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Subject: [NMLA] Fwd: Intellectual Freedom News 3/15/2018
To: <nmlamembership@mailman.nmsu.edu>

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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

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From: Kristin Pekoll <kpekoll@ala.org>
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OIF News

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- [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

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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 11:31:58 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [principals] About student walkouts re, school Shootings
To: "principals@lists.ucla.edu" <principals@lists.ucla.edu>

Our Center received the following request this week:

"We are looking for advice about the best way to handle the school walk out days.
Can we get ahead of this? We live in a very conservative area, very pro gun.
We are concerned about the potential for conflict."

This, of course, is not a concern limited to any one locale. (See the list of upcoming walkouts at <http://wsav.com/2018/02/20/savannah-students-plan-to-participate-in-nationwide-school-walkout-to-honor-the-17-victims-of-parkland-massacre/>).

We sent out the following links to a few immediate resources and are pulling together a fuller response for the next mailing of the School Practitioner Community of Practice.

- > *Responding to school walkout demonstrations* -- https://rems.ed.gov/docs/LL_Vol3Issue1.pdf
- > *School safety and security measures* -- <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=334>
- > *Youth engaged for change* -- <https://engage.youth.gov/topic/current-events>
- > *Know your Rights: Student walkouts and political speech at school* -- <https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/Youth%20Know%20Your%20Rights%20to%20Protest%20and%20Walk%20Out.pdf>

If you have anything you think should be included in what we are pulling together, please send it to Ltaylor@ucla.edu .

*Center resources are free and sent to over 100,000 school and community stakeholders across the country who are concerned about (1) daily matters confronting schools, (2) promoting whole child development and positive school climate, and (3) the transformation of student and learning supports. The Center at UCLA is co-directed by Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor.

From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 15:10:07 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [principals] about student walkouts, spring slump, survey re. student/learning supports
To: "principals@lists.ucla.edu" <principals@lists.ucla.edu>

March's ENEWS (reformatted for easier access) – is now online at
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/enews.htm>

What's included:

- >Resources related to student walkouts about school shootings
- >Resource links relevant to school improvement and personnel development
- >This month's special topic — Helping students who experience a *Spring Slump*
- >Transforming student/learning supports – Survey of states & districts

Also

- >*news items* from around the country relevant to addressing barriers to learning
- >links to access information on upcoming webinars and conferences, job opportunities, and more.

Share this with those who can benefit from the information.

For those who have been forwarded this and want to be included to receive resources that the Center regularly shares, send an email to Ltaylor@ucla.edu *

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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2018 12:11:13 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [principals] anticipating school walkouts
To: "principals@lists.ucla.edu" <principals@lists.ucla.edu>

See the *School Practitioner* community of practice for some major resource updates from the field.

Online at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm>

Practitioner topic for this week:

>Anticipating School Walkouts

Links to

- (1) *School shooting raises concerns about enhancing school capacity to provide mental health assistance*
 - (2) *Guidance for Responding to school walkouts*
 - (3) *School safety and security measures*
 - (4) *Reaching out to diverse populations: What can schools do to foster family&school connections?*
 - (5) *Developing a collaborative team approach to support family and community connections with schools*
 - (6) *How to approach student walkouts*
- Corrected links:
- >Youth engaged for change
 - >Know your rights: Student walkouts and political speech at school

Please share with relevant stakeholders.*

If you haven't done so, feel free to access the new free book entitled:

>Addressing Barriers to Learning: In the Classroom and Schoolwide
and other free resources by going to the Center's homepage at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>

If you didn't receive the March ENEWS or the quarterly ejournal or other recent announcements, let us know.

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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 15:33:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [principals] Resource links relevant to school improvement and personnel development (and for following up on the school shootings and student walkouts)
To: "principals@lists.ucla.edu" <principals@lists.ucla.edu>

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What's included:

- >Resource links relevant to school improvement and personnel development
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- >This month's special topic – Helping Students and Families Plan Successful
Transitions to a New Grade or a New School
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The Center at UCLA is co-directed by Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor.

From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 11:31:43 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [studentsupports] -- About student walkouts re, school Shootings
To: "studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu" <studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu>

Our Center received the following request this week:

"We are looking for advice about the best way to handle the school walk out days.
Can we get ahead of this? We live in a very conservative area, very pro gun.
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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 15:09:55 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [studentsupports] -- about student walkouts, spring slump, survey re. student/learning supports
To: "studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu" <studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu>

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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Tue, 6 Mar 2018 12:11:03 -0700 (MST)
Subject: [studentsupports] -- anticipating school walkouts
To: "studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu" <studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu>

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From: "Adelman, Howard" <adelman@psych.ucla.edu>
Sent Date: Mon, 26 Mar 2018 15:33:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: [studentsupports] -- Resource links relevant to school improvement and personnel development (and for following up on the school shootings and student walkouts)
To: "studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu" <studentsupports@lists.ucla.edu>

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a clearinghouse for a great variety of resources that are readily accessible at <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/>.
The Center at UCLA is co-directed by Howard Adelman & Linda Taylor.

From: "Stefanie Hemmingson" <newsletters@edweek.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 07:28:09 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: A Student Protester's Story | How Principals Drive School Improvement | Teacher Walkout in Okla. | More
To: "MARK BARELA" <mark.barela@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Dear mark.barela@carlsbad.k12.nm.us:

Here are the 7 most popular *Education Week* stories and opinions you and your colleagues have been reading this week. Take a look!

1. [A 12-Year-Old Protester's Interview Went Viral. Here's His Story](#)
2. [A Look at How Principals Really Drive School Improvement](#)
3. [Students With Emotional Disabilities: Facts About This Vulnerable Population](#)
4. [Fed Up With Low Pay, Oklahoma Teachers Prepare to Walk Out](#)
5. [This Map Shows How Much Is Stacked Against Students in Your State](#)
6. [Post-Parkland, the Second Amendment Gets a Closer Look in Class](#)
7. [Teacher's Facebook Post on Students' Social Media Secrets Goes Viral](#)

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Best,

Stefanie Hemmingson
Director, Audience Development

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From: "Stefanie Hemmingson" <newsletters@edweek.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 07:28:09 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: A Student Protester's Story | How Principals Drive School Improvement | Teacher Walkout in Okla. | More
To: "Marilyn Taylor " <marilyn.taylor@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Dear marilyn.taylor@carlsbad.k12.nm.us:

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2. [A Look at How Principals Really Drive School Improvement](#)
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Sent Date: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 07:28:09 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: A Student Protester's Story | How Principals Drive School Improvement | Teacher Walkout in Okla. | More
To: "DONNA GONSALEZ" <gonsalezd@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Dear gonsalezd@carlsbad.k12.nm.us:

Here are the 7 most popular *Education Week* stories and opinions you and your colleagues have been reading this week. Take a look!

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From: "Stefanie Hemmingson" <newsletters@edweek.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 05:00:00 -0700 (MST)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: How to Respond to Student Walkouts | It's Not Just About Guns | Preparing for 'Superdiverse' ELLs | More
To: "MAREN FOLSOM" <maren.folsom@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Dear maren.folsom@carlsbad.k12.nm.us:

Here are the 7 most popular *Education Week* stories and opinions you and your colleagues have been reading this week. Take a look! Also, don't miss [Leaders To Learn From](#), our annual report featuring profiles of some of the nation's most exceptional district leaders.

1. [Students Are Walking Out to Protest Gun Violence. What Should School Administrators Do?](#)
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5. [Justice Gorsuch Silent as Supreme Court Weighs Public-Employee Union Fees](#)
6. [Fla. District Faces Barrage of Legal Issues in Wake of School Massacre](#)
7. [Through #ArmMeWith Movement, Teachers Share Visions for Curbing School Violence](#)

For your youngest kids, every minute matters

In the earliest grades, you have a unique opportunity to set kids on the path to long-term success. Assessments can help you do that-but only if every minute spent testing directly supports student learning. This webinar will help you craft a plan to make every assessment minute matter.

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Director, Audience Development

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[For your youngest kids, every minute matters](#)

This message was intended for maren.folsom@carlsbad.k12.nm.us. If you do not wish to receive future emails from edweek.org, please click [here](#).

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From: "Stefanie Hemmingson" <newsletters@edweek.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 05:30:00 -0700 (MST)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: How to Respond to Student Walkouts | It's Not Just About Guns | Preparing for 'Superdiverse' ELLs | More
To: "Marilyn Taylor " <marilyn.taylor@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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To: "MARK BARELA" <mark.barela@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 05:00:00 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: 7 Top Stories: Nationwide Student Walkout | 10 Things We Shouldn't Expect of Schools | Was DeVos a 'Trainwreck' on '60 Minutes'? | More
To: "MARK BARELA" <mark.barela@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

April 17, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/16) reports hundreds of teachers in Colorado “converged on the state Capitol on Monday to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay and a stronger retirement fund.” Demonstrators “made so much noise that some state representatives and senators left their chambers to watch the rally. A few gave impromptu speeches in support of the teachers, who took a day off work to attend the annual Colorado Education Association’s Lobby Day.” Educators say low pay and looming pension cuts “will make it impossible for younger educators to remain in the profession for an entire career.”

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eason, Slevin) reports teachers “swarmed the Colorado state Capitol on Monday, shuttering one suburban Denver school district to demand better salaries, as lawmakers were set to debate a pension reform measure that would cut retirement benefits and take-home pay.” The AP reports on the parallels with teachers in “West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona who have staged strikes or high-profile protests in recent weeks to draw attention to what teachers unions see as a growing crisis in the profession.”

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reports the Colorado Education Association “said it expects more than 500 of the 35,000 teachers and support workers it represents to come to the Colorado General Assembly in Denver to urge legislators to increase education funding and strengthen their retirement plan.” [Chalkbeat](#) (4/16) and the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/16) also cover this story.

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POLITICS & POLICY

California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.

[Politico](#) (4/16, Stratford) reports that after the California Board of Education voted to make a number of revisions to the state's ESSA plan, state officials are scheduled to submit the plan for ED approval. "Those changes include requests by federal education officials, like clearer targets for measuring schools' interim progress. Separately, the board decided to ask [Education Secretary Betsy] DeVos for a waiver when it comes to English language learners." States are required under ESSA "to measure whether English language learners are making progress toward learning English," and the state "not only wants to count English language learners who are reclassified as former English language learners in a given year, but also English language learners who were reclassified in the previous year. Federal officials have said that's not allowed, but state board officials plan to ask DeVos for permission anyway."

Study Examines Changes In Title I Funding Targets.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) reports that a new study of how the \$15.8 billion Title I program is administered indicates that in recent decades the grants "have shifted from overwhelmingly being targeted to only the individual low-income students in a building to mostly being used to support schoolwide programs on high-poverty campuses." The study "suggests that, while the more holistic approach has allowed school and district leaders to support a broader array of staff and interventions for students in poverty, school leaders often do not receive the training and information needed to make the most of the grant's flexibility."

TEACHING & LEARNING

California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/16, Iasevoli) reports on Girl Scout Mackenzie Bryan, 18, of Paradise, California, who wrote "lesson plans incorporating the hands-on science fun of her childhood for kindergarteners at the school" and was honored with the Gold Award, "the highest achievement given to a Girl Scout." She wrote "12 kindergarten lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and to the Common Core State Standards." She worked with teachers and students at Hamilton Elementary where her mother is a guidance counselor on the plans.

Teachers Share Images Of Deteriorating Classrooms, Materials.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Sedgwick, Subscription Publication) reports over 4,200 teachers have responded to a call for reports on "the conditions that a decade of budget cuts has wrought in their schools," describing "broken laptops, books held together with duct tape," and having to make "watercolors by soaking old markers." The article consists of condensed and edited responses from teachers describing overcrowded classes, low pay, and crumbling facilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) covers the Times project, reporting that "in recent weeks, the state of American classrooms and education has been at the forefront of the national conversation. Teachers have been protesting low pay and statewide education budget cuts."

Arizona Teachers Call For Walkouts Despite Planned Raise.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Christie) reports teachers in Arizona "say Gov. Doug Ducey's teacher raise proposal falls short and they're moving to take a strike vote." Ducey "last week proposed a 9 percent teacher pay raise this year and 10 percent more by 2020, on top of 1 percent they are getting this year." However, he "did not address teachers' other demands — including raises for support staff, a return to pre-Great Recession school funding levels and no more tax

cuts until school spending reached the national average.”

Teams Go To FIRST Championship In Detroit.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/16, Busche) reports on the For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology (FIRST) Championship in Detroit next week, noting that teams from Washburn and Patrick Henry high schools in Minneapolis “will be among 1,400 other teams” at the competition. Brynn DeVaan, senior and co-captain of the Washburn team, “estimated that each student on the 30-member Millerbots squad contributed around 300 hours in the past year.” David Sylvestre, lead mentor for Patrick Henry High School’s team, said that “his team has done nearly 10,000 hours of outreach over the past five years” including “promoting and teaching robotics to grade schoolers, middle schoolers and community residents.”

The [Englewood \(OH\) Independent](#) (4/16) reports, “PowerStackers, a FIRST Tech Challenge Dayton/Cincinnati robotics team, is officially headed to the 2017-2018 FTC World Championship” in Detroit. While each team “builds and programs a robot in response to the challenge,” it also “competes in several high-energy tournaments.” For this year’s competition, the teams built “a robot that can move autonomously, stack six-inch foam cubes, and lift a small figurine and place it several feet away, among many other abilities.”

WSJournal A1: Amid Labor Shortage, US Companies Turning To Teens.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 17 Apr 2018 05:30:44 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Alaska Legislature At Odds Over Additional School Funding
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup

April 17, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/16) reports hundreds of teachers in Colorado “converged on the state Capitol on Monday to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay and a stronger retirement fund.” Demonstrators “made so much noise that some state representatives and senators left their chambers to watch the rally. A few gave impromptu speeches in support of the teachers, who took a day off work to attend the annual Colorado Education Association’s Lobby Day.” Educators say low pay and looming pension cuts “will make it impossible for younger educators to remain in the profession for an entire career.”

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eason, Slevin) reports teachers “swarmed the Colorado state Capitol on Monday, shuttering one suburban Denver school district to demand better salaries, as lawmakers were set to debate a pension reform measure that would cut retirement benefits and take-home pay.” The AP reports on the parallels with teachers in “West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona who have staged strikes or high-profile protests in recent weeks to draw attention to what teachers unions see as a growing crisis in the profession.”

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reports the Colorado Education Association “said it expects more than 500 of the 35,000 teachers and support workers it represents to come to the Colorado General Assembly in Denver to urge legislators to increase education funding and strengthen their retirement plan.” [Chalkbeat](#) (4/16) and the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/16) also cover this story.

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POLITICS & POLICY

California Set To Submit Revised ESSA Plan.

[Politico](#) (4/16, Stratford) reports that after the California Board of Education voted to make a number of revisions to the state's ESSA plan, state officials are scheduled to submit the plan for ED approval. "Those changes include requests by federal education officials, like clearer targets for measuring schools' interim progress. Separately, the board decided to ask [Education Secretary Betsy] DeVos for a waiver when it comes to English language learners." States are required under ESSA "to measure whether English language learners are making progress toward learning English," and the state "not only wants to count English language learners who are reclassified as former English language learners in a given year, but also English language learners who were reclassified in the previous year. Federal officials have said that's not allowed, but state board officials plan to ask DeVos for permission anyway."

Study Examines Changes In Title I Funding Targets.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) reports that a new study of how the \$15.8 billion Title I program is administered indicates that in recent decades the grants "have shifted from overwhelmingly being targeted to only the individual low-income students in a building to mostly being used to support schoolwide programs on high-poverty campuses." The study "suggests that, while the more holistic approach has allowed school and district leaders to support a broader array of staff and interventions for students in poverty, school leaders often do not receive the training and information needed to make the most of the grant's flexibility."

TEACHING & LEARNING

California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/16, Iasevoli) reports on Girl Scout Mackenzie Bryan, 18, of Paradise, California, who wrote "lesson plans incorporating the hands-on science fun of her childhood for kindergarteners at the school" and was honored with the Gold Award, "the highest achievement given to a Girl Scout." She wrote "12 kindergarten lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and to the Common Core State Standards." She worked with teachers and students at Hamilton Elementary where her mother is a guidance counselor on the plans.

Teachers Share Images Of Deteriorating Classrooms, Materials.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Sedgwick, Subscription Publication) reports over 4,200 teachers have responded to a call for reports on "the conditions that a decade of budget cuts has wrought in their schools," describing "broken laptops, books held together with duct tape," and having to make "watercolors by soaking old markers." The article consists of condensed and edited responses from teachers describing overcrowded classes, low pay, and crumbling facilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) covers the Times project, reporting that "in recent weeks, the state of American classrooms and education has been at the forefront of the national conversation. Teachers have been protesting low pay and statewide education budget cuts."

Arizona Teachers Call For Walkouts Despite Planned Raise.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Christie) reports teachers in Arizona "say Gov. Doug Ducey's teacher raise proposal falls short and they're moving to take a strike vote." Ducey "last week proposed a 9 percent teacher pay raise this year and 10 percent more by 2020, on top of 1 percent they are getting this year." However, he "did not address teachers' other demands — including raises for support staff, a return to pre-Great Recession school funding levels and no more tax

cuts until school spending reached the national average.”

Teams Go To FIRST Championship In Detroit.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/16, Busche) reports on the For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology (FIRST) Championship in Detroit next week, noting that teams from Washburn and Patrick Henry high schools in Minneapolis “will be among 1,400 other teams” at the competition. Brynn DeVaan, senior and co-captain of the Washburn team, “estimated that each student on the 30-member Millerbots squad contributed around 300 hours in the past year.” David Sylvestre, lead mentor for Patrick Henry High School’s team, said that “his team has done nearly 10,000 hours of outreach over the past five years” including “promoting and teaching robotics to grade schoolers, middle schoolers and community residents.”

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 17 Apr 2018 05:30:44 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Alaska Legislature At Odds Over Additional School Funding
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

April 17, 2018

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Utah Leaders Look To Triple Education Funding, Improve Teacher Retention.

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Utah leaders “said Monday they hope a new ballot measure that would nearly triple education funding in five years will help the state entice and hold on to its best teachers.” The measure “will give voters the opportunity to support an increase in the gas tax...as part of a compromise between lawmakers and an education group that wanted voters to approve a plan that would have sent \$715 million to the schools immediately through a hike in state sales and income taxes.” The broader plan “would increase education funding yearly starting at \$141 million in 2019 and reaching \$386 million in 2023.” In a separate article, the [AP](#) (4/16) reports Gov. Gary Herbert (R) hailed the plan “during a signing ceremony for the measure at an elementary school in suburban Salt Lake City.”

Kansas City Star Warns Of Potential Fatal Flaws In Kansas School Funding Bill.

An editorial in the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/16) praises the state legislature for passing a \$500 million increase in school funding, but says “there are serious, growing concerns that the bill contains significant errors.” The paper reports that legislators “inserted language in the funding bill requiring districts to impose a local tax equal to at least 15 percent of their state aid each year,” contributing to “an \$80 million miscalculation, which legislators must correct.” The paper suggests that errors in the bill and the local tax requirement could trigger the bill’s rejection by the state Supreme Court.

WSJournal: Medicaid And Pensions Squeeze State Education Spending.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Subscription Publication) editorializes on recent demands by public school teachers for higher pay, and says Medicaid and unfunded state pensions are major causes of state budgets having little room for education, noting that in Oklahoma last year, Medicaid took up 25 percent of the general fund, up from 14 percent in 2008, while per-pupil school spending fell about 16 percent during the same period. In Kentucky, the state’s teacher pension is estimated to have \$14 billion in unfunded liabilities. In Arizona, Medicaid has grown to 18.5 percent of the general fund. The Journal says that if teachers do not get the raises they are seeking, Medicaid and pensions are a large part of the reason.

States, Districts Watching SCOTUS Sales Tax Case That Could Boost State Revenues.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) reports, “State and local governments, including school districts, are watching with great interest as the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday takes up” South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc., a case which “could result in adding billions of dollars in tax revenue to their coffers.” The Court is considering “whether to overrule or distinguish two precedents that bar a state from forcing out-of-state sellers to collect sales taxes on purchases from residents unless the sellers have a ‘nexus,’ or a physical presence, in that state.” According to an amicus brief filed by the National Governors Association, the Association of School Business Officials International, the National School Boards Association, AASA, the School Superintendents Association, and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, “The physical nexus requirement results in a loss of crucial revenue from owed taxes that state and local governments depend on to fund basic government functions.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Eight-Year-Old Minnesota Student Slashed Classmates With Knife.

The [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (4/16) reports local authorities say an eight-year-old student at Pleasantview Elementary School in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, “came to school with a kitchen knife about 7:15 a.m. Monday and randomly attacked fellow students.” Sauk Rapids Police Chief Perry Beise said the injured students “had ‘superficial wounds to be stitched up,’ and nobody else was seriously injured.” The suspect was questioned and “has since been released to his parents.” Parents “received an electronic notice of the incident this morning.”

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Beise “told The Associated Press he didn’t know why the boy did it,” quoting him saying, “If I could answer that question I would. He randomly cut three students then walked into the office and set the knife down.”

Connecticut Prosecutors Considering Charges In High School “Fight Club” Case.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Press) reports prosecutors in Montville, Connecticut are considering whether to file charges against local school officials “for failing to report a substitute teacher accused of running a ‘fight club’ at a Connecticut high school.” The teacher, Ryan Fish, was fired after being recorded “encouraging students as they slap each other in a classroom at Montville High School.” However, “police were not notified until two months later.”

NAACP Salt Lake City President Says More Students Using Racial Slurs.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/16, Imlay) reports Jeanetta Williams, NAACP Salt Lake Branch president, met with superintendents from 41 public school districts to discuss the problem of “white students targeting black classmates with racial slurs” which, they said, is becoming more common. Those at the meeting “discussed ideas for combatting it” and “representatives from the Department of Justice also attended to discuss race relations and provide some training.” Williams also said that “the students targeted with racial slurs feel threatened.” Williams attributed the rise in such incidents to “the 2016 presidential election.”

