subject of guns,** Remington, one of the oldest firearm manufacturers in the U.S., filed for bankruptcy protection on Sunday.

A defense team of one

• As President Trump faces the important decision of whether to be interviewed in the special counsel's investigation, his personal legal team has essentially been reduced to one: Jay Sekulow.

Top lawyers in New York and Washington have repeatedly spurned overtures to take over the defense of Mr. Trump, who has publicly contradicted his advisers at times.

The president has a different view: "Many lawyers and top law firms want to represent me in the Russia case," he said on Twitter.

Mr. Sekulow said on Sunday that Mr. Trump would not be hiring two lawyers who were announced only last week as additions to the team.

• **Separately**, we looked at how a top fund-raiser for Mr. Trump's presidential campaign later marketed his connections to politicians and governments around the world, including to some with unsavory records.

Where hope and fear collide

• The photographer John Moore has spent nearly a decade along the U.S.-Mexico border, covering the story of immigration from all sides.

He captures images of the landscape, with its natural and manufactured lines of defense. He also takes intimate portraits of migrants and border officers.

• **Here** are 17 of his photographs.

"The Daily": Chicago's daily threat

• Students on the city's South Side joined protests spurred by the Florida school shooting, but they also felt frustration. Why hadn't gun violence in their community earned the same outrage?

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Business

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- **Amazon now collects sales tax** in every state that has one, but some cities are missing out.

- **Apple**, hoping for more original programming, has struck deals with Steven Spielberg and other Hollywood names. But the company is in alien territory.

- **S.U.V.s** will be in the spotlight at the New York auto show, one of the headlines to watch this week.

- **U.S. stocks** were down on Friday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

- **Explore how to age** with meaning and happiness.

- **Change your bad habit** by replacing it with something different.

- **Recipe of the day:** Embrace a meatless Monday with stir-fried peppers, eggplant and tofu.

What We're Reading

"Caroline Wyatt has been a superb reporter for the BBC on topics ranging from defense to religion. Here she describes, in both charming and painful detail, her continuing war against multiple sclerosis." [BBC]

— **Steven Erlanger**, *chief diplomatic correspondent*

"This ambitious article analyzes the oldest (and to me, most important) form of human communication: storytelling. And it nearly forensically describes how stories affect people, offering the prospect of using narrative to help address fundamental issues like climate change and building community." [Stanford Social Innovation Review]

— **Meagan Lopez**, *global digital business director*

Over the Weekend

- **The U.S. carried out** its first drone strike against Qaeda militants in southern Libya, signaling a possible expansion of the American counterterrorism campaign in North Africa.

- **At least 64 people** were killed in a fire at a shopping mall in Siberia.

- **Carles Puigdemont**, the former leader of Catalonia wanted in Spain on rebellion charges, was detained in Germany on an international arrest warrant.

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• **Qantas Airways** completed its first nonstop flight from Australia to Britain, covering about 9,000 miles in just over 17 hours.

• **Do you believe?** The No. 11-seeded Loyola of Chicago, inspired by the team's 98-year-old chaplain, Sister Jean, will join Kansas, Michigan and Villanova in the Final Four of the N.C.A.A. men's basketball tournament.

On the women's side, two No. 1 seeds, Louisville and Mississippi State, reached the Final Four. The other two teams will be decided tonight.

• **"Pacific Rim Uprising"** unseated "Black Panther" at the top of the North American box office.

Noteworthy

• **An "Angels" that soars**

"Sometimes, just when you need it most, a play courses into your system like a transfusion of new blood."

A London-born revival of Tony Kushner's "Angels in America" pulses with spirit, our chief theater critic writes.

• **Quotation of the day**

"He is looking for the guy who can say, 'I know how to handle Mueller. I know you think he is bad, and we'll take care of it.' Problem is, you can't find that lawyer, because no one will be able to do that."

— *Roger Cossack, a longtime legal analyst, on President Trump's struggles to find and keep lawyers.*

• **The Times, in other words**

Here's an image of today's front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

Last week, the Library of Congress in Washington announced its annual additions to the National Recording Registry, which honors significant pieces of American history and culture. (Here's the list.)

We'd like to look at one: the original 1930 recording of " Lamento Borincano," by Canario y Su Grupo.

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Sugar cane farmers in Puerto Rico in the 1930s.

Hansel Mieth/The LIFE Picture Collection, via Getty Images

Known as an unofficial anthem of Puerto Rico, “Lamento Borincano” was composed by Rafael Hernández, one of the island’s most renowned and prolific songwriters (although he wrote it while living in New York City).

The title refers to Borinquen, a derivation of Puerto Rico’s indigenous name.

The song reflects the plight of Puerto Rican farmers during the Great Depression. They faced not only the threat of hurricanes but also the economic changes brought after 1917, when Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship, leading to a wave of emigration.

The lyrics tell of a farmer who is “loco de contento” (crazy with happiness) at the prospect of selling his produce in town. But he arrives to find the town empty. With no one to buy anything, he returns to his farm demoralized. The song ends:

Borinquen, the land of Eden

The one that when singing, the great Gautier

He called the pearl of the seas.

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Now that you die

With your regrets

Let me sing to you too.

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A student-led protest at Santa Monica High School in California on Wednesday. “We all want a good community and we all want to make a change,” said a student at a walkout in Chicago. Jenna Schoenefeld for The New York Times

Good morning.

Here’s what you need to know:

Missions in Africa continued, quietly

• Two months after four U.S. soldiers were killed in Niger, a group of Green Berets and local forces killed 11 Islamic State militants in a previously undisclosed battle.

No American or Nigerien forces were harmed in the fight in December. But it indicates that the deadly Oct. 4 ambush was not an isolated episode in the West African nation, where the U.S. is building a major drone base.

• **Wednesday’s news** follows the revelation last week that the U.S. carried out four airstrikes in Libya between September and January that Africa Command failed to disclose at the time.

A map for Trump country

• A razor-thin victory in a special House election in Pennsylvania has given Democrats hope for this fall’s elections in districts that voted heavily for Donald Trump.

The winner, Conor Lamb, presented himself as independent-minded, vowing early that he would not support Nancy Pelosi to lead the House Democrats. His approach could become a template for moderate Democrats seeking seats in conservative-leaning areas.

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• **Speaking to voters**, our reporter learned that, while anti-Trump motivation is abundant, candidates still matter in close races.

Out of class, into the streets

• Thousands of students walked out of schools across the U.S. on Wednesday as part of a coordinated protest calling for gun control.

The walkouts generally lasted for 17 minutes, one for every victim in last month's school shooting in Parkland, Fla. Here are photos from around the country.

• **Although the protests** commanded attention on TV and social media, it was clear that many students did not participate, especially in rural and conservative areas where gun control is not popular.

Expelling Russians is the easy part

• Britain wants the support of its allies in taking action against Moscow after a nerve-agent attack against a former spy.

But Prime Minister Theresa May — who expelled 23 Russian diplomats on Wednesday — leads a country whose position in the world has weakened, and it's uncertain how much help she'll get.

She does have the backing of Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., who called the poisoning "an atrocious crime" during an emergency session of the Security Council.

• **As part of Britain's retaliatory measures** , no ministers or royals will attend the World Cup in Russia this summer.

Easter Island is eroding

• The remote Pacific island is critically vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Two Times journalists traveled 2,200 miles off the coast of Chile to see how the ocean is erasing famous ancient monuments.

• **Archaeologists fear losing clues** to one of the island's great mysteries: What caused the collapse of the civilization that built the statues?

"The Daily": "The Gunshine State"

• Florida is a gun-friendly place, and proposed restrictions have often been blocked. What changed after the Parkland shooting?

Listen on a computer, an iOS device or an Android device.

Business

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• **The Senate**, in a rare show of bipartisanship, voted to ease some rules imposed after the 2008 financial crisis.

But Republicans in the House are expected to push for a much more expansive rollback of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act.

• **From cable to the White House**: Larry Kudlow, a CNBC television pundit, will become President Trump's top economic adviser , replacing Gary Cohn.

• **Elizabeth Holmes**, once a favorite of Silicon Valley, has been charged with fraud. She had captivated investors and the public with her company, Theranos, which promised that a simple blood test could detect a range of illnesses, from diabetes to cancer.

• **There will be no more Toys "R" Us kids** . The retail chain is closing its U.S. stores.

• **U.S. stocks** were down on Wednesday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

• **Protect** a laptop after it's been stolen .

• **For heart disease patients**, think exercise, not weight loss.

• **Recipe of the day**: Chicken and rice is a glorious one-pot weeknight meal.

Noteworthy

• **Stephen Hawking taught us how to live**

"Whether or not he overturned the universe, he did overturn our imaginations." One of our science reporters appraised the extraordinary life of the English cosmologist, who died on Wednesday.

Here's a brief history of Dr. Hawking's work, six cultural moments he inspired and some of his most memorable quotations.

• **Cyberattack with a deadly goal**

In August, the hacking of a petrochemical company with a plant in Saudi Arabia was intended not just to destroy data or force a shutdown, investigators say.

It was also meant to sabotage the firm's operations and cause an explosion.

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- **Is your bracket ready?**

The N.C.A.A. men’s basketball tournament begins today.

We looked at the best and worst on the court, the myths of March Madness and the 98-year-old nun who is in the huddle with Loyola University-Chicago.



Sister Jean Dolores-Schmidt has served as team chaplain for Loyola University-Chicago’s basketball program since 1994.

Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

- **Mayor watched a dance recital. Now he’s the ex-mayor.**

The mayor of Tehran resigned after attending a celebration where six girls danced and threw rose petals in honor of a female saint.

Women are not allowed to dance in public in Iran — and girls older than 9 are regarded as women by clerics.

- **Best of late-night TV**

Samantha Bee reveled in Conor Lamb’s victory in Pennsylvania: “You know, I’m really enjoying this radical new Democratic strategy called ‘trying.’ ”

- **Quotation of the day**

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“We have grown up watching more tragedies occur and continuously asking: Why? Why does this keep happening?”

— *Kaylee Tyner, a 16-year-old who joined a gun-violence walkout at Columbine High School in Colorado, where 13 people were killed in 1999.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here’s an image of today’s front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

“The Godfather,” which opened in New York on this day in 1972, was “one of the most brutal and moving chronicles of American life ever designed within the limits of popular entertainment,” the Times film critic Vincent Canby wrote.



Marlon Brando won — but didn’t accept — an Academy Award for his role in “The Godfather.”

Paramount Pictures

The adaptation of Mario Puzo’s best-selling 1969 novel was directed by a young Francis Ford Coppola. He was selected after numerous other directors turned down the job, and in part for his Italian heritage.

The saga of the Corleones, an organized crime family in New York in the 1940s and ’50s, “The Godfather” became an almost-instant classic. It was the top-earning film of 1972 and remains one of the highest-grossing (and most critically acclaimed) movies of all time.

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Nominated for 10 Academy Awards in 1973, “The Godfather” won three, including best picture and best actor for Marlon Brando, who played Vito Corleone, the family’s aging patriarch. Brando famously declined to accept the award as a protest of Hollywood’s portrayal of Native Americans.

“The Godfather” was “a superb Hollywood movie,” Canby wrote in 1972, “scaring the delighted hell out of us while cautioning that crime doesn’t (or, at least, shouldn’t) pay.”

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The New York Times

Morning Briefing

Thursday, February 22, 2018

NYTimes.com »

Your Thursday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School at a meeting with President Trump in the White House on Wednesday. Tom Brenner/The New York Times

Good morning.

Here's what you need to know:

"How many children have to get shot?"

• Those were the words of the father of a student killed last week at a Florida high school as he pressed President Trump to act. "It should have been one school shooting, and we should have fixed it," he added during a White House visit on Wednesday.

Mr. Trump said that arming educators could be a solution to gun violence. Here are 11 dramatic exchanges about gun control on Wednesday.

In Florida, Senator Marco Rubio and a spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association were repeatedly booed during a nationally televised forum at which they refused to back new gun control measures.

And student protesters at the Florida Capitol confronted lawmakers, who responded that gun-related legislation could be introduced by Friday.

• **Polls show strong support for action** on gun control and immigration. That sentiment is not, however, shared by the Republicans who control the government, our chief Washington correspondent says.

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Patrolling far from the border

• Border Patrol officers are working on private property and setting up checkpoints up to 100 miles from the frontier, part of an aggressive crackdown on illegal immigration.

The government isn't required to obtain a warrant before searching people or property at ports of entry. Within what the Justice Department has defined as a "reasonable distance," officers can search people suspected of violating immigration law or smuggling drugs.

• **But many residents and travelers** say that authority amounts to an invasion of privacy.

Ivanka at the Games

• When Kim Jong-un's sister attended the Winter Olympics two weeks ago, the South Korean news media called her "North Korea's Ivanka."

They're about to get the real one.

Ivanka Trump will attend the closing ceremony at the Games this weekend, a visit that administration officials say could smooth some of the tensions from Vice President Mike Pence's trip.

• **For its part**, North Korea announced today that it would send a high-level delegation, another sign that the two Koreas are trying to improve ties.

A pastor to millions

• The Rev. Billy Graham was America's best-known Christian evangelist for more than 60 years, using satellites to transmit sermons worldwide. He died Wednesday at 99.

A counselor to presidents, Mr. Graham at times filled the role of national clergyman, offering prayers after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and preaching in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Our video explains how Mr. Graham capitalized on modern communication technologies to give his ministry a global reach.

• **He will lie in repose** Monday and Tuesday in Charlotte, N.C., and his funeral will be on March 2.

A fault line that runs through Poland

• The European Union has bestowed huge sums on Poland, but the country's nationalist government has repeatedly bitten the hand that feeds it, with Warsaw accused of undermining democratic values.

Poland will define whether the union's long effort to integrate the former Soviet bloc succeeds or fails, and the stakes for Europe, many believe, far outweigh those of Britain's exit.

• **Speaking of Brexit**, Britain's government suggested on Wednesday that the transition period could be longer than two years, a time frame that disappointed hard-line supporters of withdrawal.