Michigan Governor Proposes Spending \$20 Million On School Security.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eggert) reports on Monday, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder proposed spending “\$20 million to upgrade security at up to 400 schools, expand a tip line that lets students report threats and require schools to incorporate behavioral health assessments into their procedures.” The move is a response to recent school shootings and to “record-high tips to OK2SAY, Michigan’s confidential tip line for students.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

Texas Administrators Mull Paying For Special Education Plan.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (4/16) reports that Texas district administrators attended a public hearing on Monday on paying for “an anticipated spike in students considered eligible for special education.” The piece explains that an ED “investigation concluded earlier this year that Texas had not provided kids with disabilities with the services they need to learn,” whereupon “the Texas Education Agency promised to shape up and released a 42-page plan that in part held school districts accountable for finding and helping the thousands of students who had been left out of special education for years.” However, the TEA says it “has little financial leeway to implement its plan.” Now, administrators “have said they view this plan as an unfunded mandate.”

MONDAY’S LEAD STORIES

- [Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests.](#)
- [ED Secretaries Gather To Weigh In On Anniversary Of “A Nation At Risk.”](#)
- [Many Teachers Must Work Second Jobs To Make Ends Meet.](#)
- [Authors Call For Schedules To Support Curricular Needs.](#)
- [College Recruitment Visits Focus On Richer, Whiter High Schools, Study Finds.](#)

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The [AP](#) (4/16) reports that there are significant differences between the school funding bills passed by the two chambers, saying the “House plan would increase state aid to school districts by \$100 per student into the future.” However, “the Senate plan would provide a one-time infusion of \$30 million in 2020 only if Gov. Bill Walker signs a law to draw Alaska Permanent Fund earnings to pay for state government.”

Utah Leaders Look To Triple Education Funding, Improve Teacher Retention.

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Utah leaders “said Monday they hope a new ballot measure that would nearly triple education funding in five years will help the state entice and hold on to its best teachers.” The measure “will give voters the opportunity to support an increase in the gas tax...as part of a compromise between lawmakers and an education group that wanted voters to approve a plan that would have sent \$715 million to the schools immediately through a hike in state sales and income taxes.” The broader plan “would increase education funding yearly starting at \$141 million in 2019 and reaching \$386 million in 2023.” In a separate article, the [AP](#) (4/16) reports Gov. Gary Herbert (R) hailed the plan “during a signing ceremony for the measure at an elementary school in suburban Salt Lake City.”

Kansas City Star Warns Of Potential Fatal Flaws In Kansas School Funding Bill.

An editorial in the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/16) praises the state legislature for passing a \$500 million increase in school funding, but says “there are serious, growing concerns that the bill contains significant errors.” The paper reports that legislators “inserted language in the funding bill requiring districts to impose a local tax equal to at least 15 percent of their state aid each year,” contributing to “an \$80 million miscalculation, which legislators must correct.” The paper suggests that errors in the bill and the local tax requirement could trigger the bill’s rejection by the state Supreme Court.

WSJournal: Medicaid And Pensions Squeeze State Education Spending.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/16, Subscription Publication) editorializes on recent demands by public school teachers for higher pay, and says Medicaid and unfunded state pensions are major causes of state budgets having little room for education, noting that in Oklahoma last year, Medicaid took up 25 percent of the general fund, up from 14 percent in 2008, while per-pupil school spending fell about 16 percent during the same period. In Kentucky, the state’s teacher pension is estimated to have \$14 billion in unfunded liabilities. In Arizona, Medicaid has grown to 18.5 percent of the general fund. The Journal says that if teachers do not get the raises they are seeking, Medicaid and pensions are a large part of the reason.

States, Districts Watching SCOTUS Sales Tax Case That Could Boost State Revenues.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) reports, “State and local governments, including school districts, are watching with great interest as the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday takes up” South Dakota v. Wayfair Inc., a case which “could result in adding billions of dollars in tax revenue to their coffers.” The Court is considering “whether to overrule or distinguish two precedents that bar a state from forcing out-of-state sellers to collect sales taxes on purchases from residents unless the sellers have a ‘nexus,’ or a physical presence, in that state.” According to an amicus brief filed by the National Governors Association, the Association of School Business Officials International, the National School Boards Association, AASA, the School Superintendents Association, and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, “The physical nexus requirement results in a loss of crucial revenue from owed taxes that state and local governments depend on to fund basic government functions.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Eight-Year-Old Minnesota Student Slashed Classmates With Knife.

The [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (4/16) reports local authorities say an eight-year-old student at Pleasantview Elementary School in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, “came to school with a kitchen knife about 7:15 a.m. Monday and randomly attacked fellow students.” Sauk Rapids Police Chief Perry Beise said the injured students “had ‘superficial wounds to be stitched up,’ and nobody else was seriously injured.” The suspect was questioned and “has since been released to his parents.” Parents “received an electronic notice of the incident this morning.”

The [AP](#) (4/16) reports Beise “told The Associated Press he didn’t know why the boy did it,” quoting him saying, “If I could answer that question I would. He randomly cut three students then walked into the office and set the knife down.”

Connecticut Prosecutors Considering Charges In High School “Fight Club” Case.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Press) reports prosecutors in Montville, Connecticut are considering whether to file charges against local school officials “for failing to report a substitute teacher accused of running a ‘fight club’ at a Connecticut high school.” The teacher, Ryan Fish, was fired after being recorded “encouraging students as they slap each other in a classroom at Montville High School.” However, “police were not notified until two months later.”

NAACP Salt Lake City President Says More Students Using Racial Slurs.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/16, Imlay) reports Jeanetta Williams, NAACP Salt Lake Branch president, met with superintendents from 41 public school districts to discuss the problem of “white students targeting black classmates with racial slurs” which, they said, is becoming more common. Those at the meeting “discussed ideas for combatting it” and “representatives from the Department of Justice also attended to discuss race relations and provide some training.” Williams also said that “the students targeted with racial slurs feel threatened.” Williams attributed the rise in such incidents to “the 2016 presidential election.”

Michigan Governor Proposes Spending \$20 Million On School Security.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eggert) reports on Monday, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder proposed spending “\$20 million to upgrade security at up to 400 schools, expand a tip line that lets students report threats and require schools to incorporate behavioral health assessments into their procedures.” The move is a response to recent school shootings and to “record-high tips to OK2SAY, Michigan’s confidential tip line for students.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

Texas Administrators Mull Paying For Special Education Plan.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (4/16) reports that Texas district administrators attended a public hearing on Monday on paying for “an anticipated spike in students considered eligible for special education.” The piece explains that an ED “investigation concluded earlier this year that Texas had not provided kids with disabilities with the services they need to learn,” whereupon “the Texas Education Agency promised to shape up and released a 42-page plan that in part held school districts accountable for finding and helping the thousands of students who had been left out of special education for years.” However, the TEA says it “has little financial leeway to implement its plan.” Now, administrators “have said they view this plan as an unfunded mandate.”

MONDAY’S LEAD STORIES

- [Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests.](#)
- [ED Secretaries Gather To Weigh In On Anniversary Of “A Nation At Risk.”](#)
- [Many Teachers Must Work Second Jobs To Make Ends Meet.](#)
- [Authors Call For Schedules To Support Curricular Needs.](#)
- [College Recruitment Visits Focus On Richer, Whiter High Schools, Study Finds.](#)

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TOP NEWS

Arizona lawmakers reach education deal following two days of walkouts

KTAR News

After two days of teacher walkouts, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and lawmakers reached a deal regarding teacher pay that includes a 20 percent pay increase for teachers by 2020. The deal also includes an additional \$100,000,000 for support staff over a five-year period and no tax increase. [Read more>>](#)

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Colorado teachers rally for a second day at the state Capitol to demand education funding increase

The Denver Post

More than 6,000 Colorado teachers and their supporters rallied at the state capitol last Friday in support of increased state funding for public education. The Colorado Education Association said the walkouts are needed to alert residents and lawmakers that the state's schools, currently underfunded by \$822 million, are \$2,700 below the national average in per-pupil funding. [Read more>>](#)

Petition filed to impeach Oklahoma Education Association president

News on 6

A petition is circulating online, calling for the impeachment of the president and vice president of the Oklahoma Education Association, claiming OEA President Alicia Priest and Vice President Katherine Bishop failed to perform duties required as officers of the organization. [Read more>>](#)



U.S. education law to cause temporary drop in federal calculation of Indiana's high school graduation rate

NWI Times

Indiana's high school graduation rate, as calculated by the federal government, is set to plummet next month due to a disagreement between state and U.S. education officials over which Hoosier students count as graduates. [Read more>>](#)

Six students injured in partial Putnam BOCES ceiling collapse in upstate New York

Lower Hudson Journal News

Pieces of drywall fell from a ceiling at a BOCES education center in Kent today Friday, injuring six first-graders from a Mahopac, New York, elementary school. The six suffered minor injuries and were taken to Putnam Hospital Center for examination, Putnam-Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services official said. [Read more>>](#)

New York teacher evaluations could be decoupled from test scores

WGRZ

A push to decouple New York's teacher-evaluation system from students' scores on standardized tests is gaining momentum at the state Capitol. Lawmakers in both houses of the Legislature introduced bills this week that would prohibit school districts from using the grade 3-8 math and English exams from being used to rate

teachers and principals. [Read more>>](#)



From DA Magazine

Getting teachers comfortable with technology

Sam Frenzel

Many teachers are forced into using technology they are unfamiliar or uncomfortable using. Administrators should do all they can to help teachers overcome this. Here are four keys to supporting and engaging teachers. [Read more>>](#)

OPINION

D.C. schools could face sharp dip in graduation rate after scandal

Washington Post

Fewer than half of the seniors in the District's traditional public school system are on track to receive their diplomas in June, a drastic shift for a school district that celebrated a record high graduation rate last year. [Read more>>](#)

What 'A Nation At Risk' got wrong, and right, about U.S. schools

NPR

Very few government reports have had the staying power of "A Nation At Risk," which appeared 35 years ago this month and stoked widespread concerns about the quality of American schools. [Read more>>](#)



The perks of a play-in-the-mud educational philosophy

The Atlantic

Why is it odd for 4-year-olds to spend the bulk of their time outside? When did America decide that preschool should be boring routines performed within

classroom walls? [Read more>>](#)

District Administration Survey

Be a source for our new interscholastic sports story

District Administration

Cricket, video-gaming and other new sports are joining K12 athletic departments. DA wants to interview administrators or coaches about why their schools have added these and other new sports. Please follow the link to connect with us. <https://www.districtadministration.com/prnews/queries> [Contact us>>](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Offering customizable STEAM solutions for educators

littleBits

littleBits Education Solutions is a new initiative to help school districts procure STEAM programs to teach hands-on engineering, physical computational thinking and coding—all based on littleBits' platform of electronic building blocks. [Read more>>](#)

New online courses for students in Maryland

Edgenuity

The Maryland State Department of Education has named Edgenuity as an approved course provider for middle and high school students with online core, elective, Advanced Placement and test preparation course options. [Read more>>](#)

North Carolina district expands access to books

Fuel Education

To give students access to a library with more than 13,000 leveled e-books, Wake County Public School System turned to the online literacy platform Big Universe for its 114 elementary schools. [Read more>>](#)

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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>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



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."

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

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

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

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, Pennamom) 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

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."

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

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.”

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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: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

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

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

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

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, Pennamom) 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

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."

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.

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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>

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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."

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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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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?”

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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

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

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, Pennamom) 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

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."

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

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.”

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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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?”

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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

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

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, Pennamom) 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

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."

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

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.”

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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LEADING THE NEWS

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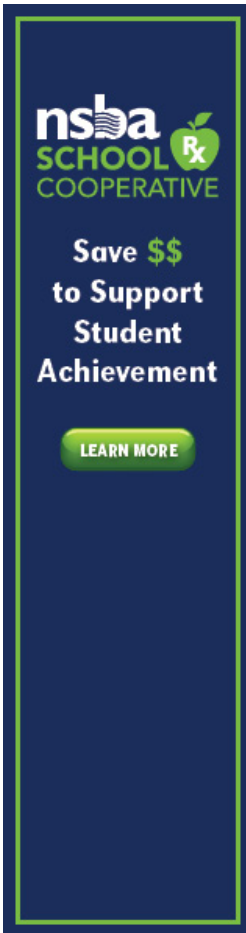
Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/25) reports teachers in Arizona are making preparations for a "mass teacher walkout" on Thursday. On Wednesday, "thousands of Arizona educators and supporters" took part in protests to make "their final public stand" before the walkout. "For the hundreds of educators who lined the street, it was one part protest, one part mutual acknowledgment that years of frustration and weeks of action were about to explode."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports Arizona teachers "will walk out on Thursday in the first-ever statewide strike to press for higher salaries and school funding." The walkout follows "three days of school 'walk-ins' this week. Walk-ins are meant to be a nondisruptive way for parents and community members to join educators before or after school hours to show their support." Gov. Doug Ducey (R) "has said he will urge the state legislature to pass a 20 percent pay raise for teachers," but educators are "skeptical of the plan, questioning where the money will come from." Echoing this concern, the state PTA has withdrawn support. "However, the Arizona School Boards Association and the Association of School Business Officials still support the plan."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports "tens of thousands" of Arizona and Colorado teachers are expected to "walk out of their classrooms and head to the state capitols" on Thursday. Says Arizona Education Association President Joe Thomas, "I know that it sounds like it's almost incredulous that anyone would ask for that much of a raise, but we're just trying to get competitive salaries. A 20 percent raise still has us beneath the national average."

The [Denver Post](#) (4/25) reports that in Colorado, "thousands of teachers from mostly Front Range school districts" in Colorado "are expected to march to the state Capitol" on Thursday and Friday "to demand more state funding for schools and a fix for the state's pension plan for public employees."



Arizona Republic: Ducey Plan Would Require New Revenue Stream. An [Arizona Republic](#) (4/23) editorial explores the factors that have led Arizona teachers to “a breaking point,” citing data from a new Education Resource Strategies report which show that the state’s “investment in K-12 has been behind nationally since 1990.” The editors say that polling shows widespread public support for Ducey’s plan to give teachers a 20% raise, but add that “teachers who began this movement are correct in voicing strong concerns about how this will be financed in future years. Ducey’s plan does not create a dedicated funding source for what would be a significant increase in state spending.” The paper concedes that Ducey’s plan could serve as a “stopgap,” but argues that “in the long run, Arizona will need new revenue to sustain the promised raises and the other necessary investments in our schools.”

POLITICS & POLICY

Education Stakeholders Address Chronic Absenteeism, Discipline Practices Under ESSA.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that district officials and education advocates took part in a Brookings Institution forum on “expanded accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act.” Attendees said that “as more states rate schools based on how many of their students are chronically absent, policymakers must consider harsh discipline practices, an issue at the fore in education circles as the Education Department considers whether to revoke federal guidance on disparate discipline.” The Seventy Four adds that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos

“has held several ‘listening sessions’ as she considers removing a 2014 guidance document that urged schools to limit exclusionary discipline, like suspensions and expulsions, and reminded district leaders that disparate discipline outcomes based on race could be a violation of federal law.”

Civil Rights Data Collection Could Affect DeVos School Discipline Decision.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/25, Wermund) reports on the potential impact of the release this week of ED’s Civil Rights Data Collection on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ decision over whether to “scrap Obama-era school discipline guidance.” The data make “clear that big disparities remain in the way students are treated in the nation’s schools.” Politico says the report “shows that black students and those with disabilities are suspended and arrested far more often than their peers – just as DeVos is mulling whether to scrap policies meant to combat those problems.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

New Research Explores Preschool “Fade Out.”

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports that early childhood education research has shown that the academic improvements attributable to pre-K education fade in the ensuing years. “Two new studies have tackled the topic of early-education ‘fadeout’” and reached “similar conclusions: For positive benefits to last, early-childhood programs have to be of high quality and can’t be seen as a one-shot inoculation that will sustain children throughout their academic careers.”

Students From Around Globe Converge On Detroit For FIRST Robotics Competition.

The [Detroit News](#) (4/25) reports students from around the world gathered in Detroit in Wednesday for the first day of the FIRST Robotics Competition. “More than 15,000 students on 700 teams from 37 countries are fighting for bragging rights for the best robot and inventions in competitions through Saturday.” The News quotes FIRST President Donald Bossi saying, “We’re a friendly version of TV’s Battle Bots. We are a competition, but it’s not that head-to-head-I-need-to-beat-you type of thing.” Students take part in robotics and technology challenges.

Houston Students Selected For National Rocketry Competition.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25, Stuckey) reports students at Harmony Science Academy in Houston, along with 100 other teams from around the US, have been selected to compete in the 16th annual Team America Rocketry Challenge, which “aims to encourage students to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields by having middle and high school students design, build and fly rockets.”

Teachers At First Unionized DC Charter School Rally To Protest High Consultant Spending.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Stein) reports that teachers at Chavez Prep Middle, “the first DC charter school to unionize,” are “taking to the streets of a D.C. neighborhood to press their case that the school is spending millions of dollars on consultants while cutting core classroom positions.” The Post characterizes the protest as “a rare battle between teachers and administrators at a charter school.” Teachers, who voted in June to be represented by the American Federation of Teachers, “say the administration’s spending is hurting students, who predominantly come from low-income, Hispanic families.”

OPERATIONS

Houston Officials Reject Plan To Give Control Of Struggling Schools To Outside Groups.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25, Carpenter) reports Houston ISD leaders announced Wednesday that the district “will not turn over control of their 10 longest-struggling schools to any outside organizations...a decision that shifts enormous power over HISD’s future to the Texas Education Agency.” The decision likely “means HISD must receive accountability or sanctions waivers from TEA Commissioner Mike Morath for the district to avoid forced campus closures or a state takeover.” District officials “sought to stave off potential sanctions by giving control over the 10 schools to a charter school outfit, Energized For STEM Academy Inc., but district leaders nixed that recommendation Wednesday.”

The [AP](#) (4/25) reports district leaders “backed off a plan to have a charter school operator take over 10 low-performing campuses following a contentious school board meeting during which two people were arrested, including one woman who was dragged away by officers.” The plan to turn the struggling schools over to charter operators “has been heavily criticized by many parents, teachers and others who say it would unfairly target students in majority African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods.”

Baltimore County Negotiating With Teachers To Increase Length Of High School Day After Snow Days.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/25) reports that Baltimore County education officials are negotiating with teachers “to add more instructional time per day to the high school schedule, following a decision by the state school board to exempt the county this year from the law that requires students to be in class for a certain number of hours each year.” The state BOE “ruled Tuesday that the county’s high schoolers won’t have to make up eight hours of instructional time they lost this year to bad weather, on the condition that the county rework its high school schedule to lengthen the time students are in class each day.” Without the waiver, the school system would will have to extend the high school year by one day, to June 18.

School Support Staff Struggle To Get By On Meager Salaries.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/24, Balingit) reports on the low salaries paid to teacher aides, secretaries, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and building maintenance workers in US schools, noting that “many qualify for public benefits: food stamps to feed their families, Pell Grants to attend college and Medicaid for their children’s medical care. They struggle to survive on \$20,000 a year – or less – even as they assume duties usually assigned to better-paid colleagues.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Education Tech Trends Expected To Dominate Coming Year.

[THE Journal](#) (4/25) reports on a number of emerging education technology trends, such as virtual reality, project-based learning, makerspaces, a growing focus on computational thinking, and the protection of student data privacy, which are “evolving in new ways that we believe will dominate education conversations for the rest of the year.”

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

State Data On How Well High Schools Prepare Students For College Lacking.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that only nine states gather and report data on how well students from specific high schools do in college, and only two “publish full information on whether students from specific high schools go on to graduate from postsecondary education.” The Seventy Four quotes nonprofit education data group GreatSchools Chief Strategy Officer Samantha Brown Olivieri saying, “A clear reason is that [states are] not federally mandated to publish this data. But more and more states are seeing their role as the data steward – not just one of compliance, but one of transparency, and they’re using data to inform improvement rather than as just a form of reporting for accountability.” The article adds that ESSA “requires states to report how many graduates from individual high schools enroll in postsecondary education, but it doesn’t mandate states to follow those students through college and see how they perform once they’re there, and whether they ultimately earn a degree.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding.