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“The Daily”: Students protest gun violence

• Demands for restrictions have followed one mass shooting after another, but little has changed. This time, survivors are leading the charge.

Listen on a computer, an iOS device or an Android device.

Business

- **The U.S. economy** is ready for higher interest rates, officials at the Federal Reserve say.
- **Ford Motor** ousted the head of its North American operations over what it called “inappropriate behavior.”
- **Conversational A.I. systems** can be improved by letting them talk to people online, researchers say. But people can be a bad influence.



Minh Uong/The New York Times

- **Alexa, Amazon’s voice assistant** , has a shot at becoming the third great consumer computing platform of the decade, our tech columnist writes.
- **U.S. stocks** were down on Wednesday. Here’s a snapshot of global markets today.

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Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

- **“Natural”** sounds great on a food label, but it doesn’t always mean what you think .

- **Want to get away?** Here are 10 affordable European trips.

- **Recipe of the day:** Pasta with bacon, cheese, lemon and pine nuts satisfies many tastes.

Noteworthy

- **Americans win hockey gold**

The U.S. women beat Canada today in a shootout, 3-2, to capture their first Olympic gold in ice hockey in 20 years. The two countries have dominated the event since women’s hockey was introduced at the Games in 1998.

On the slopes, Mikaela Shiffrin won silver in the Alpine combined event; Lindsey Vonn finished without a medal.

Here are the rest of today’s results from Pyeongchang, South Korea. Find all our coverage here.

- **Bomb attack at U.S. embassy**

A man threw an explosive device onto the grounds of the embassy in Montenegro, but killed only himself, the State Department said.

- **On second thought**

Nearly 70 percent of Americans link human activity to climate change. We spoke to six doubters about what changed their views.

If you want more climate-related news, sign up for our new email newsletter, Climate Fwd:

- **A bed in the clouds**

Our writer recently spent a luxurious night in One57, one of New York City’s newest, tallest and most resented buildings.

- **Best of late-night TV**

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Jimmy Kimmel had a message for conspiracy theorists who say the students in Parkland, Fla., are actors: “Your brain is not functioning, and I’m worried about you.”

- **Quotation of the day**

“It doesn’t matter what a pistolero you are, or think you are. You don’t need to be in school in charge of protecting children.”

— *Joel Myrick, a former assistant principal who survived a school shooting, on efforts to arm teachers.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here’s an image of today’s front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.



Temperatures as high as 78 turned the Bryant Park skating rink in Manhattan slushy on Wednesday. But the forecast today is cold, gray and wet.

Julia Gillard for The New York Times

Back Story

It’s easy to spot members of the Dutch delegation at the Winter Olympics because they travel on orange bicycles, 132 of which were shipped to South Korea.

The bikes are helping athletes feel at home. In the Netherlands, bicycles outnumber people, 22.5 million to 18 million.

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Bikes outnumber people in the Netherlands.

Ilvy Njiokiktjien for The New York Times

But the Netherlands wasn't always a cyclist's haven . In the 1950s and '60s, as people started buying more cars, two-wheelers started to be pushed off the road.

Literally. Bicycle deaths, like traffic deaths as a whole, increased.

In 1971, about 3,300 people died in traffic accidents, including 400 children. Activist groups sprang up. Stop de Kindermoord (Stop the Child Murder) was among the most prominent.

The number of traffic deaths has dropped since then. In 2016, the Netherlands saw 629 traffic deaths, about a third of which were bike deaths. Twelve were children.

Part of the success story: the country's bike lanes, a network measuring about 22,000 miles.

Claire Moses contributed reporting.

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Morning Briefing

Thursday, March 8, 2018

NYTimes.com »

Your Thursday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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The investigative reporter Ida B. Wells, left, and the poet Sylvia Plath are two of the famous women who never received an obituary in The Times. A new project starting today tells their stories and those of others who have been overlooked.
Chicago History Museum/Getty Images; Bettmann

Good morning.

Here's what you need to know:

Curtain-raising for tariffs

• President Trump is set to sign sweeping tariffs on steel and aluminum imports this afternoon, under a legal provision that allows him to take actions to defend national security.

More than 100 Republican lawmakers urged the president to drop the plan, which would initially exempt Canada, the largest source of steel and aluminum for the U.S., and Mexico. Washington is linking the exemptions to renegotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The proposal has raised fears of retaliation. "Choosing a trade war is a mistaken prescription," China's foreign minister said today. (Our senior economics correspondent calls it more of a "skirmish.")

• **Gary Cohn**, the top economic adviser who just resigned, was a vocal opponent of the protections. The exodus of White House advisers is increasingly leaving the president to follow his instincts, our correspondents write.

The president and his lawyers

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• Ignoring his lawyers' advice, President Trump asked key witnesses in the Russia inquiry what they had discussed with investigators, according to people familiar with the encounters.