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Subject: Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

April 26, 2018

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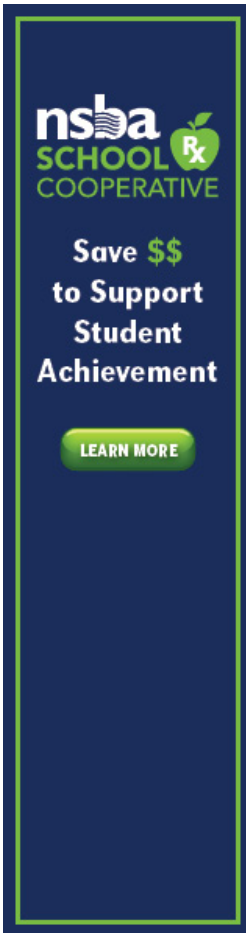
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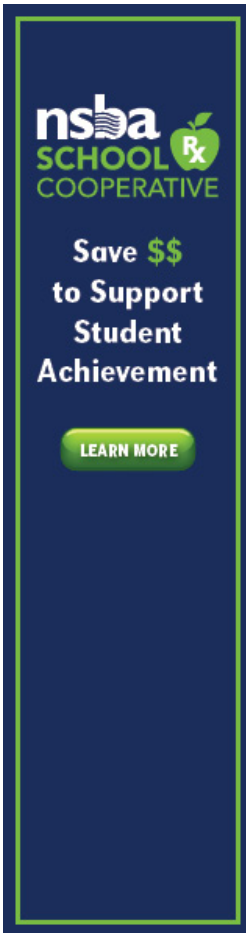
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Subject: Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts
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Good morning Abel Montoya

April 26, 2018

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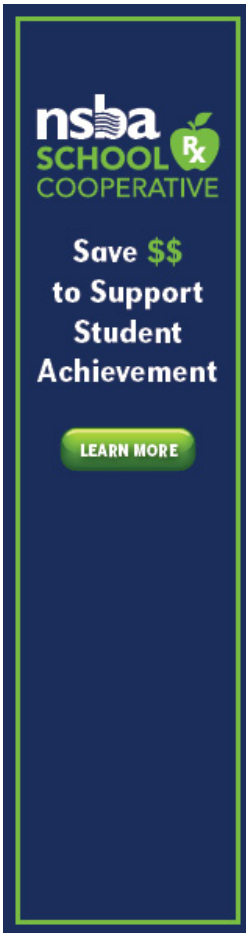
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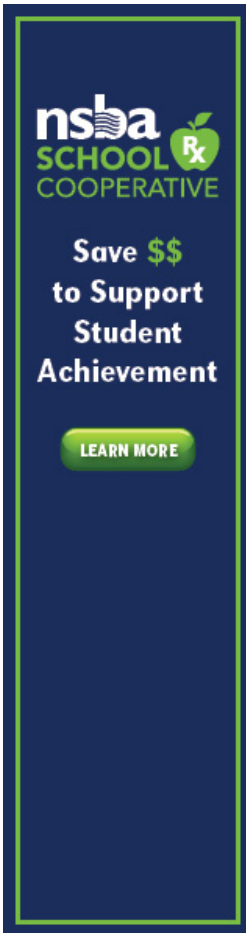
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Subject: Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts
To: <david.shoup@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning David Shoup

April 26, 2018

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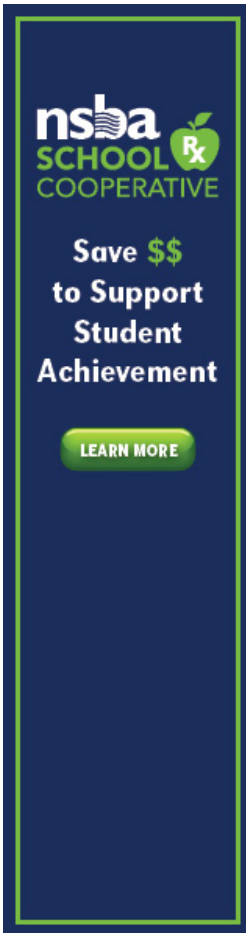
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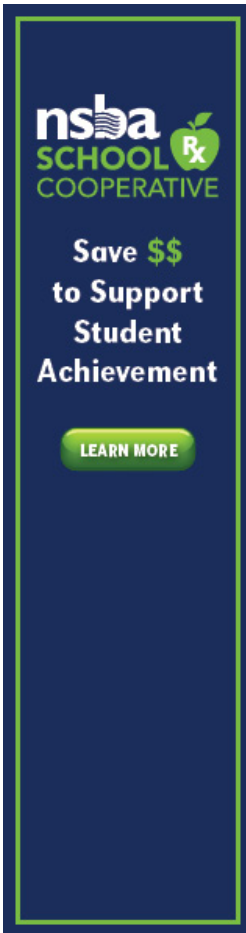
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New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding.

The [New York Times](#) (4/25, Harris, Subscription Publication) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday a \$125 million boost in public school funding, but his statement “was overshadowed by Mr. de Blasio’s suggestion, in response to questions from reporters, that the number of sexual harassment allegations at the education department was inflated because of a ‘hyper complaint dynamic’ at the department.” De Blasio spoke about “what he described as a culture of complaint-filing.” The Times says the school funding boost “was intended to narrow the substantial gaps between how much money schools in the city receive. At the announcement, Mr. de Blasio repeatedly criticized Albany for failing to fund schools sufficiently, and said the city was stepping up where the state was not.”

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/25) reports the funding boost “means that all city schools will soon receive at least 90 percent of the money they are supposed to get under the city’s funding formula.” De Blasio said the supplement “will allow 854 schools to spend more on things like literacy specialists, tutoring, supplies, and technology.” However, Chalkbeat reports, “many schools will still not reach the level the city considers fully funded.” Principals have complained that short of this goal, “the neediest schools will struggle to afford crucial services, such as additional academic programs or after-school classes.”

Missouri Senate, House Pass Rival School Funding Boost Measures.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Ballentine) reports that on Wednesday the Missouri state Senate passed “a budget proposal that would give more money to public K-12 schools in the upcoming fiscal year, but not as much as recommended by their House colleagues.” The Senate plan “would give \$48 million more in core school funding in the fiscal year that begins in July.” The plan passed by the House gives \$50 million more and would meet “funding goals outlined in state law.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Wisconsin AG Urges Districts To Apply For School Security Grants.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, speaking at a school in Madison on Wednesday, “said the state will use \$30 million in grants to ensure that by fall all Wisconsin schools are using a single secure entrance and other basic safeguards.” Schimel “said by mid-June he wants to award the first round of school safety grants, which could go to thousands of public and private schools.” Said Schimel, “We need

to get every school to a baseline. Our hope is that we can get the grant (awards) to schools in time to have construction happen over the summer.”

The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (4/25, Beck) reports Schimel was speaking at St. Dennis School in Madison, which “has a small sign that directs visitors to register at the school office, and not much else. Some of the entryway’s glass is shatterproof, there are security cameras in the front hallway, but nobody’s guarding the door.” The school’s administrators “hope that will change this year through \$100 million in school safety grants lawmakers approved earlier this year.” Schimel “announced the start of the grant application process at the school Wednesday – urging all public and private schools to apply for a grant to ensure students in their buildings have at least ‘baseline’ measures in place to prevent school violence.” The [AP](#) (4/24) reports Schimel “said Wednesday that he’ll work to give a share of new safety grants to every school that applies, but buildings that need basic security upgrades will be a priority.”

Florida Senators Push Bill To Expand Secret Service Threat Center To Prevent School Shootings.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) have introduced legislation “to expand the U.S. Secret Service’s National Threat Assessment Center” as part of an effort to prevent school shootings. Rubio released a statement saying, “To prevent future tragedies like Parkland, a multi-pronged approach is needed to ensure that threats do not fall through the cracks. By providing funding to the National Threat Assessment Center, top-notch research to stop school violence will help prevent future tragedies,” Rubio said in a statement.

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [ED Civil Rights Data Collection Shows Growing Racial Disparities In School Discipline.](#)
- [House Democrats: Efforts To Use Federal Funding For Military School Choice Could Derail NDAA.](#)
- [New Mexico State Lawmakers Criticize School Retention Plan.](#)
- [School Districts Struggle To Use Data For Improvement.](#)
- [Schools Grapple With How To Protect Student Privacy On Facebook.](#)

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Sent Date: Wed, 21 Mar 2018 05:29:12 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Prevents Potential Massacre
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March 21, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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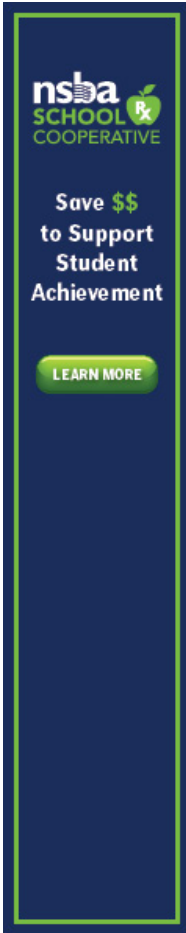
First Lady Hosts White House Cyberbullying Summit.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Superville) reports First Lady Melania Trump hosted executives from major online and social media companies to discuss cyberbullying and Internet safety at the White House on Tuesday. The meeting was expected to be attended by Amazon, Snap, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, as well as the Internet Association.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 8, 1:35, Jackson) was the only major network newscast to report the story last night, indicating that the President is "no stranger to prolific personal attacks online. The New York Times logging a list of the 425 people, places, and things Donald Trump has trashed on Twitter, from allies and enemies to celebrities and corporations. Insults like 'fake' and 'failing' and 'Frankenstein.'" NBC went on to interview Stephen Balkam of the Family Online Safety Institute, and asked him whether it was "mixed messaging" to have the First Lady push "this online philosophy when her husband is practicing a different kind of philosophy online." Said Balkam, "You know what was impressive? She addressed it right up front."

[Politico](#) (3/20, Lima) reports that during the meeting, the First Lady, "wife of one of the most prolific Twitter agitators, acknowledged criticism of her stance against cyberbullying." The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Boyer) quotes the First Lady as saying, "I am well aware that people are skeptical of me discussing the topic. ... I have been criticized for my commitment to tackling this issue, and I know that will continue, but it will not stop me from doing what I know is right." She also said, "I am here with one goal: helping children and our next generation."

Katie Rogers, in a [New York Times](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication) piece titled "Melania Trump Wants to End Online Bullying. Her Husband Doesn't Help," writes that "Mrs. Trump's efforts often clash with the president's longtime habit of using social media to insult people," and adds that "so far, Mrs. Trump is working on this initiative independently of her husband. On Tuesday, President Trump had already attacked Democrats." The [AP](#) (3/20, Superville) also covers this story.



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POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Testifies About Budget, Discusses Safety Commission Before House Panel.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports Education Secretary DeVos was scheduled to go before a House panel Tuesday “to defend her agency’s budget, including a sweeping overhaul of the Education Department that has strained relations within her agency and with Congress — and defies the White House’s budget office.” The Times says that in recent weeks, DeVos has “clashed fiercely with department staff members over the plan, which they say she tried to withhold from Congress as she imposed on the department what they call an illegal collective bargaining agreement.” DeVos will testify today before the House Appropriations Committee, “whose staff was told a week ago that her office had withheld vital information from it regarding the department’s budget for the fiscal year.” According to the Times, the budget request calls for “a 5 percent spending cut, eliminates dozens of programs and pitches a \$1 billion school choice proposal.”

In a subsequent article, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that DeVos fielded

questions about her department's "budget request for the fiscal year that begins in October." While DeVos said, "This budget is about students," Democrats "disagreed that the budget would benefit all students — especially minorities." Rep. Barbara Lee said the budget is a "slap in the face" for minority students and told DeVos, "Your head is in the sand about racial bias and racial discrimination. ... You just don't care about civil rights of black and brown children. This is horrible."

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "faced tough questions from House Democrats on Tuesday on gun control, racial bias and civil rights as she sought to defend funding cuts for her agency." DeVos also "unveiled some details of a federal commission on school safety that she will be chairing. The commission, formed after the Florida high school shooting in which 17 people were killed, will comprise herself as well as the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments." An ED spokesperson "later added that the panel will also involve students, teachers, law enforcement and mental health professionals as experts." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Balingit) reports DeVos "faced sharp criticism Tuesday over her proposed budget, which seeks to eliminate money that schools use to support student mental health — a move that has come under scrutiny following the Florida school shooting." The piece reports members "signaled they would probably reject many of the proposed cuts in DeVos's budget, as they did last year."

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "sparred with House Democrats over the Trump administration's proposed budget's support for private school choice, and its cuts to programs related to civil rights, safety, and after-school." DeVos said the budget plan "would maintain its support for disadvantaged students, while also attempting to ensure greater opportunities for them through a new, \$1 billion school choice program. She also highlighted \$200 million in funds for science, technology, engineering, and math education, made available through the current Education Innovation and Research program, as well as level funding for the Title I program focused on disadvantaged students (\$14.9 billion), as well as for special education (\$12.8 billion)."

[NPR](#) (3/20) reports Republicans on the panel "were more supportive, praising DeVos for her efforts to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy, her support for charter schools and vouchers, and for her stance that states should decide whether teachers should carry guns." DeVos said the budget proposal "has two main goals: first, to make the department more efficient by doing more with less, and, second, to reduce the federal footprint on state and local school reform." Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (3/20, Elis), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20), [CBS News](#) (3/20), [Politico](#) (3/20, Wermund), and the [New York Daily News](#) (3/20).

House Lawmakers Debate Obama-Era School Discipline Guidance.

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports that a House Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on school safety Tuesday that focused largely on "an Obama administration directive with the aim of driving down disproportionately high school discipline rates for black and Latino students." The ED and DOJ joint guidance, issued in 2014, "includes a call for schools to ensure that they are not involving law enforcement in routine disciplinary issues. It also put schools on notice that they may be in violation of civil rights laws if their disciplinary policies lead to disparately high discipline rates for students of color, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent." Republicans on the panel "asked Wednesday whether the accused shooter, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, should have been arrested at Stoneman Douglas when he was a student there." The piece notes that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "has said she is reviewing" the guidance.

Report Aims To Help Michigan Improve Lagging Outcomes.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20, McVicar) discusses "a new report released today by Business Leaders for Michigan" which puts forth "a host of recommendations" on improving "Michigan's lagging educational outcomes" and "details the challenges facing Michigan's K-12 schools." The article says "turning those strategies into real, sustained action"

will be “key” for helping struggling parents and students across the state.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study: Young Children Increasingly See Scientists As Women.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Guarino) reports on a “landmark study” published by social scientist David Chambers in 1983. “During the late 1960s and the 1970s, teachers asked nearly 5,000 children to draw a scientist,” and only 28 of the drawings – all done by girls – featured female scientists. However, this appears to be changing, the Post reports, saying Northwestern University psychology grad student David Miller “and his Northwestern colleagues reviewed 78 draw-a-scientist studies completed after Chamber’s report. After 1980, 3 in 10 students drew women as scientists. Younger children, young girls in particular, were the most likely to sketch female scientists, according to the report published Tuesday in the journal Child Development.” [CNN](#) (3/20, Criss) reports Miller said the shift is “a reflection of both more women in science and more female scientists being represented in the media and popular culture.” [Newsweek](#) (3/20, Hignett) also covers this story.

Michigan Elementary School’s After School Robotic Club Highlighted.

The [Oscoda \(MI\) Press](#) (3/20) reported on Richardson Elementary School’s after school LEGO Robotics Club. Most of the club members who were interviewed “said they wanted to join because they like creating with LEGOs and were interested in learning how to program computers.” Polly Masterson, the club’s instructor, “said robotics club activities all relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components and combining them with problem solving and teamwork is preparing youth for the future.” According to the Oscoda Press, the club’s first LEGO kit was paid by a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) grant.

California Girls Learn STEM Skills In Femineer Program.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (3/20) reports Ramona High School is one of 41 K-12 schools in the country participating in Femineers, a program “created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in their education and career.” The program offers students “project-based learning, female engineering student mentors, and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona.”

California High School Students Rally For Support Ahead Of VEX Robotics Competition.

The [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (3/20) reports members of the robotics team at Armijo High School in California are rallying “for community support as the team returns to the VEX Robotics Competition April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky,” which is expected to attract at least 500 teams from more than 30 countries. The Armijo team launched a GoFundMe campaign in hopes of raising \$5,000; as of Tuesday, the team secured \$1,635. The Daily Republic says many of the Armijo robotics team members “discovered their interest in robotics prior to high school” through Lego Mindstorms. Notably, junior Marc Lejano “has applied to the Air Force Academy in hopes of doing product development when he graduates in 2019.” The Daily Republic notes the team is headed by Dianne Halsey, an engineering teacher who “attended aviation college and worked as an aircraft mechanic.”

Indiana Will Take Two Years To End ISTEP.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, Herron) reports that “it looks like” the ISTEP test in Indiana “will hang around for another two years.” Although state lawmakers adopted legislation “to switch to a college entrance exam,” the final

version of the bill adopted “included a two-year waiting period to move to the new test.”

Duke Study Finds SNAP Assistance Linked To Improved Test Performance.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, Downey) reports on a study released Tuesday by Duke University “relating student performance on tests to when low-income families get” the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The study, which “examined data for 148,000 public school children receiving SNAP,” found that when a family “received their SNAP, benefit influenced test performance.” The article provides detail on the study’s findings.

Portland Press Herald Contributor: Maine Should Repeal Proficiency-based Diploma Law.

Maine State Representative Heidi Sampson argues in a special in the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/20) that “schools across Maine are rushing to implement proficiency-based education in the mistaken belief that it is their only option to comply with the proficiency-based diploma law,” which in fact “does not require that any particular system be used to attain or evaluate proficiency.” Sampson describes the history of the law, arguing that “Maine’s public education system has been manipulated to force an agenda without engaging parents, teachers, and students in the process,” and asserts that current proposals before the legislature “will not suddenly fix the unfixable.” Therefore, “the Legislature should repeal the entire proficiency-based diploma law, which would return the decision-making process to the local school districts.”

Oklahoma State DOE Requests Probe Into Alleged Grades, Attendance Tampering.

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Education issued a news release on Tuesday announcing “that it asked the state Bureau of Investigation for assistance after finding ‘unexpectedly high levels’ of grade changes from October through January” in the Chickasha Public Schools district. The state DOE released a report alleging that “there is evidence of tampering with both grades and attendance records,” although a spokeswoman for the state agency, Deana Silk, said the reasons behind the alleged tampering are unknown. In a news release, state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister stressed the need to investigate the allegations, which she described as “extremely troubling.”

Oklahoma Teachers Could Be Next To Stage Statewide Walkout.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports that the recent statewide walkout by West Virginia teachers over pay “looks like the potential beginning of a red-state rebellion.” In Arizona, teachers have conducted a series of demonstrations demanding higher pay, and in Kentucky, teachers have “organized rallies to protest proposed cuts to their pensions.” In Oklahoma, “where teachers have not had a raise from the state in a decade, they have vowed to go on strike on April 2 if the Legislature does not act to increase pay and education budgets.”

Kentucky Teachers Demonstrate Against Proposed Pension Cuts.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, Yetter) says that “as the debate over Kentucky’s underfunded public pension system rages in Frankfort, Kentucky’s teachers...say it’s important to remind the public that their pensions are critical because they don’t get Social Security most retirees depend on.” That is why those teachers “have flooded the state Capitol in growing numbers.” The article quotes teachers explaining why they oppose the proposed cuts.

Study Finds High Proportion Of Teachers Experiencing Assaults Do Not Report.

[Education Week](#) (3/20, Will) reports on a study published in the journal Social Psychology of Education which surveyed 2,505 K-12 teachers across the country “who had experienced an incident of violence at school.” The study “found that some teachers who were victimized also didn’t tell their family...or their colleagues.” The article cites findings of past research on the effects of teachers experiencing violence at school.

South Carolina Looks To Extend Teacher Retention Program.

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/20, Schechter) says school districts and state agencies in South Carolina “fear the end of” the Teacher Employee Retention Investment (TERI), which will soon expire. On Wednesday, a state Senate Finance panel “will take up a proposal...to head off the feared exodus of veteran educators from S.C. schools.” The article provides detail on the views of those apprehensive about the end of the program.

OPERATIONS

Baltimore School Board Votes Not To Allow Extra Vacation Days.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20, Bowie) reports that the Maryland State School Board voted Tuesday against allowing the city of Baltimore “to have one fewer school day than the 180 required by law.” Although “some board members chastised the city for not planning ahead and building fewer vacation days into its calendar” due to snowstorms, state school board members “were unconvinced.” Baltimore schools CEO Sonja Santelises wrote in a letter to state School Superintendent Karen Salmon that opening on certain holidays, as some have advocated, would result in “understaffed buildings and an increase in the budget for substitute teachers.”

Baltimore Sun: BCPS Can No Longer Be Trusted.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/19) editorializes that “the curtain has been drawn back exposing a web of deceit” by Baltimore County Public Schools, after an unqualified superintendent was allowed to serve and did not follow the Maryland State Department of Education’s mission or properly pilot the STAT program, among other concerns. The editors write, “We need and deserve a full-fledged independent audit,” not the audit BCPS is now proposing “that is limited in scope” and “mostly cherry picks contracts that were bid out rather than focusing on the no-bid variety.” The editors argue that such “bad governance is criminal.”

Four New Members Join Richmond Superintendent’s Cabinet.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Mattingly) reports that the Richmond School Board on Monday night approved the hiring of four members of Superintendent Jason Kamras’ cabinet. The article provides detail on the new cabinet members and the work they will have before them when they assume their positions.

DIGITAL LEARNING

School Officials Urged To Use Educational Data To Improve Districts.

[Education Week](#) (3/21) reports on the push to use educational data to help improve school districts. Experts claim the current education system’s data infrastructure, “built in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Law and focused primarily on holding schools accountable, looms as a significant barrier.” Educational data experts say schools should focus on implementing improvement strategies “more methodically, but learning much more about them as they happen.” The ideal process would “entail identifying the problem schools want to fix; developing a

theory about how to improve it; and then helping the people closest to the problem...to develop measures of day-to-day progress that are aligned to that theory.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Eastern Kentucky Teachers Plan Protest Over Proposed Pension Plan Changes.

“More than a half-dozen school districts in eastern Kentucky postponed classes Wednesday to enable teachers and staff to attend” a rally at the state Capitol “in support of education funding” and against proposed pension plan changes, the [AP](#) (3/20) reports. Gov. Matt Bevin is attempting to “revive a stalled bill to overhaul the state’s public pension plans,” and his “sales pitch angered many teachers, who bristled at his recent remark that teachers opposing pension changes were ‘ignorant’ and ‘throwing a temper tantrum.’” Hundreds of educators rallied earlier this month “as the GOP-led Senate decided not to vote on the pension bill,” and Wednesday’s event “could be bigger, if a late-season storm” does not interfere. The AP says the “showdown” comes “amid growing unrest among public educators nationwide, led by thousands of West Virginia teachers who walked off the job and swarmed their Capitol for nine days earlier this year to secure a 5 percent pay raise.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Prevents Potential Massacre.

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Bacon) reports that a gunman “opened fire Tuesday at a high school in southern Maryland, injuring two students before an armed school resources officer intervened, authorities said.”

All three networks covered the story. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Haake) reported that “police say 17-year-old Austin Wyatt Rollins fired a handgun at 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey,” with whom “police believe” he “had a prior relationship.” A 14-year-old boy was also shot. However, “within seconds, the school’s only resource officer engaged the shooter. The teen and SWAT-trained officer fired their weapons almost simultaneously. The entire incident over in less than a minute with Rollins dead and the officer, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, hailed as a hero.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:00, Glor) showed Tim Cameron, the St. Mary’s County Sheriff, saying, “No question that his actions, his quick and immediate actions potentially saved a great number of lives.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:50, Moton) said the shooting “comes during a national call to action to make schools safer, and days before thousands are expected in Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives rally, in response to the Parkland, Florida school massacre.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Hedgpeth) reports two other students – a male and a female – were injured in the shooting in a hallway at Great Mills High School. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (3/20) reports the injured female student “is in critical condition,” and the male student is “in stable condition.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Persons) reports that Sheriff Cameron “identified Austin Wyatt Rollins as the shooter at Great Mills High School.” Cameron “said Rollins died after Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a school resource officer and a member of the SWAT team, fired at him.” The Times adds, “agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined deputies at Great Mills High School as students endured a lengthy lockdown, cowering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cochrane, Bidgood, Subscription Publication) reports that “the shooting here comes amid renewed urgency in the nation’s debate over gun control, with demonstrators around the country planning a nationwide march this weekend,” and “it is likely to draw further attention to the role of armed personnel in schools,

which has been widely discussed after surveillance video showed that a sheriff's deputy posted at the school in Parkland did not go inside a building to engage the gunman during that shooting, an apparent violation of protocol."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Barakat, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) "said at a minimum, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism." Maryland's Senate "joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon," and "teachers' union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe." Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "accused the Democrat-led legislature of failing to take action on 'one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country.'" Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (3/20), the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20), [The Seventy Four](#) (3/20), and [Politico](#) (3/20, Hefling, Leonor).

Tennessee Governor Makes Proposal For School Safety.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, Ebert, Gonzales) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam "recommended Tuesday spending \$30 million to help improve school safety." Haslam's recommendations included \$25 million "in one-time, nonrecurring funds, and an additional \$5.2 million he said would be dedicated to recurring school safety grants."

According to the [AP](#) (3/20, Mattise), the Administration says the governor's proposal "will be spread among mental health, law enforcement safety, and education." The article quotes Haslam as saying in regards to what exactly will be funded: "I think it's open, everything from school resource officers, to physical improvements in the schools, to video monitors, to better alert notifications to law enforcement, but also for students to be able to notify people that, hey, there's somebody that's of concern here." The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (3/20) provides similar coverage.

House Advances Legislation To Arm Teachers. The [Tennessean](#) (3/20, Gonzales) reports that a House Bill "to arm some Tennessee teachers" passed the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday "on an 8-3 vote," and "will next move to a House education committee for consideration." The bill, which "would give school boards and school directors the power to adopt a policy allowing select school staff to carry a concealed firearm on school property," will "next move to a House education committee for consideration."

Stoneman Douglas Removes Three Students, State Increases School Entry Guards.

[WPLG-TV](#) Miami (3/20, Torres) reports that the sheriff's office in Broward County, Florida "removed three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Tuesday." The article says two of the students "were arrested for bringing weapons to school and a third was hospitalized over concerning posts on social media." Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to Sheriff Scott Israel and to Superintendent Robert Runcie in response, "offering help from the Florida Highway Patrol at the school's security entry;" Israel said late Tuesday that "he would accept the governor's offer."

Kentucky Students Gather At State Capitol To Call For Student Safety.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, McLaren) reports that "about 150 Kentucky students converged Tuesday evening on the State Capitol to fight for student safety." The students were taking part in a rally "organized by the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team." The article adds that "earlier in the day, about 100 students from around the commonwealth held a "teach-in" at the Capitol annex building."

Wisconsin State Senate Passes \$100 Million School Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/20) reports the Wisconsin state Senate, in a 28-4 vote on Tuesday, approved Gov. Scott Walker's school safety package, sending the measure "to the Assembly for potential action as soon as

Thursday.” The Journal Sentinel notes that the state Senate approved the school safety package “just hours after a student gunman in Maryland opened fire at a school, wounding two students and dying after an exchange of shots with a police officer at the school.” While the vote was bipartisan, the floor debate over the bill, which would allocate “\$100 million to improve school safety,” was “sharply divided, with Democrats saying the bill didn’t go far enough.” Republican state senators ultimately “rejected Democratic efforts” to strengthen gun control laws, and they also dropped “a Walker-backed requirement that parents be notified about cases of bullying within 48 hours.”

Noting that the state Senate version of the school safety package “closely mirrored Walker’s proposals,” the [AP](#) (3/20) reports that the version removed specific “references to the money being able to pay for armed guards, which was included in Walker’s bill.” The state Senate version also omitted “a provision allowing schools to share surveillance footage with law enforcement.” Meanwhile, Democratic state lawmakers “and other advocates have said Walker’s proposal doesn’t get to the root of the problem – increasing gun control.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

Denver Parents Concerned Budget Reorganization Will Disrupt Students With Special Needs.

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#) (3/20) reports Denver parents of students with special needs expressed concern that an “impending reorganization of the school district’s special education department” will result in cuts in the number of special education teachers and paraprofessionals. District officials “insist the reorganization does not cut paraprofessional or teacher support,” and that the reorganization “meant to increase the number of adults working inside schools – a change they said will benefit all students, not just those with special needs.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED’s Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.](#)
- [Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.](#)
- [New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.](#)
- [Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.](#)

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March 21, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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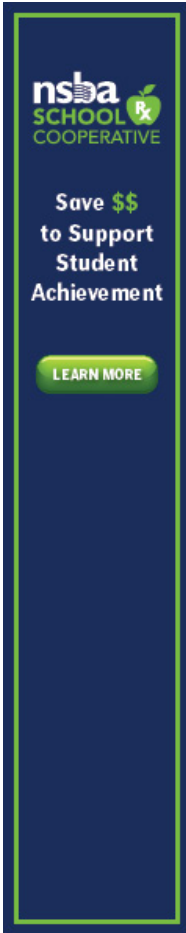
First Lady Hosts White House Cyberbullying Summit.

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POLITICS & POLICY

DeVos Testifies About Budget, Discusses Safety Commission Before House Panel.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports Education Secretary DeVos was scheduled to go before a House panel Tuesday “to defend her agency’s budget, including a sweeping overhaul of the Education Department that has strained relations within her agency and with Congress — and defies the White House’s budget office.” The Times says that in recent weeks, DeVos has “clashed fiercely with department staff members over the plan, which they say she tried to withhold from Congress as she imposed on the department what they call an illegal collective bargaining agreement.” DeVos will testify today before the House Appropriations Committee, “whose staff was told a week ago that her office had withheld vital information from it regarding the department’s budget for the fiscal year.” According to the Times, the budget request calls for “a 5 percent spending cut, eliminates dozens of programs and pitches a \$1 billion school choice proposal.”

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questions about her department's "budget request for the fiscal year that begins in October." While DeVos said, "This budget is about students," Democrats "disagreed that the budget would benefit all students — especially minorities." Rep. Barbara Lee said the budget is a "slap in the face" for minority students and told DeVos, "Your head is in the sand about racial bias and racial discrimination. ... You just don't care about civil rights of black and brown children. This is horrible."

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "faced tough questions from House Democrats on Tuesday on gun control, racial bias and civil rights as she sought to defend funding cuts for her agency." DeVos also "unveiled some details of a federal commission on school safety that she will be chairing. The commission, formed after the Florida high school shooting in which 17 people were killed, will comprise herself as well as the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments." An ED spokesperson "later added that the panel will also involve students, teachers, law enforcement and mental health professionals as experts." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Balingit) reports DeVos "faced sharp criticism Tuesday over her proposed budget, which seeks to eliminate money that schools use to support student mental health — a move that has come under scrutiny following the Florida school shooting." The piece reports members "signaled they would probably reject many of the proposed cuts in DeVos's budget, as they did last year."

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "sparred with House Democrats over the Trump administration's proposed budget's support for private school choice, and its cuts to programs related to civil rights, safety, and after-school." DeVos said the budget plan "would maintain its support for disadvantaged students, while also attempting to ensure greater opportunities for them through a new, \$1 billion school choice program. She also highlighted \$200 million in funds for science, technology, engineering, and math education, made available through the current Education Innovation and Research program, as well as level funding for the Title I program focused on disadvantaged students (\$14.9 billion), as well as for special education (\$12.8 billion)."

[NPR](#) (3/20) reports Republicans on the panel "were more supportive, praising DeVos for her efforts to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy, her support for charter schools and vouchers, and for her stance that states should decide whether teachers should carry guns." DeVos said the budget proposal "has two main goals: first, to make the department more efficient by doing more with less, and, second, to reduce the federal footprint on state and local school reform." Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (3/20, Elis), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20), [CBS News](#) (3/20), [Politico](#) (3/20, Wermund), and the [New York Daily News](#) (3/20).

House Lawmakers Debate Obama-Era School Discipline Guidance.

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports that a House Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on school safety Tuesday that focused largely on "an Obama administration directive with the aim of driving down disproportionately high school discipline rates for black and Latino students." The ED and DOJ joint guidance, issued in 2014, "includes a call for schools to ensure that they are not involving law enforcement in routine disciplinary issues. It also put schools on notice that they may be in violation of civil rights laws if their disciplinary policies lead to disparately high discipline rates for students of color, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent." Republicans on the panel "asked Wednesday whether the accused shooter, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, should have been arrested at Stoneman Douglas when he was a student there." The piece notes that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "has said she is reviewing" the guidance.

Report Aims To Help Michigan Improve Lagging Outcomes.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20, McVicar) discusses "a new report released today by Business Leaders for Michigan" which puts forth "a host of recommendations" on improving "Michigan's lagging educational outcomes" and "details the challenges facing Michigan's K-12 schools." The article says "turning those strategies into real, sustained action"

will be “key” for helping struggling parents and students across the state.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study: Young Children Increasingly See Scientists As Women.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Guarino) reports on a “landmark study” published by social scientist David Chambers in 1983. “During the late 1960s and the 1970s, teachers asked nearly 5,000 children to draw a scientist,” and only 28 of the drawings – all done by girls – featured female scientists. However, this appears to be changing, the Post reports, saying Northwestern University psychology grad student David Miller “and his Northwestern colleagues reviewed 78 draw-a-scientist studies completed after Chamber’s report. After 1980, 3 in 10 students drew women as scientists. Younger children, young girls in particular, were the most likely to sketch female scientists, according to the report published Tuesday in the journal Child Development.” [CNN](#) (3/20, Criss) reports Miller said the shift is “a reflection of both more women in science and more female scientists being represented in the media and popular culture.” [Newsweek](#) (3/20, Hignett) also covers this story.

Michigan Elementary School’s After School Robotic Club Highlighted.

The [Oscoda \(MI\) Press](#) (3/20) reported on Richardson Elementary School’s after school LEGO Robotics Club. Most of the club members who were interviewed “said they wanted to join because they like creating with LEGOs and were interested in learning how to program computers.” Polly Masterson, the club’s instructor, “said robotics club activities all relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components and combining them with problem solving and teamwork is preparing youth for the future.” According to the Oscoda Press, the club’s first LEGO kit was paid by a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) grant.

California Girls Learn STEM Skills In Femineer Program.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (3/20) reports Ramona High School is one of 41 K-12 schools in the country participating in Femineers, a program “created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in their education and career.” The program offers students “project-based learning, female engineering student mentors, and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona.”

California High School Students Rally For Support Ahead Of VEX Robotics Competition.

The [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (3/20) reports members of the robotics team at Armijo High School in California are rallying “for community support as the team returns to the VEX Robotics Competition April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky,” which is expected to attract at least 500 teams from more than 30 countries. The Armijo team launched a GoFundMe campaign in hopes of raising \$5,000; as of Tuesday, the team secured \$1,635. The Daily Republic says many of the Armijo robotics team members “discovered their interest in robotics prior to high school” through Lego Mindstorms. Notably, junior Marc Lejano “has applied to the Air Force Academy in hopes of doing product development when he graduates in 2019.” The Daily Republic notes the team is headed by Dianne Halsey, an engineering teacher who “attended aviation college and worked as an aircraft mechanic.”

Indiana Will Take Two Years To End ISTEP.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, Herron) reports that “it looks like” the ISTEP test in Indiana “will hang around for another two years.” Although state lawmakers adopted legislation “to switch to a college entrance exam,” the final

version of the bill adopted “included a two-year waiting period to move to the new test.”

Duke Study Finds SNAP Assistance Linked To Improved Test Performance.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, Downey) reports on a study released Tuesday by Duke University “relating student performance on tests to when low-income families get” the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The study, which “examined data for 148,000 public school children receiving SNAP,” found that when a family “received their SNAP, benefit influenced test performance.” The article provides detail on the study’s findings.

Portland Press Herald Contributor: Maine Should Repeal Proficiency-based Diploma Law.

Maine State Representative Heidi Sampson argues in a special in the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/20) that “schools across Maine are rushing to implement proficiency-based education in the mistaken belief that it is their only option to comply with the proficiency-based diploma law,” which in fact “does not require that any particular system be used to attain or evaluate proficiency.” Sampson describes the history of the law, arguing that “Maine’s public education system has been manipulated to force an agenda without engaging parents, teachers, and students in the process,” and asserts that current proposals before the legislature “will not suddenly fix the unfixable.” Therefore, “the Legislature should repeal the entire proficiency-based diploma law, which would return the decision-making process to the local school districts.”

Oklahoma State DOE Requests Probe Into Alleged Grades, Attendance Tampering.

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Education issued a news release on Tuesday announcing “that it asked the state Bureau of Investigation for assistance after finding ‘unexpectedly high levels’ of grade changes from October through January” in the Chickasha Public Schools district. The state DOE released a report alleging that “there is evidence of tampering with both grades and attendance records,” although a spokeswoman for the state agency, Deana Silk, said the reasons behind the alleged tampering are unknown. In a news release, state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister stressed the need to investigate the allegations, which she described as “extremely troubling.”

Oklahoma Teachers Could Be Next To Stage Statewide Walkout.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports that the recent statewide walkout by West Virginia teachers over pay “looks like the potential beginning of a red-state rebellion.” In Arizona, teachers have conducted a series of demonstrations demanding higher pay, and in Kentucky, teachers have “organized rallies to protest proposed cuts to their pensions.” In Oklahoma, “where teachers have not had a raise from the state in a decade, they have vowed to go on strike on April 2 if the Legislature does not act to increase pay and education budgets.”

Kentucky Teachers Demonstrate Against Proposed Pension Cuts.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, Yetter) says that “as the debate over Kentucky’s underfunded public pension system rages in Frankfort, Kentucky’s teachers...say it’s important to remind the public that their pensions are critical because they don’t get Social Security most retirees depend on.” That is why those teachers “have flooded the state Capitol in growing numbers.” The article quotes teachers explaining why they oppose the proposed cuts.

Study Finds High Proportion Of Teachers Experiencing Assaults Do Not Report.

[Education Week](#) (3/20, Will) reports on a study published in the journal Social Psychology of Education which surveyed 2,505 K-12 teachers across the country “who had experienced an incident of violence at school.” The study “found that some teachers who were victimized also didn’t tell their family...or their colleagues.” The article cites findings of past research on the effects of teachers experiencing violence at school.

South Carolina Looks To Extend Teacher Retention Program.

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/20, Schechter) says school districts and state agencies in South Carolina “fear the end of” the Teacher Employee Retention Investment (TERI), which will soon expire. On Wednesday, a state Senate Finance panel “will take up a proposal...to head off the feared exodus of veteran educators from S.C. schools.” The article provides detail on the views of those apprehensive about the end of the program.

OPERATIONS

Baltimore School Board Votes Not To Allow Extra Vacation Days.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20, Bowie) reports that the Maryland State School Board voted Tuesday against allowing the city of Baltimore “to have one fewer school day than the 180 required by law.” Although “some board members chastised the city for not planning ahead and building fewer vacation days into its calendar” due to snowstorms, state school board members “were unconvinced.” Baltimore schools CEO Sonja Santelises wrote in a letter to state School Superintendent Karen Salmon that opening on certain holidays, as some have advocated, would result in “understaffed buildings and an increase in the budget for substitute teachers.”

Baltimore Sun: BCPS Can No Longer Be Trusted.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/19) editorializes that “the curtain has been drawn back exposing a web of deceit” by Baltimore County Public Schools, after an unqualified superintendent was allowed to serve and did not follow the Maryland State Department of Education’s mission or properly pilot the STAT program, among other concerns. The editors write, “We need and deserve a full-fledged independent audit,” not the audit BCPS is now proposing “that is limited in scope” and “mostly cherry picks contracts that were bid out rather than focusing on the no-bid variety.” The editors argue that such “bad governance is criminal.”

Four New Members Join Richmond Superintendent’s Cabinet.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Mattingly) reports that the Richmond School Board on Monday night approved the hiring of four members of Superintendent Jason Kamras’ cabinet. The article provides detail on the new cabinet members and the work they will have before them when they assume their positions.

DIGITAL LEARNING

School Officials Urged To Use Educational Data To Improve Districts.

[Education Week](#) (3/21) reports on the push to use educational data to help improve school districts. Experts claim the current education system’s data infrastructure, “built in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Law and focused primarily on holding schools accountable, looms as a significant barrier.” Educational data experts say schools should focus on implementing improvement strategies “more methodically, but learning much more about them as they happen.” The ideal process would “entail identifying the problem schools want to fix; developing a

theory about how to improve it; and then helping the people closest to the problem...to develop measures of day-to-day progress that are aligned to that theory.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Eastern Kentucky Teachers Plan Protest Over Proposed Pension Plan Changes.

“More than a half-dozen school districts in eastern Kentucky postponed classes Wednesday to enable teachers and staff to attend” a rally at the state Capitol “in support of education funding” and against proposed pension plan changes, the [AP](#) (3/20) reports. Gov. Matt Bevin is attempting to “revive a stalled bill to overhaul the state’s public pension plans,” and his “sales pitch angered many teachers, who bristled at his recent remark that teachers opposing pension changes were ‘ignorant’ and ‘throwing a temper tantrum.’” Hundreds of educators rallied earlier this month “as the GOP-led Senate decided not to vote on the pension bill,” and Wednesday’s event “could be bigger, if a late-season storm” does not interfere. The AP says the “showdown” comes “amid growing unrest among public educators nationwide, led by thousands of West Virginia teachers who walked off the job and swarmed their Capitol for nine days earlier this year to secure a 5 percent pay raise.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Prevents Potential Massacre.

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Bacon) reports that a gunman “opened fire Tuesday at a high school in southern Maryland, injuring two students before an armed school resources officer intervened, authorities said.”

All three networks covered the story. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Haake) reported that “police say 17-year-old Austin Wyatt Rollins fired a handgun at 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey,” with whom “police believe” he “had a prior relationship.” A 14-year-old boy was also shot. However, “within seconds, the school’s only resource officer engaged the shooter. The teen and SWAT-trained officer fired their weapons almost simultaneously. The entire incident over in less than a minute with Rollins dead and the officer, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, hailed as a hero.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:00, Glor) showed Tim Cameron, the St. Mary’s County Sheriff, saying, “No question that his actions, his quick and immediate actions potentially saved a great number of lives.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:50, Moton) said the shooting “comes during a national call to action to make schools safer, and days before thousands are expected in Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives rally, in response to the Parkland, Florida school massacre.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Hedgpeth) reports two other students – a male and a female – were injured in the shooting in a hallway at Great Mills High School. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (3/20) reports the injured female student “is in critical condition,” and the male student is “in stable condition.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Persons) reports that Sheriff Cameron “identified Austin Wyatt Rollins as the shooter at Great Mills High School.” Cameron “said Rollins died after Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a school resource officer and a member of the SWAT team, fired at him.” The Times adds, “agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined deputies at Great Mills High School as students endured a lengthy lockdown, cowering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cochrane, Bidgood, Subscription Publication) reports that “the shooting here comes amid renewed urgency in the nation’s debate over gun control, with demonstrators around the country planning a nationwide march this weekend,” and “it is likely to draw further attention to the role of armed personnel in schools,

which has been widely discussed after surveillance video showed that a sheriff's deputy posted at the school in Parkland did not go inside a building to engage the gunman during that shooting, an apparent violation of protocol."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Barakat, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) "said at a minimum, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism." Maryland's Senate "joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon," and "teachers' union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe." Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "accused the Democrat-led legislature of failing to take action on 'one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country.'" Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (3/20), the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20), [The Seventy Four](#) (3/20), and [Politico](#) (3/20, Hefling, Leonor).

Tennessee Governor Makes Proposal For School Safety.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, Ebert, Gonzales) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam "recommended Tuesday spending \$30 million to help improve school safety." Haslam's recommendations included \$25 million "in one-time, nonrecurring funds, and an additional \$5.2 million he said would be dedicated to recurring school safety grants."

According to the [AP](#) (3/20, Mattise), the Administration says the governor's proposal "will be spread among mental health, law enforcement safety, and education." The article quotes Haslam as saying in regards to what exactly will be funded: "I think it's open, everything from school resource officers, to physical improvements in the schools, to video monitors, to better alert notifications to law enforcement, but also for students to be able to notify people that, hey, there's somebody that's of concern here." The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (3/20) provides similar coverage.

House Advances Legislation To Arm Teachers. The [Tennessean](#) (3/20, Gonzales) reports that a House Bill "to arm some Tennessee teachers" passed the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday "on an 8-3 vote," and "will next move to a House education committee for consideration." The bill, which "would give school boards and school directors the power to adopt a policy allowing select school staff to carry a concealed firearm on school property," will "next move to a House education committee for consideration."

Stoneman Douglas Removes Three Students, State Increases School Entry Guards.

[WPLG-TV](#) Miami (3/20, Torres) reports that the sheriff's office in Broward County, Florida "removed three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Tuesday." The article says two of the students "were arrested for bringing weapons to school and a third was hospitalized over concerning posts on social media." Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to Sheriff Scott Israel and to Superintendent Robert Runcie in response, "offering help from the Florida Highway Patrol at the school's security entry;" Israel said late Tuesday that "he would accept the governor's offer."

Kentucky Students Gather At State Capitol To Call For Student Safety.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, McLaren) reports that "about 150 Kentucky students converged Tuesday evening on the State Capitol to fight for student safety." The students were taking part in a rally "organized by the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team." The article adds that "earlier in the day, about 100 students from around the commonwealth held a "teach-in" at the Capitol annex building."

Wisconsin State Senate Passes \$100 Million School Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/20) reports the Wisconsin state Senate, in a 28-4 vote on Tuesday, approved Gov. Scott Walker's school safety package, sending the measure "to the Assembly for potential action as soon as

Thursday.” The Journal Sentinel notes that the state Senate approved the school safety package “just hours after a student gunman in Maryland opened fire at a school, wounding two students and dying after an exchange of shots with a police officer at the school.” While the vote was bipartisan, the floor debate over the bill, which would allocate “\$100 million to improve school safety,” was “sharply divided, with Democrats saying the bill didn’t go far enough.” Republican state senators ultimately “rejected Democratic efforts” to strengthen gun control laws, and they also dropped “a Walker-backed requirement that parents be notified about cases of bullying within 48 hours.”