Legal experts said the contacts, with Donald McGahn, the White House counsel, and with Reince Priebus, his former chief of staff, most likely did not amount to witness tampering. The White House didn't respond to several requests for comment.

• **Separately, President Trump's lawyer** secretly obtained a temporary restraining order last week to prevent Stephanie Clifford, the pornographic-film star known as Stormy Daniels, from speaking about her alleged affair with Mr. Trump.

Differing approaches to gun violence

• Three weeks after the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla., most gun safety proposals appear to be going nowhere on Capitol Hill. Republican leaders are shifting instead toward measures to increase security at American schools.

Democrats and advocates of gun control accuse Republicans of diverting attention from the proliferation of weapons.

• **In Florida**, however, the House defied the National Rifle Association on Wednesday, passing a $400 million gun control and school safety bill that's on its way to the governor. Here's what's in the measure.

North Korean leader adds charm to arsenal

• Months after a series of missile tests raised fears of war, a smiling Kim Jong-un surprised South Korean officials this week with a willingness to start talks with the U.S. on ending his nuclear program.

"He seems to be evolving into a strategic thinker with a game plan instead of a bomb thrower," Bill Richardson, a veteran U.S. diplomat, said. "What we need to be worried about is this: Is he setting up a trap for all of us?"

• **The prospect of negotiations** — even if they fail — is welcome in China, which is eager to avoid war on its border.

"The Daily": Trump's tariffs

• The president said that new protections on steel and aluminum imports were for national security. But could the threat be the tariffs themselves?

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Outside a subway stop in New York. The second powerful winter storm in a week hit the Northeast on Wednesday.

Stephen Speranza for The New York Times

For more on Wednesday's storm, click here.

Business

• **The Chinese company Huawei** is determined to lead 5G mobile technology, and that's worrying Washington. "Whoever controls the technology knows, intimately, how it was built and where all the doors and buttons are," a consultant in Beijing said.

• **In a rare interview**, Peter Thiel, a billionaire investor and Facebook board member, spoke to The Times about politics, Silicon Valley and "a crazier two years than I would have thought."

• **U.S. stocks** were mixed on Wednesday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

• **Take the stress** out of weeknight cooking with versatile quarter-sheet pans.

• **Find a great rug** at a small fraction of the usual price.

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- **Recipe of the day:** Liven up roasted potatoes with a little lemon, paprika and rosemary.

Noteworthy

- **Women we overlooked**

Since 1851, obituaries in The Times have been dominated by white men. Even in the last two years, only one in five of our subjects were female.

Today, we're starting a new project, Overlooked, which begins with the stories of 15 remarkable women.

- **Yesterday's news, today**

For two months, our tech columnist skipped online news and social media, getting all of his updates from print. He said he ended up better informed, less anxious, and with more free time.

If you find this idea attractive, please note that the Morning Briefing is kind of like print, published once a day. ;)



Doug Chayka

- **A feast for eyes (and ears)**

We're adding The Times's best-seller lists to your Morning Briefing. Find the full range here.

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We'll be featuring books for your eyes as well as your ears, as we're publishing monthly audio fiction and audio nonfiction lists for the first time. And the paperback trade fiction and paperback nonfiction have been expanded to 15 titles each.

- **Today's number: 2**

Coca-Cola said in 2016 that it unveils an average of nearly two new products a day.

The beverage giant plans to introduce a drink in Japan that combines flavored sparkling water with alcohol.

- **Best of late-night TV**

Stormy Daniels was the topic of the day for the comedy hosts.

- **Quotation of the day**

"I think it was probably either the mayor of New York or Vladimir Putin. I am going to leave it to you great investigative reporters to follow the facts and ferret out the truth."

— *Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York, responding to rumors that his longtime rival Mayor Bill de Blasio had encouraged the actress Cynthia Nixon to run for governor.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here's an image of today's front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

They were sworn into service, required to wear regulation uniforms and saw the horrors of war.

But when the Hello Girls returned home to the U.S. after World War I, they were largely forgotten.

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Members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps operating the switchboards in France during World War I.

National World War I Museum and Memorial

Today is International Women's Day , and we'd like to recognize a group of 223 women.

In 1917, on the eve of the U.S. entry into World War I, Washington drafted 2.8 million men into military service. The Army realized that its success would rely on the Allies' use of a new technology: the telephone.

Enter the Hello Girls, a group of bilingual telephone operators selected for working the switchboards in France, connecting the front lines with supply depots and military command. They often handled more than 150,000 calls a day.

But because they were women, the U.S. government denied them veteran status for more than 60 years after the war.

"The unfortunate reality is their service wasn't officially recognized with veteran status until 1979, when a small fraction of those who served were still alive," Doran Cart, a senior curator at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, said. "To achieve that point of hard-won recognition took a monumental effort."

Remy Tumin contributed reporting.

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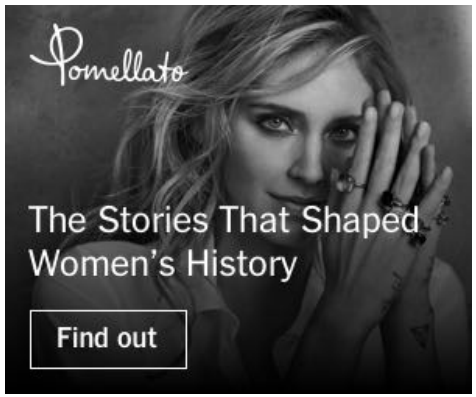
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Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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Your Wednesday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD

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“People have the mistaken impression that mathematics is just equations. In fact, equations are just the boring part of mathematics.” Stephen Hawking, the physicist and best-selling author, died today at 76. Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images

Good morning.

Here’s what you need to know:

The team that Trump wants

• Rex Tillerson and President Trump never really saw eye to eye.

During his 405-day tenure as secretary of state, Mr. Tillerson had favored remaining in the Paris climate accord, preserving the Iran nuclear deal, and undertaking negotiations to resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis. Those positions put him at odds with the president, on whom Mr. Tillerson was considered a restraining influence.

On Tuesday, Mr. Tillerson learned from Twitter that he had been replaced by Mike Pompeo, the C.I.A. director, who more closely aligns with the president’s “America First” worldview .

• **Looking for a pattern** in the many staff changes? Don’t, our chief White House correspondent recommends. “I like conflict,” Mr. Trump said.

Torture debate is renewed

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• President Trump's nominee for C.I.A. director is Gina Haspel, a veteran officer who once oversaw a secret prison where brutal interrogation techniques were used after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Lawmakers, human rights activists and others eventually condemned the methods as torture, but the program had defenders, including Mr. Trump, who vowed during his campaign to bring back waterboarding.

Now the agency's deputy director, Ms. Haspel will probably face questions about the program during her confirmation hearings.

• **"It's going to be the first chance** for senators to have someone intimately involved in the program in front of them to answer questions," a former C.I.A. lawyer said. "I think they'll take full advantage of that opportunity."

A mind that roamed the cosmos

• Stephen Hawking, the Cambridge University physicist who pondered the origin of the universe from a wheelchair, died today at his home in England. He was 76.

"Not since Albert Einstein has a scientist so captured the public imagination and endeared himself to tens of millions of people around the world," said a physics professor at the City University of New York.

In 1963, Dr. Hawking learned that he had Lou Gehrig's disease and was given a few years to live, but he went on to become a world expert in gravity and the properties of black holes.

• **His 1988 book** "A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes" sold more than 10 million copies and, according to The Times review, made the Big Bang "almost understandable."

Pennsylvania race is too close to call

• A few hundred votes separate the candidates in a special House election in a Pittsburgh-area district on Tuesday that Donald Trump won by nearly 20 percentage points.

A Democrat, Conor Lamb, was clinging to a 579-vote lead over Rick Saccone, a Republican. But a few thousand absentee ballots had not yet been counted.

• **A winner probably won't be declared** until later today at the earliest. Here are the results so far.

An unapologetic Kremlin

• From President Vladimir Putin's perspective, Russia is under constant threat from enemies within and outside its borders.

Britain's allegation that Moscow was responsible for the nerve-agent attack on a former Russian agent last week will be used to bolster that view. Russia's foreign minister dismissed the claim on Tuesday as "nonsense."

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For Mr. Putin, who is cruising to certain victory in Sunday's presidential election, "This is all about demonstrating that Russia not only has capacity to act but the will to act, too," one expert said.

• **Novichok**, the chemical used in the attack, is believed to be far more lethal than sarin or VX, and there was no sign of it ever being used. Until now.

"The Daily": A delicate time for a firing

• Rex Tillerson's dismissal as secretary of state comes just as President Trump prepares to meet the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un.

Listen on a computer, an iOS device or an Android device.



President Trump inspected prototypes of the wall to be built between the U.S. and Mexico during a visit to San Diego on Tuesday.

Doug Mills/The New York Times

For more about Mr. Trump's first trip to California as president, click here.

Business

• **The White House's effort** to protect American companies from China is expected to escalate as the Trump administration prepares tariffs on billions of dollars of Chinese products for the alleged theft of intellectual property.

• **Richard Meier**, the celebrated architect who designed the Getty Center in Los Angeles, took a six-month leave of absence from his firm after five women accused him of sexual harassment.

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- **United Airlines apologized** after a dog died on a flight during which it was stored in a passenger's overhead compartment.

- **U.S. stocks** were down on Tuesday. Here's a snapshot of global markets today.

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

- **It's tax time**! Here's guidance for filing your return.