Noting that the state Senate version of the school safety package “closely mirrored Walker’s proposals,” the [AP](#) (3/20) reports that the version removed specific “references to the money being able to pay for armed guards, which was included in Walker’s bill.” The state Senate version also omitted “a provision allowing schools to share surveillance footage with law enforcement.” Meanwhile, Democratic state lawmakers “and other advocates have said Walker’s proposal doesn’t get to the root of the problem – increasing gun control.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

Denver Parents Concerned Budget Reorganization Will Disrupt Students With Special Needs.

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#) (3/20) reports Denver parents of students with special needs expressed concern that an “impending reorganization of the school district’s special education department” will result in cuts in the number of special education teachers and paraprofessionals. District officials “insist the reorganization does not cut paraprofessional or teacher support,” and that the reorganization “meant to increase the number of adults working inside schools – a change they said will benefit all students, not just those with special needs.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED’s Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.](#)
- [Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.](#)
- [New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.](#)
- [Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.](#)

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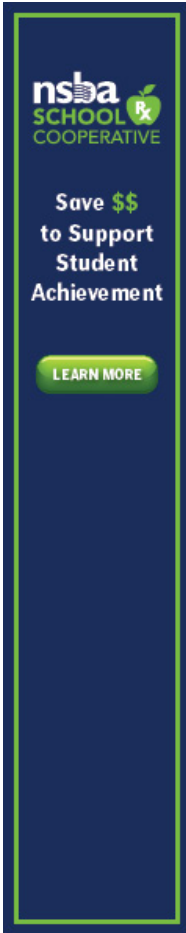
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POLITICS & POLICY

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In a subsequent article, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that DeVos fielded

questions about her department's "budget request for the fiscal year that begins in October." While DeVos said, "This budget is about students," Democrats "disagreed that the budget would benefit all students — especially minorities." Rep. Barbara Lee said the budget is a "slap in the face" for minority students and told DeVos, "Your head is in the sand about racial bias and racial discrimination. ... You just don't care about civil rights of black and brown children. This is horrible."

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "faced tough questions from House Democrats on Tuesday on gun control, racial bias and civil rights as she sought to defend funding cuts for her agency." DeVos also "unveiled some details of a federal commission on school safety that she will be chairing. The commission, formed after the Florida high school shooting in which 17 people were killed, will comprise herself as well as the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments." An ED spokesperson "later added that the panel will also involve students, teachers, law enforcement and mental health professionals as experts." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Balingit) reports DeVos "faced sharp criticism Tuesday over her proposed budget, which seeks to eliminate money that schools use to support student mental health — a move that has come under scrutiny following the Florida school shooting." The piece reports members "signaled they would probably reject many of the proposed cuts in DeVos's budget, as they did last year."

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports DeVos "sparred with House Democrats over the Trump administration's proposed budget's support for private school choice, and its cuts to programs related to civil rights, safety, and after-school." DeVos said the budget plan "would maintain its support for disadvantaged students, while also attempting to ensure greater opportunities for them through a new, \$1 billion school choice program. She also highlighted \$200 million in funds for science, technology, engineering, and math education, made available through the current Education Innovation and Research program, as well as level funding for the Title I program focused on disadvantaged students (\$14.9 billion), as well as for special education (\$12.8 billion)."

[NPR](#) (3/20) reports Republicans on the panel "were more supportive, praising DeVos for her efforts to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy, her support for charter schools and vouchers, and for her stance that states should decide whether teachers should carry guns." DeVos said the budget proposal "has two main goals: first, to make the department more efficient by doing more with less, and, second, to reduce the federal footprint on state and local school reform." Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (3/20, Elis), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20), [CBS News](#) (3/20), [Politico](#) (3/20, Wermund), and the [New York Daily News](#) (3/20).

House Lawmakers Debate Obama-Era School Discipline Guidance.

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports that a House Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on school safety Tuesday that focused largely on "an Obama administration directive with the aim of driving down disproportionately high school discipline rates for black and Latino students." The ED and DOJ joint guidance, issued in 2014, "includes a call for schools to ensure that they are not involving law enforcement in routine disciplinary issues. It also put schools on notice that they may be in violation of civil rights laws if their disciplinary policies lead to disparately high discipline rates for students of color, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent." Republicans on the panel "asked Wednesday whether the accused shooter, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, should have been arrested at Stoneman Douglas when he was a student there." The piece notes that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "has said she is reviewing" the guidance.

Report Aims To Help Michigan Improve Lagging Outcomes.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20, McVicar) discusses "a new report released today by Business Leaders for Michigan" which puts forth "a host of recommendations" on improving "Michigan's lagging educational outcomes" and "details the challenges facing Michigan's K-12 schools." The article says "turning those strategies into real, sustained action"

will be “key” for helping struggling parents and students across the state.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Study: Young Children Increasingly See Scientists As Women.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Guarino) reports on a “landmark study” published by social scientist David Chambers in 1983. “During the late 1960s and the 1970s, teachers asked nearly 5,000 children to draw a scientist,” and only 28 of the drawings – all done by girls – featured female scientists. However, this appears to be changing, the Post reports, saying Northwestern University psychology grad student David Miller “and his Northwestern colleagues reviewed 78 draw-a-scientist studies completed after Chamber’s report. After 1980, 3 in 10 students drew women as scientists. Younger children, young girls in particular, were the most likely to sketch female scientists, according to the report published Tuesday in the journal Child Development.” [CNN](#) (3/20, Criss) reports Miller said the shift is “a reflection of both more women in science and more female scientists being represented in the media and popular culture.” [Newsweek](#) (3/20, Hignett) also covers this story.

Michigan Elementary School’s After School Robotic Club Highlighted.

The [Oscoda \(MI\) Press](#) (3/20) reported on Richardson Elementary School’s after school LEGO Robotics Club. Most of the club members who were interviewed “said they wanted to join because they like creating with LEGOs and were interested in learning how to program computers.” Polly Masterson, the club’s instructor, “said robotics club activities all relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components and combining them with problem solving and teamwork is preparing youth for the future.” According to the Oscoda Press, the club’s first LEGO kit was paid by a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) grant.

California Girls Learn STEM Skills In Femineer Program.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (3/20) reports Ramona High School is one of 41 K-12 schools in the country participating in Femineers, a program “created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in their education and career.” The program offers students “project-based learning, female engineering student mentors, and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona.”

California High School Students Rally For Support Ahead Of VEX Robotics Competition.

The [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (3/20) reports members of the robotics team at Armijo High School in California are rallying “for community support as the team returns to the VEX Robotics Competition April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky,” which is expected to attract at least 500 teams from more than 30 countries. The Armijo team launched a GoFundMe campaign in hopes of raising \$5,000; as of Tuesday, the team secured \$1,635. The Daily Republic says many of the Armijo robotics team members “discovered their interest in robotics prior to high school” through Lego Mindstorms. Notably, junior Marc Lejano “has applied to the Air Force Academy in hopes of doing product development when he graduates in 2019.” The Daily Republic notes the team is headed by Dianne Halsey, an engineering teacher who “attended aviation college and worked as an aircraft mechanic.”

Indiana Will Take Two Years To End ISTEP.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, Herron) reports that “it looks like” the ISTEP test in Indiana “will hang around for another two years.” Although state lawmakers adopted legislation “to switch to a college entrance exam,” the final

version of the bill adopted “included a two-year waiting period to move to the new test.”

Duke Study Finds SNAP Assistance Linked To Improved Test Performance.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, Downey) reports on a study released Tuesday by Duke University “relating student performance on tests to when low-income families get” the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The study, which “examined data for 148,000 public school children receiving SNAP,” found that when a family “received their SNAP, benefit influenced test performance.” The article provides detail on the study’s findings.

Portland Press Herald Contributor: Maine Should Repeal Proficiency-based Diploma Law.

Maine State Representative Heidi Sampson argues in a special in the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/20) that “schools across Maine are rushing to implement proficiency-based education in the mistaken belief that it is their only option to comply with the proficiency-based diploma law,” which in fact “does not require that any particular system be used to attain or evaluate proficiency.” Sampson describes the history of the law, arguing that “Maine’s public education system has been manipulated to force an agenda without engaging parents, teachers, and students in the process,” and asserts that current proposals before the legislature “will not suddenly fix the unfixable.” Therefore, “the Legislature should repeal the entire proficiency-based diploma law, which would return the decision-making process to the local school districts.”

Oklahoma State DOE Requests Probe Into Alleged Grades, Attendance Tampering.

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Education issued a news release on Tuesday announcing “that it asked the state Bureau of Investigation for assistance after finding ‘unexpectedly high levels’ of grade changes from October through January” in the Chickasha Public Schools district. The state DOE released a report alleging that “there is evidence of tampering with both grades and attendance records,” although a spokeswoman for the state agency, Deana Silk, said the reasons behind the alleged tampering are unknown. In a news release, state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister stressed the need to investigate the allegations, which she described as “extremely troubling.”

Oklahoma Teachers Could Be Next To Stage Statewide Walkout.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports that the recent statewide walkout by West Virginia teachers over pay “looks like the potential beginning of a red-state rebellion.” In Arizona, teachers have conducted a series of demonstrations demanding higher pay, and in Kentucky, teachers have “organized rallies to protest proposed cuts to their pensions.” In Oklahoma, “where teachers have not had a raise from the state in a decade, they have vowed to go on strike on April 2 if the Legislature does not act to increase pay and education budgets.”

Kentucky Teachers Demonstrate Against Proposed Pension Cuts.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, Yetter) says that “as the debate over Kentucky’s underfunded public pension system rages in Frankfort, Kentucky’s teachers...say it’s important to remind the public that their pensions are critical because they don’t get Social Security most retirees depend on.” That is why those teachers “have flooded the state Capitol in growing numbers.” The article quotes teachers explaining why they oppose the proposed cuts.

Study Finds High Proportion Of Teachers Experiencing Assaults Do Not Report.

[Education Week](#) (3/20, Will) reports on a study published in the journal Social Psychology of Education which surveyed 2,505 K-12 teachers across the country “who had experienced an incident of violence at school.” The study “found that some teachers who were victimized also didn’t tell their family...or their colleagues.” The article cites findings of past research on the effects of teachers experiencing violence at school.

South Carolina Looks To Extend Teacher Retention Program.

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/20, Schechter) says school districts and state agencies in South Carolina “fear the end of” the Teacher Employee Retention Investment (TERI), which will soon expire. On Wednesday, a state Senate Finance panel “will take up a proposal...to head off the feared exodus of veteran educators from S.C. schools.” The article provides detail on the views of those apprehensive about the end of the program.

OPERATIONS

Baltimore School Board Votes Not To Allow Extra Vacation Days.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20, Bowie) reports that the Maryland State School Board voted Tuesday against allowing the city of Baltimore “to have one fewer school day than the 180 required by law.” Although “some board members chastised the city for not planning ahead and building fewer vacation days into its calendar” due to snowstorms, state school board members “were unconvinced.” Baltimore schools CEO Sonja Santelises wrote in a letter to state School Superintendent Karen Salmon that opening on certain holidays, as some have advocated, would result in “understaffed buildings and an increase in the budget for substitute teachers.”

Baltimore Sun: BCPS Can No Longer Be Trusted.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/19) editorializes that “the curtain has been drawn back exposing a web of deceit” by Baltimore County Public Schools, after an unqualified superintendent was allowed to serve and did not follow the Maryland State Department of Education’s mission or properly pilot the STAT program, among other concerns. The editors write, “We need and deserve a full-fledged independent audit,” not the audit BCPS is now proposing “that is limited in scope” and “mostly cherry picks contracts that were bid out rather than focusing on the no-bid variety.” The editors argue that such “bad governance is criminal.”

Four New Members Join Richmond Superintendent’s Cabinet.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Mattingly) reports that the Richmond School Board on Monday night approved the hiring of four members of Superintendent Jason Kamras’ cabinet. The article provides detail on the new cabinet members and the work they will have before them when they assume their positions.

DIGITAL LEARNING

School Officials Urged To Use Educational Data To Improve Districts.

[Education Week](#) (3/21) reports on the push to use educational data to help improve school districts. Experts claim the current education system’s data infrastructure, “built in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Law and focused primarily on holding schools accountable, looms as a significant barrier.” Educational data experts say schools should focus on implementing improvement strategies “more methodically, but learning much more about them as they happen.” The ideal process would “entail identifying the problem schools want to fix; developing a

theory about how to improve it; and then helping the people closest to the problem...to develop measures of day-to-day progress that are aligned to that theory.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Eastern Kentucky Teachers Plan Protest Over Proposed Pension Plan Changes.

“More than a half-dozen school districts in eastern Kentucky postponed classes Wednesday to enable teachers and staff to attend” a rally at the state Capitol “in support of education funding” and against proposed pension plan changes, the [AP](#) (3/20) reports. Gov. Matt Bevin is attempting to “revive a stalled bill to overhaul the state’s public pension plans,” and his “sales pitch angered many teachers, who bristled at his recent remark that teachers opposing pension changes were ‘ignorant’ and ‘throwing a temper tantrum.’” Hundreds of educators rallied earlier this month “as the GOP-led Senate decided not to vote on the pension bill,” and Wednesday’s event “could be bigger, if a late-season storm” does not interfere. The AP says the “showdown” comes “amid growing unrest among public educators nationwide, led by thousands of West Virginia teachers who walked off the job and swarmed their Capitol for nine days earlier this year to secure a 5 percent pay raise.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Armed Officer Kills School Shooter In Maryland, Prevents Potential Massacre.

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Bacon) reports that a gunman “opened fire Tuesday at a high school in southern Maryland, injuring two students before an armed school resources officer intervened, authorities said.”

All three networks covered the story. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Haake) reported that “police say 17-year-old Austin Wyatt Rollins fired a handgun at 16-year-old Jaelynn Willey,” with whom “police believe” he “had a prior relationship.” A 14-year-old boy was also shot. However, “within seconds, the school’s only resource officer engaged the shooter. The teen and SWAT-trained officer fired their weapons almost simultaneously. The entire incident over in less than a minute with Rollins dead and the officer, Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, hailed as a hero.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:00, Glor) showed Tim Cameron, the St. Mary’s County Sheriff, saying, “No question that his actions, his quick and immediate actions potentially saved a great number of lives.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:50, Moton) said the shooting “comes during a national call to action to make schools safer, and days before thousands are expected in Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives rally, in response to the Parkland, Florida school massacre.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Hedgpeth) reports two other students – a male and a female – were injured in the shooting in a hallway at Great Mills High School. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (3/20) reports the injured female student “is in critical condition,” and the male student is “in stable condition.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Persons) reports that Sheriff Cameron “identified Austin Wyatt Rollins as the shooter at Great Mills High School.” Cameron “said Rollins died after Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a school resource officer and a member of the SWAT team, fired at him.” The Times adds, “agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined deputies at Great Mills High School as students endured a lengthy lockdown, cowering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cochrane, Bidgood, Subscription Publication) reports that “the shooting here comes amid renewed urgency in the nation’s debate over gun control, with demonstrators around the country planning a nationwide march this weekend,” and “it is likely to draw further attention to the role of armed personnel in schools,

which has been widely discussed after surveillance video showed that a sheriff's deputy posted at the school in Parkland did not go inside a building to engage the gunman during that shooting, an apparent violation of protocol."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Barakat, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) "said at a minimum, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism." Maryland's Senate "joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon," and "teachers' union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe." Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "accused the Democrat-led legislature of failing to take action on 'one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country.'" Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (3/20), the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20), [The Seventy Four](#) (3/20), and [Politico](#) (3/20, Hefling, Leonor).

Tennessee Governor Makes Proposal For School Safety.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, Ebert, Gonzales) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam "recommended Tuesday spending \$30 million to help improve school safety." Haslam's recommendations included \$25 million "in one-time, nonrecurring funds, and an additional \$5.2 million he said would be dedicated to recurring school safety grants."

According to the [AP](#) (3/20, Mattise), the Administration says the governor's proposal "will be spread among mental health, law enforcement safety, and education." The article quotes Haslam as saying in regards to what exactly will be funded: "I think it's open, everything from school resource officers, to physical improvements in the schools, to video monitors, to better alert notifications to law enforcement, but also for students to be able to notify people that, hey, there's somebody that's of concern here." The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (3/20) provides similar coverage.

House Advances Legislation To Arm Teachers. The [Tennessean](#) (3/20, Gonzales) reports that a House Bill "to arm some Tennessee teachers" passed the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday "on an 8-3 vote," and "will next move to a House education committee for consideration." The bill, which "would give school boards and school directors the power to adopt a policy allowing select school staff to carry a concealed firearm on school property," will "next move to a House education committee for consideration."

Stoneman Douglas Removes Three Students, State Increases School Entry Guards.

[WPLG-TV](#) Miami (3/20, Torres) reports that the sheriff's office in Broward County, Florida "removed three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Tuesday." The article says two of the students "were arrested for bringing weapons to school and a third was hospitalized over concerning posts on social media." Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to Sheriff Scott Israel and to Superintendent Robert Runcie in response, "offering help from the Florida Highway Patrol at the school's security entry;" Israel said late Tuesday that "he would accept the governor's offer."

Kentucky Students Gather At State Capitol To Call For Student Safety.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, McLaren) reports that "about 150 Kentucky students converged Tuesday evening on the State Capitol to fight for student safety." The students were taking part in a rally "organized by the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team." The article adds that "earlier in the day, about 100 students from around the commonwealth held a "teach-in" at the Capitol annex building."

Wisconsin State Senate Passes \$100 Million School Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/20) reports the Wisconsin state Senate, in a 28-4 vote on Tuesday, approved Gov. Scott Walker's school safety package, sending the measure "to the Assembly for potential action as soon as

Thursday.” The Journal Sentinel notes that the state Senate approved the school safety package “just hours after a student gunman in Maryland opened fire at a school, wounding two students and dying after an exchange of shots with a police officer at the school.” While the vote was bipartisan, the floor debate over the bill, which would allocate “\$100 million to improve school safety,” was “sharply divided, with Democrats saying the bill didn’t go far enough.” Republican state senators ultimately “rejected Democratic efforts” to strengthen gun control laws, and they also dropped “a Walker-backed requirement that parents be notified about cases of bullying within 48 hours.”

Noting that the state Senate version of the school safety package “closely mirrored Walker’s proposals,” the [AP](#) (3/20) reports that the version removed specific “references to the money being able to pay for armed guards, which was included in Walker’s bill.” The state Senate version also omitted “a provision allowing schools to share surveillance footage with law enforcement.” Meanwhile, Democratic state lawmakers “and other advocates have said Walker’s proposal doesn’t get to the root of the problem – increasing gun control.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

Denver Parents Concerned Budget Reorganization Will Disrupt Students With Special Needs.

[Chalkbeat Colorado](#) (3/20) reports Denver parents of students with special needs expressed concern that an “impending reorganization of the school district’s special education department” will result in cuts in the number of special education teachers and paraprofessionals. District officials “insist the reorganization does not cut paraprofessional or teacher support,” and that the reorganization “meant to increase the number of adults working inside schools – a change they said will benefit all students, not just those with special needs.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED’s Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.](#)
- [Ivanka Trump Promotes Infrastructure Plan In Visit To High-Tech Iowa School.](#)
- [New York City Turnaround Schools See Increase In Applications.](#)
- [Kansas State Lawmakers Balk At Cost Projections In School Funding Report.](#)

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From: "Mark Barela" <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2018 05:54:24 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Automatic reply: 7 Top Stories: How to Respond to Student Walkouts | It's Not Just About Guns | Preparing for 'Superdiverse' ELLs | More
To: "Stefanie Hemmingson" <newsletters@edweek.org>

I'm currently out of my office until Monday, March 5, 2018. Please feel free to leave me a message so I can get back with you upon my return to the office.

Respectfully,
Mark A. Barela
Mark Anthony Barela
Director of District Guidance Services
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

From: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2018 11:07:53 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Automatic reply: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I will be out of the office on Thursday, March 8, and Friday, March 9, 2018. Please contact Don Owen for emergencies. Thank you,

From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 05:43:02 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Thursday, April 19, 2018

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Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/17, Bowie) reports Tuesday the Baltimore County school board voted 8-4 to make interim superintendent Verletta White the permanent superintendent. During the nine months she served as interim, the board's "ethics panel determined she had previously violated ethics rules as a schools employee." The board has to approve a four-year contract to begin July 1. The [AP](#) (4/18) based its report on that in the Sun.

White Faces Multiple Challenges As She Settles Into Role.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports in a separate article that educators and community members say White is taking on a challenging position, noting that while she "has strong support among administrators and some in the community," she also

"faces a divided school board, politicians who wanted a different choice, and skeptics concerned about her ethical lapses who wonder if she was too close to the former superintendent, Dallas Dance, who is to be sentenced Friday after pleading guilty last month to four counts of perjury."

Dance Seeking Probation Instead Of Jail Time. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports that former Baltimore County Superintendent Dallas Dance "is asking a judge to give him probation rather than jail time for failing to disclose nearly \$147,000 he earned from part-time consulting jobs." Dance's attorneys paint him in a court document as "taking responsibility for his behavior, and feeling 'deep regret and repentance.'"

NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports the National Institute for Early Education Research has released its annual

report on state pre-k programs, finding that “more students are enrolling in state preschool programs than ever before as states continue to invest in them.” However, rising spending and enrollment “are eclipsed by a slump in the rate of growth and in per-student spending, the latter of which is an important indicator of quality.” The piece quotes NIEER senior co-director Steven Barnett saying, “Most developed nations now offer universal preschool – even China has committed to pre-K for every 4-year-old by 2020. Meanwhile, the United States has made little progress. This is no way to compete globally now or in the future. Our first step back to leadership is quality preschool.”

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/18, Hefling) says the report indicates that “state-funded preschool programs are enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds than ever before, though per-student funding has lagged.” The report features “quality benchmarks that include measures such as teacher qualifications, staff-to-child ratios and curriculum development. Three states – Michigan, Alabama and Rhode Island – met all 10 benchmarks. Nine states – California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas – and the District of Columbia met fewer than half the benchmarks.”

Several news outlets cover the report’s findings related to individual states, including the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (4/18), [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (4/18), [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (4/18), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (4/18), [Chalkbeat](#) (4/18), an [AP](#) (4/18) article out of Mississippi, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Zelinski), [CNN](#) (4/18, Barnett, Shriver), [WTVY-TV Dothan \(AL\)](#) Dothan, AL (4/18), the [Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#) (4/18), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/18), and [Alabama Live](#) (4/18).

Pennsylvania Teacher Suspended For Making Students Pancakes During Testing.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Strauss) reports Kyle Byler, a teacher at Hand Middle School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, “said he got in trouble for making whole-grain pancakes for his eighth-grade students on an electric griddle while they were taking a standardized test.” Byler “told LancasterOnline he was suspended without pay on April 10 when an assistant principal stopped his classroom while students were taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.” Byler “said he was told by school officials that he would be fired because he had caused a distraction for students and was supposed to be devoting his full attention to proctoring the test. However, the School District of Lancaster issued a statement saying he would not lose his job.”

Washington State Launching New School Assessment System.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/18) reports Washington state Superintendent Chris Reykdal is announcing changes in how parents can determine “how schools are doing” in the state, saying “the new system will help administrators, teachers and parents identify deficiencies in all schools, including those that may get among the best scores.” The Spokesman-Review explains that ED approved the state’s ESSA plan in February, and that “Reykdal recently barnstormed the state to tout the coming changes, which soon will allow parents to look up every test score at their children’s school and compare them to other schools in the district and the state.”

Florida Senators Hold Forum On School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Frazee) reports on Wednesday, Florida Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio held a forum at the US Capitol at which, “Parents of students who died in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting” urged “a range of steps to prevent gun violence,” with some suggesting “national standards for school safety that include bulletproof glass” and improved communication technology. Other parents urged a focus on “threat prevention, saying schools and law enforcement need clear guidelines to help identify potential school shooters.”

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Ujifusa) also reports on the forum, describing it as having “focused on how to help students head off threats from their peers, and on improving security measures for schools.”

Maryland Elementary School Student Arrested For Bringing Gun To School.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Larimer) reports an 8-year-old boy was arrested at Park Hall Elementary School in Park Hall, Maryland “after allegedly bringing a handgun” to school. The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service responded to a “report of a student with a handgun.” Authorities believe the student found the gun at home and brought it to school.

Washington Area Students Plan Walkout For Columbine Anniversary At White House And Capitol.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Truong, Stein, George) reports, “on Friday — the 19th anniversary of the Columbine assault...students in the Washington region plan to walk out of their schools and stage a vigil outside the White House to honor the Columbine victims and others killed by gun violence.” They will also “march to the Capitol for a rally and to deliver letters to lawmakers calling for tougher gun-control measures.” Other students will “demonstrate at their schools.” National School Walkout DC has applied for a permit for the event outside the White House in which it says it expects “thousands” to be at the demonstration. Local school authorities are hoping to avoid a walkout and will consider anyone who leaves for such an event to have an unexcused absence.

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Sibling Survivors Of Parkland Massacre Sign Book Deal.

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WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.](#)
- [Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill.](#)
- [Education Week Runs Package On Principals' Education Technology Challenges.](#)
- [NY Times Article Looks At Value Of Coding Education For Women In Future Workforce.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 05:43:02 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Thursday, April 19, 2018

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Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/17, Bowie) reports Tuesday the Baltimore County school board voted 8-4 to make interim superintendent Verletta White the permanent superintendent. During the nine months she served as interim, the board's "ethics panel determined she had previously violated ethics rules as a schools employee." The board has to approve a four-year contract to begin July 1. The [AP](#) (4/18) based its report on that in the Sun.

White Faces Multiple Challenges As She Settles Into Role.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports in a separate article that educators and community members say White is taking on a challenging position, noting that while she "has strong support among administrators and some in the community," she also

"faces a divided school board, politicians who wanted a different choice, and skeptics concerned about her ethical lapses who wonder if she was too close to the former superintendent, Dallas Dance, who is to be sentenced Friday after pleading guilty last month to four counts of perjury."

Dance Seeking Probation Instead Of Jail Time. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports that former Baltimore County Superintendent Dallas Dance "is asking a judge to give him probation rather than jail time for failing to disclose nearly \$147,000 he earned from part-time consulting jobs." Dance's attorneys paint him in a court document as "taking responsibility for his behavior, and feeling 'deep regret and repentance.'"

NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports the National Institute for Early Education Research has released its annual

report on state pre-k programs, finding that “more students are enrolling in state preschool programs than ever before as states continue to invest in them.” However, rising spending and enrollment “are eclipsed by a slump in the rate of growth and in per-student spending, the latter of which is an important indicator of quality.” The piece quotes NIEER senior co-director Steven Barnett saying, “Most developed nations now offer universal preschool – even China has committed to pre-K for every 4-year-old by 2020. Meanwhile, the United States has made little progress. This is no way to compete globally now or in the future. Our first step back to leadership is quality preschool.”

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/18, Hefling) says the report indicates that “state-funded preschool programs are enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds than ever before, though per-student funding has lagged.” The report features “quality benchmarks that include measures such as teacher qualifications, staff-to-child ratios and curriculum development. Three states – Michigan, Alabama and Rhode Island – met all 10 benchmarks. Nine states – California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas – and the District of Columbia met fewer than half the benchmarks.”

Several news outlets cover the report’s findings related to individual states, including the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (4/18), [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (4/18), [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (4/18), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (4/18), [Chalkbeat](#) (4/18), an [AP](#) (4/18) article out of Mississippi, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Zelinski), [CNN](#) (4/18, Barnett, Shriver), [WTVY-TV Dothan \(AL\)](#) Dothan, AL (4/18), the [Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#) (4/18), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/18), and [Alabama Live](#) (4/18).

Pennsylvania Teacher Suspended For Making Students Pancakes During Testing.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Strauss) reports Kyle Byler, a teacher at Hand Middle School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, “said he got in trouble for making whole-grain pancakes for his eighth-grade students on an electric griddle while they were taking a standardized test.” Byler “told LancasterOnline he was suspended without pay on April 10 when an assistant principal stopped his classroom while students were taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.” Byler “said he was told by school officials that he would be fired because he had caused a distraction for students and was supposed to be devoting his full attention to proctoring the test. However, the School District of Lancaster issued a statement saying he would not lose his job.”

Washington State Launching New School Assessment System.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/18) reports Washington state Superintendent Chris Reykdal is announcing changes in how parents can determine “how schools are doing” in the state, saying “the new system will help administrators, teachers and parents identify deficiencies in all schools, including those that may get among the best scores.” The Spokesman-Review explains that ED approved the state’s ESSA plan in February, and that “Reykdal recently barnstormed the state to tout the coming changes, which soon will allow parents to look up every test score at their children’s school and compare them to other schools in the district and the state.”

Florida Senators Hold Forum On School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Frazee) reports on Wednesday, Florida Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio held a forum at the US Capitol at which, “Parents of students who died in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting” urged “a range of steps to prevent gun violence,” with some suggesting “national standards for school safety that include bulletproof glass” and improved communication technology. Other parents urged a focus on “threat prevention, saying schools and law enforcement need clear guidelines to help identify potential school shooters.”

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Ujifusa) also reports on the forum, describing it as having “focused on how to help students head off threats from their peers, and on improving security measures for schools.”

Maryland Elementary School Student Arrested For Bringing Gun To School.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Larimer) reports an 8-year-old boy was arrested at Park Hall Elementary School in Park Hall, Maryland “after allegedly bringing a handgun” to school. The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service responded to a “report of a student with a handgun.” Authorities believe the student found the gun at home and brought it to school.

Washington Area Students Plan Walkout For Columbine Anniversary At White House And Capitol.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Truong, Stein, George) reports, “on Friday — the 19th anniversary of the Columbine assault...students in the Washington region plan to walk out of their schools and stage a vigil outside the White House to honor the Columbine victims and others killed by gun violence.” They will also “march to the Capitol for a rally and to deliver letters to lawmakers calling for tougher gun-control measures.” Other students will “demonstrate at their schools.” National School Walkout DC has applied for a permit for the event outside the White House in which it says it expects “thousands” to be at the demonstration. Local school authorities are hoping to avoid a walkout and will consider anyone who leaves for such an event to have an unexcused absence.

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WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Chicago Schools Get Budget Increase To Fund Teacher Salaries, New Programs.](#)
- [Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill.](#)
- [Education Week Runs Package On Principals' Education Technology Challenges.](#)
- [NY Times Article Looks At Value Of Coding Education For Women In Future Workforce.](#)

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From: "Carlsbad Current-Argus Customer Service" <noreply@currentargus.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 14:49:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Behind the Story: When local news goes national
To: <murillot@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Carlsbad Current Argus.

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](#)

[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

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."

Behind the Story is a bi-weekly exclusive subscriber newsletter giving you a peek into how the USA TODAY NETWORK's biggest stories come together.

Want to see more collaboration? [Check out the 1968 project](#), capturing the year that transformed the USA.

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Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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down the Public Employee's Retirement Association's unfunded liability." [The Hill](#) (4/15, Savransky) also covers this story.

Florida Robotics Team Qualifies For World Competition.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (4/6) reports that Mia Sciacqua, a student at Village School in Naples, Florida, "was helping her mom distribute bikes and emergency supplies in Everglades City after Hurricane Irma when she saw a need for an easy way to remove water from flooded homes without using electricity. ... Mia took the problem back to her robotics team members, many of whom were learning about Greek culture in their social studies class, and the group came up with the idea to repurpose Archimedes' Screw." The team's idea "to use the apparatus to clear out homes helped the team earn a direct invitation to the FIRST Robotics elementary and middle school international competition, thus bypassing the state competition."

Utah School Partnering On Stackable Credential Pathway For Aerospace And Manufacturing.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (4/15) reports Iron County School District, Southwest Technical College, Southern Utah University, and MSC Aerospace will collaborate on "a stackable credential pathway for students to quickly move into the high paying aerospace and manufacturing industry." Those students who finish the Southwest Aerospace Manufacturing Strategic Workforce Initiative can "go into the workforce upon graduation from high school or" continue their education at Southwest Technical College or SUU. Dr. Richard Cozzens, associate professor in the Department of Engineering and Technology at SUU and the principal investigator for the initiative, "said he sees the initiative as an opportunity to assist high school counselors, teachers and parents in guiding students to the appropriate educational credential."

Pennsylvania Students Present To School Board On Advantages Of STEM Projects.

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/15, Benevise) reports Hampton High School, Pennsylvania, students presented to the school board "on the advantages of STEM and STEAM-related projects at the school, including how they can use what they learn to solve real-life problems." The Tribune-Reviews focuses on how the students helped their classmate, TJ Wilson, who is missing an arm, "by creating a wearable device at the school that will help him play trumpet better."

Colorado School Holds Girls In STEM Conference.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (4/15, Langford) reports West Middle School in Colorado held its first-ever Girls in STEM conference. The Saturday program, which drew 55 students, "focused on solving problems in the community, from air quality to the Colorado River ecosystem," and included a makerspace "equipped with supplies for girls to build their solutions."

Small Minnesota School Excels At Robotics Competitions.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/15, Reinan) reports Greenbush Middle River High School in Minnesota, which has an enrollment of 135, "regularly takes on the biggest schools in the state and the nation – and beats them"; the school "won the 2016 state robotics title, finished second a year ago and soon will make its fourth trip in five years to the world championship tournament, where it has ranked as high as second." The Star Tribune notes, "Many of Minnesota's top teams are from rural areas"; Amy Doherty, who oversees robotics for the Minnesota State High School League said, "There is a definite advantage to having kids who have grown up as tinkerers." Meanwhile, "corporate Minnesota is well aware of" this and "many of the state's best-known companies...offer significant support to First Robotics, the nonprofit that oversees a monthslong schedule of tournaments leading up to the world

championship.”

Blogger: Standardized Testing’s Effect On Curriculum Inhibits Reading Comprehension.

Contributor Natalie Wexler, in a blog on [Forbes](#) (4/15), writes that one reason American students haven’t improved on standardized reading test scores “is that by putting so much emphasis on reading tests, we’ve been undermining our own efforts.” Mandated standardized testing has “a huge impact on instruction.” While schools seek to teach and tests seek to measure “reading comprehension skills,” Wexler argues, “there’s no such thing.” Instead, readers’ understanding of a text “depends primarily on how much knowledge and vocabulary they already have relating to the specific topic at hand,” and No Child Left Behind’s “emphasis on reading and math has ended up pushing almost everything else out of the curriculum” – the subjects that would actually boost comprehension.

OPERATIONS

Authors Call For Schedules To Support Curricular Needs.

Author Jill Berkowicz and Ann Myers, in the “Leadership 360” blog of [Education Week](#) (4/15), write that school schedules “take on a life of their own. They determine things they ought not and get blamed for things as if they weren’t created by those in schools.” They can determine students’ course options and teachers’ assignments. Berkowicz and Myers call for schedules to “be developed to support the curricular needs of the teaching and learning not the other way around,” concluding, “changing schedules and teaching assignments should be the ongoing work of shifting the way teaching and learning takes place.”

Majority Of Chicago Public Schools Don’t Have Enough Candidates For Local School Council.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (4/15, FitzPatrick, Ali) reports that more than half of Chicago Public School “will have at least one empty seat after” electing Local School Council members, as 57 percent of CPS schools “don’t have enough candidates to fill the 12 positions on a typical LSC.” CPS spokesman Michael Passman said the agency, in the Sun-Times’ words, “recruited potential members by hanging signs at schools and in City Hall, putting ads on 10 billboards citywide and in community newspapers, and presenting at community events.”

Missouri School District Pleased With Four-Day Schedule.

The [Columbia \(MO\) Daily Tribune](#) (4/15, McKinney) reports, “School superintendents in Harrisburg and other Central Missouri districts” currently on a four-day schedule give the schedule “favorable reviews.” Harrisburg School District Superintendent Steve Combs said the four-day schedule saves the district \$75,000 a year due to savings on transportation, utilities, and hourly support staff. Additionally, some teachers find the schedule attractive. He also “said annual surveys always show support from parents surpassing 90 percent.”

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

College Recruitment Visits Focus On Richer, Whiter High Schools, Study Finds.

Writing in the [New York Times](#) (4/13, Salazar, Subscription Publication), Ozan Jaquette, an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Karina Salazar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, state that an analysis of 150 US college and university recruiting trips has found that “high schools that were visited for recruiting events tended to be whiter and wealthier than schools that were not visited.” University at Buffalo

researcher Meagan Holland found that such visits “aren’t merely an indicator of each college’s priorities; they also influence where students — and particularly first-generation students — apply and enroll,” and that “many smart kids from less affluent backgrounds are sensitive to ‘feeling wanted,’ often attending colleges that took the time to visit.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kentucky Lawmakers Override Tax Increase Veto As Teachers Rally At Capitol.

The [AP](#) (4/13, Schreiner, Beam) reports that Kentucky lawmakers “voted Friday to override the Republican governor’s veto of a more than \$480 million tax increase” intended to fund public education initiatives, as “thousands of teachers rallied inside and outside the Capitol.” The AP reports that “the rally took on a festival-like atmosphere in Kentucky as some teachers sat in lawn chairs or sprawled out on blankets,” while “Crosby Stills, Nash and Young’s hit ‘Teach Your Children’ bellowed from the loud speakers.” The House voted 57-40 to override a veto of the tax increase intended to fund the increase in spending, “and 66-28 to override the veto of the budget,” with Senate President Robert Stivers casting the decisive vote “in a dramatic moment.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, story 9, 0:20, Holt) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Hiring More Psychologists And Guidance Counselors Could Help Deter School Violence, Experts Say.

The [AP](#) (4/10, Robertson) reports experts testified before the North Carolina House school safety committee that “hiring more psychologists and guidance counselors would help school officials identify students with mental health challenges sooner and deter serious violence.” Tim Hardin, the president-elect of the North Carolina School Counselor Association, and Heather Lynch Boling, the president of the North Carolina School Psychology Association, both testified before the committee about the need for additional staffing to help students in need.

Schools Face Uptick In Threats After Parkland.

[NPR](#) (4/14, Lombardo) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, “there have been almost 1,500 threats to schools across the country. And those numbers are likely under-reported, according to the group that tracks them, the Educator’s School Safety Network.” The piece reports that UVA school violence expert Dewey Cornell says that “it’s not uncommon for school threats to rise after high-profile school shootings,” quoting him saying, “Many students are stimulated to make threats that are pranks or expressions of anger with no serious intent to carry them out.”

FRIDAY’S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVoss: US Cannot “Spend Our Way” Out of Stagnant Test Scores.](#)
- [Arizona Governor Proposes 20 Percent Teacher Raises By 2020.](#)
- [Experts Say Changing Economy Requires High Schools To Adjust Approach.](#)
- [New Mexico Closing State’s Largest Online Charter School.](#)
- [States That Pay Top Teacher Salaries.](#)

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Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup

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OPERATIONS

Authors Call For Schedules To Support Curricular Needs.

Author Jill Berkowicz and Ann Myers, in the “Leadership 360” blog of [Education Week](#) (4/15), write that school schedules “take on a life of their own. They determine things they ought not and get blamed for things as if they weren’t created by those in schools.” They can determine students’ course options and teachers’ assignments. Berkowicz and Myers call for schedules to “be developed to support the curricular needs of the teaching and learning not the other way around,” concluding, “changing schedules and teaching assignments should be the ongoing work of shifting the way teaching and learning takes place.”

Majority Of Chicago Public Schools Don’t Have Enough Candidates For Local School Council.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (4/15, FitzPatrick, Ali) reports that more than half of Chicago Public School “will have at least one empty seat after” electing Local School Council members, as 57 percent of CPS schools “don’t have enough candidates to fill the 12 positions on a typical LSC.” CPS spokesman Michael Passman said the agency, in the Sun-Times’ words, “recruited potential members by hanging signs at schools and in City Hall, putting ads on 10 billboards citywide and in community newspapers, and presenting at community events.”

Missouri School District Pleased With Four-Day Schedule.

The [Columbia \(MO\) Daily Tribune](#) (4/15, McKinney) reports, “School superintendents in Harrisburg and other Central Missouri districts” currently on a four-day schedule give the schedule “favorable reviews.” Harrisburg School District Superintendent Steve Combs said the four-day schedule saves the district \$75,000 a year due to savings on transportation, utilities, and hourly support staff. Additionally, some teachers find the schedule attractive. He also “said annual surveys always show support from parents surpassing 90 percent.”

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

College Recruitment Visits Focus On Richer, Whiter High Schools, Study Finds.

Writing in the [New York Times](#) (4/13, Salazar, Subscription Publication), Ozan Jaquette, an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Karina Salazar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, state that an analysis of 150 US college and university recruiting trips has found that “high schools that were visited for recruiting events tended to be whiter and wealthier than schools that were not visited.” University at Buffalo

researcher Meagan Holland found that such visits “aren’t merely an indicator of each college’s priorities; they also influence where students — and particularly first-generation students — apply and enroll,” and that “many smart kids from less affluent backgrounds are sensitive to ‘feeling wanted,’ often attending colleges that took the time to visit.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kentucky Lawmakers Override Tax Increase Veto As Teachers Rally At Capitol.

The [AP](#) (4/13, Schreiner, Beam) reports that Kentucky lawmakers “voted Friday to override the Republican governor’s veto of a more than \$480 million tax increase” intended to fund public education initiatives, as “thousands of teachers rallied inside and outside the Capitol.” The AP reports that “the rally took on a festival-like atmosphere in Kentucky as some teachers sat in lawn chairs or sprawled out on blankets,” while “Crosby Stills, Nash and Young’s hit ‘Teach Your Children’ bellowed from the loud speakers.” The House voted 57-40 to override a veto of the tax increase intended to fund the increase in spending, “and 66-28 to override the veto of the budget,” with Senate President Robert Stivers casting the decisive vote “in a dramatic moment.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, story 9, 0:20, Holt) provided similar coverage in a brief broadcast.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Hiring More Psychologists And Guidance Counselors Could Help Deter School Violence, Experts Say.

The [AP](#) (4/10, Robertson) reports experts testified before the North Carolina House school safety committee that “hiring more psychologists and guidance counselors would help school officials identify students with mental health challenges sooner and deter serious violence.” Tim Hardin, the president-elect of the North Carolina School Counselor Association, and Heather Lynch Boling, the president of the North Carolina School Psychology Association, both testified before the committee about the need for additional staffing to help students in need.

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update

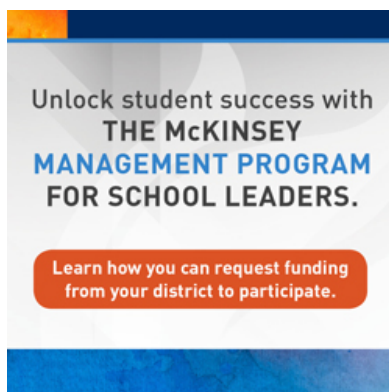


Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, April 16, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement



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Many Teachers Must Work Second Jobs To Make Ends Meet.

The [AP](#) (4/15) reports according to ED survey data, “18 percent of teachers work jobs outside school, supplementing the average full-time teacher salary of \$55,100 by an average of \$5,100.” The piece says these data “help explain the outrage behind the teacher revolts in states including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky.” The piece includes stories of four teachers who “describe how they balance the extra hours with their day jobs and family responsibilities.”

Unions, Democrats Seek To Capitalize On Collective Actions By Educators.

[Reuters](#) (4/14, Brandes) reports on collective actions being staged by teachers and parents in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arizona who “say years of budget reductions have decimated public school systems in favor of tax cuts.” Reuters adds that “protests in those Republican-dominated states have encouraged teachers unions and Democratic candidates who will try to capitalize on the outrage to score electoral victories.”

Politics Played Complicated Role In Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts.