- **Check-in time hours away**? Ditch those bags.

- **Recipe of the day**: Do some throwback cooking with spaghetti primavera.

Noteworthy

- **How young is too young for protest?**

A coordinated protest against gun violence at U.S. schools has administrators making special plans for students who may not be old enough to handle the subject. Here's what we know about today's walkout .

On Tuesday, a Florida prosecutor said he would seek the death penalty against the suspect in last month's school shooting that left 17 people dead.

- **Myths about American health care**

Analysts are fond of describing the system as wasteful, but in a new international comparison, the U.S. looks a lot more like its peers than researchers expected.

- **Today's number: 53.1**

That's the percentage of fresh fruit eaten in the U.S. in 2016 that was imported, up from 23 percent in 1975, according to the Department of Agriculture.

- **Best of late-night TV**

After President Trump said he made the decision to fire Secretary of State Rex Tillerson "by myself," Jimmy Fallon said, "Trump brags about firing people the same way a toddler brags about using the bathroom alone for the first time."

- **Quotation of the day**

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“You may get a tweet.”

— *John Kelly, the White House chief of staff, warning Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last week that change was afoot.*

- **The Times, in other words**

Here’s an image of today’s front page , and links to our Opinion content and crossword puzzles.

Back Story

The reaction to our collaboration last week with The Times’s crossword column, Wordplay, was overwhelmingly positive, so we’re doing it again.

Each week, Wordplay’s editor, Deb Amlen, highlights the answer to one of the most difficult clues from the previous week.



Here comes the sun.

Hussein Malla/Associated Press

This week’s word: aubade.

It was the answer to a clue in last Friday’s crossword : “Poem greeting the dawn.” (It might also be clued as “Morning music,” “Morning song” or “Sunrise song.”)

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An aubade (pronounced o-BAHD) can also be a musical composition about the morning.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word was first used in 1678 and was adopted by the French from the Spanish word “alba,” meaning sunrise.

An example is John Donne’s “ The Sun Rising,” which, if nothing else, suggests that the English poet was not a morning person.

With that, we wish you a wonderful start to your day.

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Morning Briefing

Sunday, March 25, 2018

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Your Weekend Briefing

By KAREN ZRAICK AND BRENT MURRAY

Here are the week's top stories, and a look ahead.

Erin Schaff for The New York Times

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1. “Welcome to the revolution.”

That was Cameron Kasky, a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., at the March for Our Lives against gun violence in Washington. He was addressing “the leaders, skeptics and cynics who told us to sit down and stay silent.”

Hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets around the world for sister marches. Inspired by survivors of the Parkland shooting, in speeches and with colorful signs and chants, they called for gun control measures and vowed to continue their campaign as the midterm elections approach. You can hear some of the speeches in this video, and here’s a photo gallery.

Above, two students at the rally in the capital: Jada Wright, 17, and Carl Payne, 18, from Eastern Senior High School in Washington.

Did you keep up with the headlines this week? Test your knowledge with our news quiz. And here’s the front page of our Sunday paper.

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Doug Mills/The New York Times

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2. It was a crazy week in Washington, even by Washington standards. A head-spinning series of presidential decisions on national security, trade and the budget left the capital reeling — and White House aides nervous about what comes next.

As two hard-line hawks are set to take key posts — that would be John Bolton as national security adviser and Mike Pompeo as secretary of state — President Trump's team faces dire challenges. Topping the list: North Korea and Iran.

Then there are domestic challenges, including the one posed by Stormy Daniels, the pornographic film actress who says she had an affair with Mr. Trump. She is suing to get out of a nondisclosure agreement, and is scheduled to appear on "60 Minutes" on Sunday.

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Jim Wilson/The New York Times

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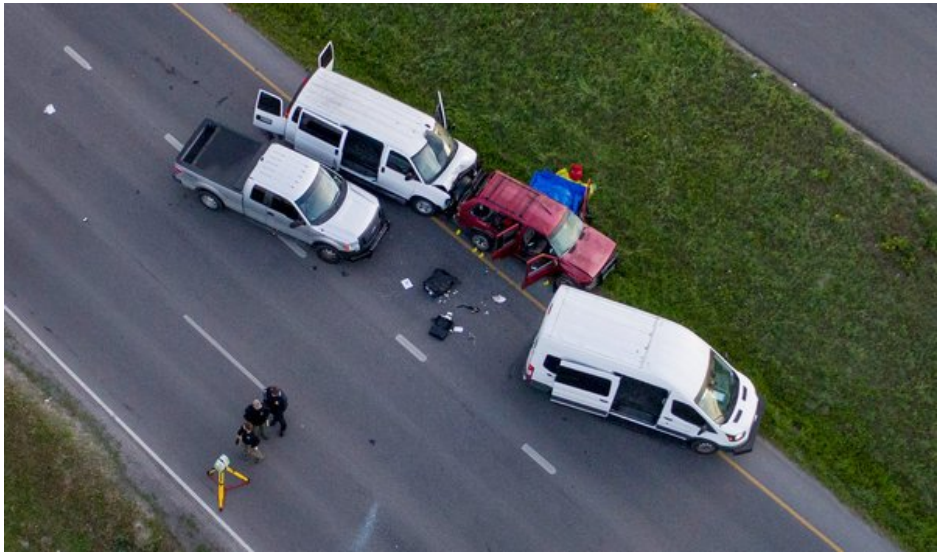
3. Calls for privacy in the wake of revelations that a political consulting firm that worked for the Trump campaign harvested Facebook data without user permission could upend tech companies' business model. Above, Facebook's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, addressed jittery employees.