The [Oklahoman](#) (4/15) reports the Oklahoma teacher walkouts took place in a state “with one of the most conservative legislatures in the nation, where anti-union legislation has, at times, found wide support. But the Capitol was filled last week with thousands of teachers who had followed the call of the Oklahoma Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, demanding more school funding.” The piece says that “for some, it was a push back on conservative politics,” but adds, “to call the teacher walkout an anti-Republican demonstration could ignore the fact that most teachers are registered Republicans, according to a 2016 comparison of teacher licenses and voter registration, conducted by Sooner Poll.”

Oregon Districts Mostly Untouched By Teacher Shortage.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (4/16) reports that amid nationwide reports of teacher shortages, “school districts in Central Oregon have really only felt the pinch of a teacher shortage when trying to fill positions for math, science and special education classes.” According to Redmond School District Director of Human Resources Lynn Anderson, area “districts have been co-hosting the Central Oregon Education Job Fair since 2013, and the ability to bring hundreds of educators to Central Oregon has been beneficial for all districts. ... The job fair encourages coordination between districts that helps résumés get into the right hands and positions filled, though a handful of positions remain tougher to fill.”

Arkansas Teachers Less Diverse Than Student Populations.

The [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (4/15) reports according to data from the Arkansas Department of Education, “teachers in Northwest Arkansas are overwhelmingly white and non-Hispanic, pushing some school districts to reach out to applicants with Hispanic, Pacific Islander and other backgrounds.” While area districts have rising numbers of minority students, “certified teachers in all four districts, meanwhile, are 90 percent non-Hispanic white.” Local educators and students say “teachers of all demographic groups can be competent and make meaningful connections with students. But years of research have found minority students benefit from having teachers who look like them and diverse teachers can benefit the entire student body.”

Teachers Across Country Seeking Legislative Office To Push For Funding.

[Reuters](#) (4/14) profiles Oklahoma high school physics teacher Craig Hoxie, who has filed to run for the state House this fall, quoting him saying, “A week ago, I would have told you I wasn’t going to do it. There is a funding crisis with

all public services in our state.” Reuters describes the recent wave of “collective actions” in which teachers have sought “higher wages and education spending” and says “protests in those Republican-dominated states have encouraged teachers unions and Democratic candidates who will try to capitalize on the outrage to score electoral victories.”

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FROM NASSP

Your Legislators Need to Hear From You Today

Take a moment today to urge your representatives to support measures that will prevent school shootings and gun violence. The NASSP Policy & Advocacy Center has posted an [action alert](#) through which you can contact your members of Congress to let them know—as they consider legislation in the coming weeks and months—that you support common-sense solutions to prevent school shootings and reduce violence. [Access the action alert](#) and further amplify the message by posting on social media using #NotOneMore and #PrincipalsAdvocate.

How Will You Celebrate Your Student Leaders?

It's National Student Leadership Week (NSLW), an annual celebration to spotlight the critical role student leaders play in improving climate and culture in the school and community. The national office of NASSP's student programs—National Student Council, National Honor Society, and National Junior Honor Society—has sponsored NSLW since 1972. This year's theme is "Make Your Mark on the World: Dream. Lead. Serve." All month long, we are accepting entries from schools vying for \$250 micro-grants to help fund a "dream" service project. To enter, schools post a creative pitch for a project to social media using #OurDream18.

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.

Connect with NASSP:   

EDUCATION POLICY

ED Secretaries Gather To Weigh In On Anniversary Of "A Nation At Risk."

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Montana State Launches New Program For Students With Intellectual Disabilities.

The [AP](#) (4/14) reports that Montana State University is “launching a program offering new opportunity and hope to students with disabilities.” The piece notes that “for years Montana students with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities” have gone “from having a federally guaranteed free public education, to virtually nothing” when they graduate from high school. “They go from being surrounded by peers and teachers all day, to being largely isolated.” The AP reports the program’s goal “is not to earn a bachelor’s degree, but to let students audit classes, participate in college clubs and activities, get experience in job internships and build a more independent life.”

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- [States That Pay Top Teacher Salaries.](#)
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Editor's Note

In Friday's Principal's Update, a headline contained a typo. The headline should have read "DeVos: US Cannot 'Spend Our Way' Out of Stagnant Test Scores." We regret the error.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

April 16, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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POLITICS & POLICY

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 16, 2018

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The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (4/15, Spears) reports Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin "apologized Sunday for saying that teacher protests probably led to the sexual assault of children." The governor's "comments on Friday had led House lawmakers from both parties to pass resolutions condemning the remarks." Bevin said on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#), "I hurt a lot of people. ... I apologize for those who have been hurt by the things that were said. ... It is my responsibility to represent you, not only when I'm speaking to you but also when I'm speaking on your behalf. It is not my intent to hurt anyone...but to help us all move forward. We need each other. We're in this together."

The [AP](#) (4/15) reports that "on Friday, Bevin's explosive comments were part of his statement criticizing teachers for leaving work to protest at the Capitol," and came "shortly after Republican lawmakers voted to override his vetoes of an operating budget that included increased spending for public education with the help of an accompanying tax increase."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Horton) reports on Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin's recent feud with teachers groups "amid educator protests across the country fueled by claims of low pay and underfunded school systems." Bevin told reporters on Friday evening, following a statewide protest staged by teachers that day, "I guarantee you somewhere in Kentucky today, a child was sexually assaulted that was left at home because there was nobody there to watch them...I guarantee you somewhere today, a child was physically harmed or ingested poison because they were left alone because a single parent didn't have any money to take care of them." However, the article says his remarks "did not appear to explain how or why teachers could be held accountable for what occurs among students outside the classroom, and he did not provide evidence of any crimes that were committed." Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (4/15), [NPR](#) (4/15, Van Sant), [TIME](#) (4/14), and [BuzzFeed](#) (4/14).

POLITICS & POLICY

Advertisement



ED Secretaries Gather To Weigh In On Anniversary Of “A Nation At Risk.”

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/13) reports that seven former secretaries of education “assembled at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., to mark the 35th anniversary of the landmark ‘A Nation at Risk’ report.” The article says the former secretaries “came to honor the now-famous Reagan-era call to combat ‘the rising tide of mediocrity’ that gave rise to the school reform movement, and to measure the progress made since 1983.” The gathering took place as “test scores released Tuesday from the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress continued a decade-long lull, with only marginal improvement in eighth-grade reading.” The piece quotes Education Secretary

Betsy DeVos saying, “Overall, we are still a nation at risk, and I would say even greater risk today.” The Seventy Four adds, “But a number of her predecessors were more emphatic, lamenting a current lack of collective will to tackle the nation’s pressing problems in education.”

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 16 Apr 2018 05:28:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, April 16, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Bevin Apologizes For Friday Comments About Teacher Protests.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (4/15, Spears) reports Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin "apologized Sunday for saying that teacher protests probably led to the sexual assault of children." The governor's "comments on Friday had led House lawmakers from both parties to pass resolutions condemning the remarks." Bevin said on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#), "I hurt a lot of people. ... I apologize for those who have been hurt by the things that were said. ... It is my responsibility to represent you, not only when I'm speaking to you but also when I'm speaking on your behalf. It is not my intent to hurt anyone...but to help us all move forward. We need each other. We're in this together."

The [AP](#) (4/15) reports that "on Friday, Bevin's explosive comments were part of his statement criticizing teachers for leaving work to protest at the Capitol," and came "shortly after Republican lawmakers voted to override his vetoes of an operating budget that included increased spending for public education with the help of an accompanying tax increase."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Horton) reports on Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin's recent feud with teachers groups "amid educator protests across the country fueled by claims of low pay and underfunded school systems." Bevin told reporters on Friday evening, following a statewide protest staged by teachers that day, "I guarantee you somewhere in Kentucky today, a child was sexually assaulted that was left at home because there was nobody there to watch them...I guarantee you somewhere today, a child was physically harmed or ingested poison because they were left alone because a single parent didn't have any money to take care of them." However, the article says his remarks "did not appear to explain how or why teachers could be held accountable for what occurs among students outside the classroom, and he did not provide evidence of any crimes that were committed." Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (4/15), [NPR](#) (4/15, Van Sant), [TIME](#) (4/14), and [BuzzFeed](#) (4/14).

Many Teachers Must Work Second Jobs To Make Ends Meet.

The [AP](#) (4/15) reports according to ED survey data, “18 percent of teachers work jobs outside school, supplementing the average full-time teacher salary of \$55,100 by an average of \$5,100.” The piece says these data “help explain the outrage behind the teacher revolts in states including West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky.” The piece includes stories of four teachers who “describe how they balance the extra hours with their day jobs and family responsibilities.”

Unions, Democrats Seek To Capitalize On Collective Actions By Educators.

[Reuters](#) (4/14, Brandes) reports on collective actions being staged by teachers and parents in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arizona who “say years of budget reductions have decimated public school systems in favor of tax cuts.” Reuters adds that “protests in those Republican-dominated states have encouraged teachers unions and Democratic candidates who will try to capitalize on the outrage to score electoral victories.”

Politics Played Complicated Role In Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts.

The [Oklahoman](#) (4/15) reports the Oklahoma teacher walkouts took place in a state “with one of the most conservative legislatures in the nation, where anti-union legislation has, at times, found wide support. But the Capitol was filled last week with thousands of teachers who had followed the call of the Oklahoma Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, demanding more school funding.” The piece says that “for some, it was a push back on conservative politics,” but adds, “to call the teacher walkout an anti-Republican demonstration could ignore the fact that most teachers are registered Republicans, according to a 2016 comparison of teacher licenses and voter registration, conducted by Sooner Poll.”

Oregon Districts Mostly Untouched By Teacher Shortage.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (4/16) reports that amid nationwide reports of teacher shortages, “school districts in Central Oregon have really only felt the pinch of a teacher shortage when trying to fill positions for math, science and special education classes.” According to Redmond School District Director of Human Resources Lynn Anderson, area “districts have been co-hosting the Central Oregon Education Job Fair since 2013, and the ability to bring hundreds of educators to Central Oregon has been beneficial for all districts. ... The job fair encourages coordination between districts that helps résumés get into the right hands and positions filled, though a handful of positions remain tougher to fill.”

Arkansas Teachers Less Diverse Than Student Populations.

The [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (4/15) reports according to data from the Arkansas Department of Education, “teachers in Northwest Arkansas are overwhelmingly white and non-Hispanic, pushing some school districts to reach out to applicants with Hispanic, Pacific Islander and other backgrounds.” While area districts have rising numbers of minority students, “certified teachers in all four districts, meanwhile, are 90 percent non-Hispanic white.” Local educators and students say “teachers of all demographic groups can be competent and make meaningful connections with students. But years of research have found minority students benefit from having teachers who look like them and diverse teachers can benefit the entire student body.”

Teachers Across Country Seeking Legislative Office To Push For Funding.

[Reuters](#) (4/14) profiles Oklahoma high school physics teacher Craig Hoxie, who has filed to run for the state House this fall, quoting him saying, “A week ago, I would have told you I wasn’t going to do it. There is a funding crisis with

all public services in our state.” Reuters describes the recent wave of “collective actions” in which teachers have sought “higher wages and education spending” and says “protests in those Republican-dominated states have encouraged teachers unions and Democratic candidates who will try to capitalize on the outrage to score electoral victories.”

Colorado Teachers To Lobby Legislature For Funding Monday.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/13) reports that on Monday, “hundreds of Colorado teachers are expected to descend on the state Capitol...to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay, mirroring similar efforts in Oklahoma and West Virginia.” The district in Englewood has canceled classes “as more than 150 teachers in that district plan to walk out of classes and take their concerns about school funding to the Capitol in support of the Colorado Education Association’s Lobby Day.” Union members “are expected to meet with legislators in the morning and then appear before the House Finance Committee at 1:30 p.m. for a hearing discussing efforts to pay down the Public Employee’s Retirement Association’s unfunded liability.” [The Hill](#) (4/15, Savransky) also covers this story.

Florida Robotics Team Qualifies For World Competition.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (4/6) reports that Mia Sciacqua, a student at Village School in Naples, Florida, “was helping her mom distribute bikes and emergency supplies in Everglades City after Hurricane Irma when she saw a need for an easy way to remove water from flooded homes without using electricity. ... Mia took the problem back to her robotics team members, many of whom were learning about Greek culture in their social studies class, and the group came up with the idea to repurpose Archimedes’ Screw.” The team’s idea “to use the apparatus to clear out homes helped the team earn a direct invitation to the FIRST Robotics elementary and middle school international competition, thus bypassing the state competition.”

Utah School Partnering On Stackable Credential Pathway For Aerospace And Manufacturing.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (4/15) reports Iron County School District, Southwest Technical College, Southern Utah University, and MSC Aerospace will collaborate on “a stackable credential pathway for students to quickly move into the high paying aerospace and manufacturing industry.” Those students who finish the Southwest Aerospace Manufacturing Strategic Workforce Initiative can “go into the workforce upon graduation from high school or” continue their education at Southwest Technical College or SUU. Dr. Richard Cozzens, associate professor in the Department of Engineering and Technology at SUU and the principal investigator for the initiative, “said he sees the initiative as an opportunity to assist high school counselors, teachers and parents in guiding students to the appropriate educational credential.”

Pennsylvania Students Present To School Board On Advantages Of STEM Projects.

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (4/15, Benevise) reports Hampton High School, Pennsylvania, students presented to the school board “on the advantages of STEM and STEAM-related projects at the school, including how they can use what they learn to solve real-life problems.” The Tribune-Review focuses on how the students helped their classmate, TJ Wilson, who is missing an arm, “by creating a wearable device at the school that will help him play trumpet better.”

Colorado School Holds Girls In STEM Conference.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (4/15, Langford) reports West Middle School in Colorado held its first-ever Girls in STEM conference. The Saturday program, which drew 55 students, “focused on solving problems in the

community, from air quality to the Colorado River ecosystem,” and included a makerspace “equipped with supplies for girls to build their solutions.”

Small Minnesota School Excels At Robotics Competitions.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/15, Reinan) reports Greenbush Middle River High School in Minnesota, which has an enrollment of 135, “regularly takes on the biggest schools in the state and the nation – and beats them”; the school “won the 2016 state robotics title, finished second a year ago and soon will make its fourth trip in five years to the world championship tournament, where it has ranked as high as second.” The Star Tribune notes, “Many of Minnesota’s top teams are from rural areas”; Amy Doherty, who oversees robotics for the Minnesota State High School League said, “There is a definite advantage to having kids who have grown up as tinkerers.” Meanwhile, “corporate Minnesota is well aware of” this and “many of the state’s best-known companies...offer significant support to First Robotics, the nonprofit that oversees a monthslong schedule of tournaments leading up to the world championship.”

Blogger: Standardized Testing’s Effect On Curriculum Inhibits Reading Comprehension.

Contributor Natalie Wexler, in a blog on [Forbes](#) (4/15), writes that one reason American students haven’t improved on standardized reading test scores “is that by putting so much emphasis on reading tests, we’ve been undermining our own efforts.” Mandated standardized testing has “a huge impact on instruction.” While schools seek to teach and tests seek to measure “reading comprehension skills,” Wexler argues, “there’s no such thing.” Instead, readers’ understanding of a text “depends primarily on how much knowledge and vocabulary they already have relating to the specific topic at hand,” and No Child Left Behind’s “emphasis on reading and math has ended up pushing almost everything else out of the curriculum” – the subjects that would actually boost comprehension.

Hiring More Psychologists And Guidance Counselors Could Help Deter School Violence, Experts Say.

The [AP](#) (4/10, Robertson) reports experts testified before the North Carolina House school safety committee that “hiring more psychologists and guidance counselors would help school officials identify students with mental health challenges sooner and deter serious violence.” Tim Hardin, the president-elect of the North Carolina School Counselor Association, and Heather Lynch Boling, the president of the North Carolina School Psychology Association, both testified before the committee about the need for additional staffing to help students in need.

Schools Face Uptick In Threats After Parkland.

[NPR](#) (4/14, Lombardo) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, “there have been almost 1,500 threats to schools across the country. And those numbers are likely under-reported, according to the group that tracks them, the Educator’s School Safety Network.” The piece reports that UVA school violence expert Dewey Cornell says that “it’s not uncommon for school threats to rise after high-profile school shootings,” quoting him saying, “Many students are stimulated to make threats that are pranks or expressions of anger with no serious intent to carry them out.”

FROM NASSP

Your Legislators Need to Hear From You Today

Take a moment today to urge your representatives to support measures that will prevent school shootings and gun violence. The NASSP Policy & Advocacy Center has posted an [action alert](#) through which you can contact your members of Congress to let them know—as they consider legislation in the coming weeks and months—that you support common-sense solutions to prevent school shootings and reduce violence. [Access the action alert](#) and further amplify the message by posting on social media using #NotOneMore and #PrincipalsAdvocate.

How Will You Celebrate Your Student Leaders?

It's National Student Leadership Week (NSLW), an annual celebration to spotlight the critical role student leaders play in improving climate and culture in the school and community. The national office of NASSP's student programs—National Student Council, National Honor Society, and National Junior Honor Society—has sponsored NSLW since 1972. This year's theme is "Make Your Mark on the World: Dream. Lead. Serve." All month long, we are accepting entries from schools vying for \$250 micro-grants to help fund a "dream" service project. To enter, schools post a creative pitch for a project to social media using #OurDream18.

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

ED Secretaries Gather To Weigh In On Anniversary Of "A Nation At Risk."

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/13) reports that seven former secretaries of education "assembled at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., to mark the 35th anniversary of the landmark 'A Nation at Risk' report." The article says the former secretaries "came to honor the now-famous Reagan-era call to combat 'the rising tide of mediocrity' that gave rise to the school reform movement, and to measure the progress made since 1983." The gathering took place as "test scores released Tuesday from the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress continued a decade-long lull, with only marginal improvement in eighth-grade reading." The piece quotes Education Secretary Betsy DeVos saying, "Overall, we are still a nation at risk, and I would say even greater risk today." The Seventy Four adds, "But a number of her predecessors were more emphatic, lamenting a current lack of collective will to tackle the nation's pressing problems in education."

Colorado Democrats Reject Democrats For Education Reform.

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (4/15, Meltzer) reports Colorado Democratic state assembly delegates "sent a clear message to the state chapter of Democrats for Education Reform: You don't have a place in our party." The head of the organization was booed and "delegates voted overwhelmingly Saturday to call for the organization to no longer use 'Democrats' in its name." Th move "revealed a growing divide among party activists and establishment politicians on education policy."

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

College Recruitment Visits Focus On Richer, Whiter High Schools, Study Finds.

Writing in the [New York Times](#) (4/13, Salazar, Subscription Publication), Ozan Jaquette, an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Karina Salazar, a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, state that an analysis of 150 US college and university recruiting trips has found that “high schools that were visited for recruiting events tended to be whiter and wealthier than schools that were not visited.” University at Buffalo researcher Meagan Holland found that such visits “aren’t merely an indicator of each college’s priorities; they also influence where students — and particularly first-generation students — apply and enroll,” and that “many smart kids from less affluent backgrounds are sensitive to ‘feeling wanted,’ often attending colleges that took the time to visit.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Montana State Launches New Program For Students With Intellectual Disabilities.

The [AP](#) (4/14) reports that Montana State University is “launching a program offering new opportunity and hope to students with disabilities.” The piece notes that “for years Montana students with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities” have gone “from having a federally guaranteed free public education, to virtually nothing” when they graduate from high school. “They go from being surrounded by peers and teachers all day, to being largely isolated.” The AP reports the program’s goal “is not to earn a bachelor’s degree, but to let students audit classes, participate in college clubs and activities, get experience in job internships and build a more independent life.”

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos: US Cannot “Spend Our Way” Out of Stagnant Test Scores.](#)
- [Arizona Governor Proposes 20 Percent Teacher Raises By 2020.](#)
- [New Mexico Closing State’s Largest Online Charter School.](#)
- [States That Pay Top Teacher Salaries.](#)
- [Study: Students At Many For-Profit Colleges Can’t Secure Decent Jobs After Graduation Or Pay Student Debt.](#)

Editor's Note

In Friday's Principal's Update, a headline contained a typo. The headline should have read "DeVos: US Cannot 'Spend Our Way' Out of Stagnant Test Scores." We regret the error.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 24 Apr 2018 05:32:07 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Colorado Republicans Propose Bill Mandating Possible Jail Time For Striking Teachers
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup

April 24, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Colorado Republicans Propose Bill Mandating Possible Jail Time For Striking Teachers.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/23) reports that two Republican Colorado state senators "have introduced a bill seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking and make it so they would face firing, fines or even jail time if they do so anyway." The proposal "comes amid a broader conversation across the state about education funding and educator pay, and as teachers gear up later this week for a second round of demonstrations at the Capitol." However, the bill's chances "are minuscule – with the Democratic-controlled House unlikely to support it and some GOP lawmakers weary themselves – though it has injected another level of debate and controversy into the already simmering issue."

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/22) reports that the bill would "bar teachers from striking and strip unions that endorse strikes of their bargaining power." However, "House Democrats already killed a bill this legislative session that would have prohibited any union activity by public employees during work hours, and this measure goes much further in limiting the rights of workers." The article says the bill's introduction "speaks to growing concern that the wave of teacher activism that has hit other states could come to Colorado."

Colorado Districts Planning To Close For Teacher Walkouts. [Chalkbeat](#) (4/23) reports a number of large Colorado districts are canceling classes over the next week as teachers plan "back-to-back walkouts next week to call for more funding for education – and they could be joined by other districts. Jeffco Public Schools canceled classes for April 26, next Thursday, after many teachers there said they plan to go to the Capitol, while the union representing Denver classroom teachers said they plan to walk out midday April 27, next Friday, to rally at the Capitol early in the afternoon."

Advertisement



POLITICS & POLICY

California, Florida Education Officials Submit Revised ESSA Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports the California Board of Education has submitted an ESSA plan after two years of “back-and-forth with the U.S. Department of Education.” The board “focused on aligning their ESSA plan with the state Local Control Funding Formula. But the formula requires the state to find and help low-performing districts, while ESSA requires states to identify and aid individual schools.”