Facebook, Google and other firms got big by offering free services in exchange for data that could be used by advertisers. But there are growing calls from consumers and regulators — in the U.S. and in Europe — to crack down on privacy violations. Meanwhile, the Justice Department and the F.B.I. are pushing tech firms to allow them access to encrypted data on phones during investigations.

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Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

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4. Lucky breaks, surveillance video and a pair of pink gloves led investigators to Mark Conditt, the 23-year-old suspect in a series of mysterious bombings in Texas.

He died in an explosion as investigators closed in on him early Wednesday. (Above, the scene of that explosion.) He left behind a 25-minute recording that the police said was a confession, but which shed no light on his motives.

The two people killed in the bombings belonged to prominent African-American families in Austin, which led many to believe they were racially motivated. Anthony Stephan House, 39, was a father and finance professional. Draylen Mason, 17, was a promising classical musician.

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Erin Trieb for The New York Times

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5. “Whenever I hear a blast go off in my hometown the first thing I do is call my little brother.”

That is Fatima Faizi, above, a young reporter in our Kabul bureau, describing how she covers suicide bombings. She has experienced eight of them since 2016.

The most recent was a devastating attack near a hospital as residents celebrated Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Thirty-one people were killed. We also talked to a Ukrainian soldier who deserted the Soviet Army and ended up staying in Afghanistan for more than three decades.

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Reuters

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6. We obtained documents that show Uber's self-driving cars were struggling even before one struck and killed a woman in Arizona. Above, investigators inspecting the vehicle.

The authorities are still investigating the crash and have not determined whether the car was at fault. Uber has halted autonomous car tests in Arizona, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toronto.

Tech companies and automakers are spending billions developing self-driving cars, but there are few federal rules governing their testing.

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Todd Heisler/The New York Times

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7. There's a new economy in the Houston suburbs hit hardest by Hurricane Harvey: the buying and selling of flooded homes.

We sent a team to Canyon Gate, a subdivision built in a reservoir area designed to flood in order to protect central Houston. Nearly all of the homes are destined to flood again.

"I was flooded, too, I get it," said Nick Pelletiere, above, who is both a resident and a speculator. "But this hurricane is a monstrous opportunity."

You can see more of the rebuilding in this video, and these maps explain how the reservoir system is designed.

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Jasmin Lavoie for The New York Times

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8. Our reporter recently spent 10 days on the road rediscovering Quebec, where he was born, after nearly three decades away.

He met a wide array of people along the way. Here are portraits of some of them, including an Algonquin D.J. (that's Cory Whiteduck, above), a Muslim leader, the doorman at Quebec City's grandest hotel and a well-known detective novelist.

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Interfoto/Alamy

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9. The latest obituary in our Overlooked series is of the woman who invented the chocolate chip cookie. Ruth Wakefield, above, originally called her creation the Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookie, after the popular Massachusetts restaurant she ran with her husband in the 1930s.

As the Overlooked project started, we asked readers to suggest women they felt deserved, but didn't get, obituaries in The Times. Here are the stories you told us about your grandmothers and great-grandmothers.

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The New York Times

10. Finally, come inside the Times Square studios where actors for Broadway's biggest shows rehearse . Our annotated video shows a day in the life of the bustling space. Above, rehearsing a scene from "Frozen."

Looking for other ideas for what to read, watch or listen to?

This week's New York Times best-seller lists have No. 1 debuts in hardcover fiction with Clive Cussler and Graham Brown's thriller "The Rising Sea," and in hardcover nonfiction with Michael Isikoff and David Corn's look at the 2016 presidential election, "Russian Roulette."

Our team at Watching has a list of some key episodes of "Roseanne" to rewatch before the series reboot premieres on Tuesday. (The old episodes are streaming on Amazon Prime; the new ones will be on ABC.)

And our music critics have a new playlist out, with tracks by Shawn Mendes and Snail Mail, among others.

Have a great week.

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Your Weekend Briefing is published Sundays at 6 a.m. Eastern.

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