Meanwhile, the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (4/23) reports the Florida Department of Education submitted “its revised federal school accountability plan Monday, months after the U.S. Education department said multiple revisions were needed.” State DOE officials say the department “had filed for a waiver of certain testing rules for middle school students in science and math, so they do not have to take more than one state exam in the same year.” The plan “also set a definition for languages other than English that are used to a significant extent in schools.”

Connecticut Await Information From ED On Education Funding For Hurricane Evacuees.

[Connecticut Public Radio](#) (4/23) reports that Congress appropriated funding “to help school districts pay for students that left Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria,” and that “details on how states could apply for federal disaster relief money for U.S. schools were due out over a week ago.” The article quotes Connecticut Department of Education COO Charlene Russell-Tucker saying, “So as it is right now, we’re still waiting to get that information from the U.S. Department of Education about the process that we need to follow to access the funds.”

Guam DOE Officials Meet with ED To Seek Removal Of Special Conditions.

The [Pacific News Center](#) (4/23) reports that officials from the Guam Department of Education met recently with ED officials “to discuss the possibility of removing the special conditions imposed upon them, one of which requires a third party fiduciary agent.” Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “made an appearance, giving GDOE a chance to voice their concerns directly with the Secretary of Education.” Getting the special conditions removed would “save the department about \$3 million a year that’s paid to their third party fiduciary agent Alvarez and Marsal.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Most Americans Support Teacher Strikes For Higher Pay, Poll Shows.

The [AP](#) (4/23) reports that a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 52 percent of Americans “approve of teachers leaving the classroom to strike in their search for higher pay.” The poll shows 78 percent of Americans say teachers are not paid enough, compared to 15 percent who think teachers are paid the right amount, and 6 percent think they’re paid too much. About 51 percent of Americans “have been paying at least some attention” to the teacher protests, the poll said. [Newsweek](#) (4/23, Lee) also covers this story.

Arizona Governor Presses Legislature To Pass Teacher Pay Raises As Walkout Looms.

The [AP](#) (4/28) reports that as Arizona districts brace for looming teacher walkouts this week, Gov. Doug Ducey “pushed lawmakers Monday to approve big teacher raises,” promoting his “plan to increase teacher pay 20 percent by 2020 after educators voted to walk off the job Thursday because it didn’t include an overall boost in school funding or raises for support staff.” Notwithstanding Ducey’s support for the plan, Republicans in the legislature “are wary of how the state will pay for the plan.”

Agreement Would Give Detroit Teachers Raises, Credit For Experience.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/24) reports that under a deal struck between the Detroit Public Schools Community District and the Detroit Federation of Teachers, “more than 2,000 Detroit teachers at the top of the pay scale would receive a one-time bonus of \$1,374. Teachers seeking jobs in the district would get credit for all of their years of experience. And current teachers would also move up the pay scale based on how many years they’ve taught.” District officials say the plan, approved on Friday by the school board’s finance committee, “will address teacher vacancies and crowded classes, improve morale, and boost student achievement.”

Research Shows Tennessee Teachers Generally Improve Over The Course Of Their Careers.

Erin O’Hera, Executive Director of the Tennessee Education Research Alliance, writes in the [Education Week](#) (4/23) “Urban Education Reform” blog that over the past year, TERA has worked with researchers at Brown University “to examine how teachers in Tennessee are improving their effectiveness throughout their careers.” A brief released Monday found four key results about teacher improvement in Tennessee: teachers improve over the course of their careers on average; teacher improvement varies substantially by district and school; teachers appear to improve at about the same rates in higher-poverty schools as in lower-poverty schools; and teacher improvement appears to be steeper in more recent years.

Professional Chefs Volunteer Time At NYC Public School.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/23, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports on professional chefs who have volunteered to teach a weekly after-school class at New York City’s only public school focused on culinary arts. Nearly all of the 400 students at Food and Finance high school are poor and black or Hispanic, and many view training as a way to join the industry, often as cooks or food stylists. Restaurateurs worry about a shortage of workers, and the school’s supporters hope it will develop more talent.

Niagara University Hosting Summer STEM Camps.

[Niagara \(NY\) Frontier Publications](#) (4/23) reports Niagara University’s College of Education is “once again offering summer camps” for young people interested in the “practical application of science, technology, engineering and math.” The camps will “focus on electricity, energy and engineering, all in content and in college and career readiness activities. Emphasis in the young women’s camp will also be placed on personal development, etiquette and leadership.”

OPERATIONS

Oregon District Confirms Sudden Departure Of COO.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (4/23) reports Portland Public Schools confirmed Monday that Chief Operating Officer Jerry Vincent has resigned. Vincent “has been at the helm of Portland Public Schools’ multi-tiered mission to improve its school buildings” since 2015, and his “surprise departure throws close to \$1 billion worth of projects into question.” The Tribune says tensions were apparent at an April 10 school board meeting. Vincent “appeared frustrated with the board’s lack of action on a Feb. 27 emergency contract request and pointedly asked when he was going to learn about the construction plan for ACCESS Academy.” Vincent “also described the process to push opening [Harriet] Tubman and Roseway Heights as middle schools next fall as jumbled.” Meanwhile, “Facilities Maintenance and Operations, one of the departments Vincent oversaw in recent months, has been rocked by

numerous controversies in the years since recessionary budget cuts slashed maintenance funding.”

Whistleblower Alleges Ohio Charter School Manipulated Data To Get More Funding.

The [AP](#) (4/23, Carr Smyth) reports a whistleblower claims that “Ohio’s then-largest online charter school intentionally inflated attendance figures tied to its state funding using software it purchased after previous allegations of attendance inflation.” A former technology employee of the “now-shuttered” Electronic Classroom for Tomorrow “said he told the Ohio Department of Education last year that school officials ordered staff to manipulate student data with software obtained following the state’s demand that it return \$60 million in overpayments for the 2015-2016 school year.” Ohio challenged ECOT “over how it claimed student time using the new software, called ActivTrak, after finding that it duplicated learning hours, according to Education Department spokeswoman Brittany Halpin.”

NYC Chancellor Interviewed About Renewal Schools, Homeless Students.

The [New York Times](#) (4/23, Harris, Subscription Publication) features an interview with New York City School Chancellor Richard A. Carranza in which he “described his concerns about Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Renewal Schools program to improve badly struggling schools, which he said lacked a cohesive and widely understood strategic plan.” Carranza says there has been “a change in leadership around the Renewal Schools approach,” and that he “was really heartened to learn within the last 48 hours when I had a really substantive briefing, that a lot of the concerns that I have, they’re already addressing.” He also discusses addressing homeless children in city schools, saying creating a deputy chancellor for highly mobile students would address “an important role to have in the system.”

Baltimore District Seeks Calendar Adjustments To Mitigate Weather-Related Closures.

“After struggling to squeeze enough school days into a snow-filled year while also complying with a strict mandate from Gov. Larry Hogan, some school districts are planning to extend the academic year thanks to newfound flexibility granted by the Maryland General Assembly,” reports the [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/23). The Baltimore school board “is scheduled to vote Tuesday to lengthen the academic calendar by two days,” a move that “would break with Hogan’s executive order that all schools must end by June 15, but meet the state’s 180-day instructional requirement.” Meanwhile, the “state school board will vote Tuesday on requests for waivers from eight county school districts,” including Baltimore, that would exempt the districts from the 180-day requirement. “Baltimore schools would not have been able to meet the 180-day requirement without the new legislation,” as it “closed for five inclement-weather days this year.” Baltimore Teachers Union President Marietta English “said in a statement that she hopes Hogan uses this year’s experience as a guide for handling next year.”

Dallas Lowers Estimated School Crossing Guard Costs.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Smith, Writer) reports the city of Dallas estimated in January that the city “would spend about \$2.4 million to pick up the tab for crossing guards through July, reaching a settlement with the soon-to-be-shuttered Dallas County Schools after the embattled bus operator said it could no longer foot the bill.” City chief of staff Kimberly Bizar Tolbert told the Dallas City Council on Monday that “the city is now expecting to spend three-quarters of that amount, projecting \$619,147 in savings.” Dallas “is saving money by not filling vacancies and better positioning its approximately 400 guards in ‘critical’ locations.” The city “is in final negotiations with a vendor – All City Management Services – to take over the crossing guard program by August 1.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

NEA Ranks North Carolina Below National Average In Teacher Salary, Education Spending.

The [AP](#) (4/23) reports the National Education Association's latest "annual public school teacher pay and spending review shows North Carolina improving while still behind national averages for both." The NEA ranked the state "39th in average teacher pay during the 2016-17 school year at just under \$50,000," compared to "41st the previous year." Additionally, the NEA ranked North Carolina "39th compared to 42nd the year before" in per-pupil spending, and estimated the state "moving to 37th in pay this year at \$50,861." In response, the North Carolina Association of Educators called the state's latest ranking "'lackluster,' pointing out pay fell 9 percent over the past decade when accounting for inflation."

Texas Slips In NEA Teacher Pay Rankings. Texas, meanwhile, "has remained 36th" on per-pupil funding for the second year in a row, the [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Garrett) reports. "Texas fell to 29th in average teacher pay, from 26th the previous year," but the NEA "stressed that local property taxpayers are picking up more of the school tab in Texas than in most states." Texas State Teachers Association president Noel Candelaria said the "shameful" new figures "illustrate again the deep hole that our state leaders, most notably Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, continue to dig for our public schools, students and property taxpayers." He stressed that Texas schools and local taxpayers "won't get real relief until voters start electing state leaders who truly value public education." The Morning News speculates that in November, the two Republican state leaders will "face only lightly funded Democratic opposition while asking voters for a second term."

Krugman: Kentucky Governor's Outburst Reflects Republicans' "War On Schoolteachers."

[New York Times](#) (4/23, Krugman, Subscription Publication) columnist Paul Krugman says Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R) "lost it a few days ago" when thousands of public school teachers "walked off their jobs, forcing many schools to close for a day, to protest his opposition to increased education funding." While Bevin "later apologized," Krugman says "his hysterical outburst had deep roots: At the state and local levels, the conservative obsession with tax cuts has forced the G.O.P. into what amounts to a war on education, and in particular a war on schoolteachers." He explains that "hard-line conservatives" push tax cuts that "sharply reduce revenue, wreaking havoc with state finances" and placing "schoolteachers in the cross hairs." Krugman says "some Republicans have actually proved willing to learn from experience," but most respond "the way Bevin did: Instead of admitting, even implicitly, that they were wrong, they're lashing out, in increasingly unhinged ways, at the victims of their policies."

Indianapolis Public Schools Outlines Possible Budget Cuts.

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To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 24, 2018

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Most Americans Support Teacher Strikes For Higher Pay, Poll Shows.

The [AP](#) (4/23) reports that a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 52 percent of Americans “approve of teachers leaving the classroom to strike in their search for higher pay.” The poll shows 78 percent of Americans say teachers are not paid enough, compared to 15 percent who think teachers are paid the right amount, and 6 percent think they’re paid too much. About 51 percent of Americans “have been paying at least some attention” to the teacher protests, the poll said. [Newsweek](#) (4/23, Lee) also covers this story.

Arizona Governor Presses Legislature To Pass Teacher Pay Raises As Walkout Looms.

The [AP](#) (4/28) reports that as Arizona districts brace for looming teacher walkouts this week, Gov. Doug Ducey “pushed lawmakers Monday to approve big teacher raises,” promoting his “plan to increase teacher pay 20 percent by 2020 after educators voted to walk off the job Thursday because it didn’t include an overall boost in school funding or raises for support staff.” Notwithstanding Ducey’s support for the plan, Republicans in the legislature “are wary of how the state will pay for the plan.”

Agreement Would Give Detroit Teachers Raises, Credit For Experience.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/24) reports that under a deal struck between the Detroit Public Schools Community District and the Detroit Federation of Teachers, “more than 2,000 Detroit teachers at the top of the pay scale would receive a one-time bonus of \$1,374. Teachers seeking jobs in the district would get credit for all of their years of experience. And current teachers would also move up the pay scale based on how many years they’ve taught.” District officials say the plan, approved on Friday by the school board’s finance committee, “will address teacher vacancies and crowded classes, improve morale, and boost student achievement.”

Research Shows Tennessee Teachers Generally Improve Over The Course Of Their Careers.

Erin O’Hera, Executive Director of the Tennessee Education Research Alliance, writes in the [Education Week](#) (4/23) “Urban Education Reform” blog that over the past year, TERA has worked with researchers at Brown University “to examine how teachers in Tennessee are improving their effectiveness throughout their careers.” A brief released Monday found four key results about teacher improvement in Tennessee: teachers improve over the course of their careers on average; teacher improvement varies substantially by district and school; teachers appear to improve at about the same rates in higher-poverty schools as in lower-poverty schools; and teacher improvement appears to be steeper in more recent years.

Professional Chefs Volunteer Time At NYC Public School.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/23, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports on professional chefs who have volunteered to teach a weekly after-school class at New York City’s only public school focused on culinary arts. Nearly all of the 400 students at Food and Finance high school are poor and black or Hispanic, and many view training as a way to join the industry, often as cooks or food stylists. Restaurateurs worry about a shortage of workers, and the school’s supporters hope it will develop more talent.

Niagara University Hosting Summer STEM Camps.

[Niagara \(NY\) Frontier Publications](#) (4/23) reports Niagara University’s College of Education is “once again offering summer camps” for young people interested in the “practical application of science, technology, engineering and math.” The camps will “focus on electricity, energy and engineering, all in content and in college and career readiness activities. Emphasis in the young women’s camp will also be placed on personal development, etiquette and leadership.”

OPERATIONS

Oregon District Confirms Sudden Departure Of COO.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (4/23) reports Portland Public Schools confirmed Monday that Chief Operating Officer Jerry Vincent has resigned. Vincent “has been at the helm of Portland Public Schools’ multi-tiered mission to improve its school buildings” since 2015, and his “surprise departure throws close to \$1 billion worth of projects into question.” The Tribune says tensions were apparent at an April 10 school board meeting. Vincent “appeared frustrated with the board’s lack of action on a Feb. 27 emergency contract request and pointedly asked when he was going to learn about the construction plan for ACCESS Academy.” Vincent “also described the process to push opening [Harriet] Tubman and Roseway Heights as middle schools next fall as jumbled.” Meanwhile, “Facilities Maintenance and Operations, one of the departments Vincent oversaw in recent months, has been rocked by

numerous controversies in the years since recessionary budget cuts slashed maintenance funding.”

Whistleblower Alleges Ohio Charter School Manipulated Data To Get More Funding.

The [AP](#) (4/23, Carr Smyth) reports a whistleblower claims that “Ohio’s then-largest online charter school intentionally inflated attendance figures tied to its state funding using software it purchased after previous allegations of attendance inflation.” A former technology employee of the “now-shuttered” Electronic Classroom for Tomorrow “said he told the Ohio Department of Education last year that school officials ordered staff to manipulate student data with software obtained following the state’s demand that it return \$60 million in overpayments for the 2015-2016 school year.” Ohio challenged ECOT “over how it claimed student time using the new software, called ActivTrak, after finding that it duplicated learning hours, according to Education Department spokeswoman Brittany Halpin.”

NYC Chancellor Interviewed About Renewal Schools, Homeless Students.

The [New York Times](#) (4/23, Harris, Subscription Publication) features an interview with New York City School Chancellor Richard A. Carranza in which he “described his concerns about Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Renewal Schools program to improve badly struggling schools, which he said lacked a cohesive and widely understood strategic plan.” Carranza says there has been “a change in leadership around the Renewal Schools approach,” and that he “was really heartened to learn within the last 48 hours when I had a really substantive briefing, that a lot of the concerns that I have, they’re already addressing.” He also discusses addressing homeless children in city schools, saying creating a deputy chancellor for highly mobile students would address “an important role to have in the system.”

Baltimore District Seeks Calendar Adjustments To Mitigate Weather-Related Closures.

“After struggling to squeeze enough school days into a snow-filled year while also complying with a strict mandate from Gov. Larry Hogan, some school districts are planning to extend the academic year thanks to newfound flexibility granted by the Maryland General Assembly,” reports the [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/23). The Baltimore school board “is scheduled to vote Tuesday to lengthen the academic calendar by two days,” a move that “would break with Hogan’s executive order that all schools must end by June 15, but meet the state’s 180-day instructional requirement.” Meanwhile, the “state school board will vote Tuesday on requests for waivers from eight county school districts,” including Baltimore, that would exempt the districts from the 180-day requirement. “Baltimore schools would not have been able to meet the 180-day requirement without the new legislation,” as it “closed for five inclement-weather days this year.” Baltimore Teachers Union President Marietta English “said in a statement that she hopes Hogan uses this year’s experience as a guide for handling next year.”

Dallas Lowers Estimated School Crossing Guard Costs.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Smith, Writer) reports the city of Dallas estimated in January that the city “would spend about \$2.4 million to pick up the tab for crossing guards through July, reaching a settlement with the soon-to-be-shuttered Dallas County Schools after the embattled bus operator said it could no longer foot the bill.” City chief of staff Kimberly Bizar Tolbert told the Dallas City Council on Monday that “the city is now expecting to spend three-quarters of that amount, projecting \$619,147 in savings.” Dallas “is saving money by not filling vacancies and better positioning its approximately 400 guards in ‘critical’ locations.” The city “is in final negotiations with a vendor – All City Management Services – to take over the crossing guard program by August 1.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

NEA Ranks North Carolina Below National Average In Teacher Salary, Education Spending.

The [AP](#) (4/23) reports the National Education Association's latest "annual public school teacher pay and spending review shows North Carolina improving while still behind national averages for both." The NEA ranked the state "39th in average teacher pay during the 2016-17 school year at just under \$50,000," compared to "41st the previous year." Additionally, the NEA ranked North Carolina "39th compared to 42nd the year before" in per-pupil spending, and estimated the state "moving to 37th in pay this year at \$50,861." In response, the North Carolina Association of Educators called the state's latest ranking "'lackluster,' pointing out pay fell 9 percent over the past decade when accounting for inflation."

Texas Slips In NEA Teacher Pay Rankings. Texas, meanwhile, "has remained 36th" on per-pupil funding for the second year in a row, the [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Garrett) reports. "Texas fell to 29th in average teacher pay, from 26th the previous year," but the NEA "stressed that local property taxpayers are picking up more of the school tab in Texas than in most states." Texas State Teachers Association president Noel Candelaria said the "shameful" new figures "illustrate again the deep hole that our state leaders, most notably Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, continue to dig for our public schools, students and property taxpayers." He stressed that Texas schools and local taxpayers "won't get real relief until voters start electing state leaders who truly value public education." The Morning News speculates that in November, the two Republican state leaders will "face only lightly funded Democratic opposition while asking voters for a second term."

Krugman: Kentucky Governor's Outburst Reflects Republicans' "War On Schoolteachers."

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The [Washington Times](#) (4/23, Mordock) reports that Attorney General Sessions “said the grant demonstrates the department’s commitment to helping first responders. ‘The school shooting in Parkland shocked and horrified the nation, but the community and law enforcement at all levels have shown resilience and determination,’ Mr. Sessions said. ‘As I told our state and local partners back in February, the Department of Justice stands ready to help them in any way we can. Today we offer \$1 million to support the police who have been working overtime in the aftermath of this tragedy. They can be sure about this: we have their backs.’”

[Florida Politics](#) (4/23, McAuliffe) reports that the department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) “announced it would award a \$1 million grant to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to help cover expenses incurred by area first responders following the shooting.” The money “will be funded through the Byrne JAG Program,” which “is authorized by law to cover ‘precipitous or extraordinary increases’ in crimes such as mass violence, according to the Justice Department’s news release.” [WFOR-TV](#) Miami (4/23) also reports on its website.

Virginia Teens Lobby For Law That Addresses Mental Health Issues.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/23, Truong) reports that after seeing the stresses of high school go unacknowledged, three students in Virginia’s Albemarle County lobbied to pass a law to require mental health instruction for 9th and 10th graders. The legislation “sailed through the House and Senate” and was signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam (D) last month. The students said they hope the law will “reduce the stigma they said surrounds seeking help for mental health,” and will “better equip students with skills and resources to cope with mental health struggles.”

North Carolina Legislators Recommend School Safety Threat Assessment Teams, Peer Counseling.

The [AP](#) (4/23, Robertson) reports a North Carolina House subcommittee focused on school safety “agreed Monday to back mandates for schools to formally identify troubled youth needing help and for programs that let young people mentor classmates.” The panel “also agreed more people needed to be hired to fill gaps and vacancies for school counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists.” The recommendations come as the “Democratic governor announced last week a \$130 million school safety plan he’ll put in his impending budget proposal.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

New York City Schools Chancellor Outlines Special Education Program Overhaul.

[Staten Island \(NY\) Live](#) (4/23) reports New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza “said he is having conversations” with city education officials on how “to confront issues with special education programs throughout the city’s public schools.” He made three recommendations on how to address those issues, “starting with the updated Special Education Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOPM),” which “provides schools and personnel with the procedural framework necessary to develop supportive, inclusive education programs citywide, based on each student’s individual needs.” Carranza also called on the city Education Department to clarify “what its philosophy is – if special education should be programmatic or service-oriented.” Finally, Carranza said, he aims to “tackle how to empower parents to understand the process for assessment and what their rights are.” The city DOE is poised to release the plan “within the next month.”

Dallas Elementary Adds Interactive Robot To Special Education Program.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Limón, Writer) reports Tom C. Gooch Elementary in Dallas recently introduced “Milo, a doll-like robot” that was “designed to help young students with autism learn new vocabulary, calming techniques and other coping skills.” The school’s community liaison, Soraya Gollop, described Milo as “a very non-threatening way for kids to learn better social and emotional skills.” She explained that one “key way to allow our students with autism to be within the general population and be part of the classroom, which is best for their academic achievement, is to teach them those coping skills. That’s when Milo comes in.” Overall, 18 percent of the student population at Gooch “is enrolled in special education classes, and the school’s special-needs population continues to grow.” Principal Kim Ashmore said Milo has helped Gooch maximize its special education resources. She noted 31 students are on the autism spectrum.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.](#)
- [DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.](#)
- [Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.](#)
- [Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.](#)
- [School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 24 Apr 2018 05:32:07 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Colorado Republicans Propose Bill Mandating Possible Jail Time For Striking Teachers
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



Good morning Ron Singleton

April 24, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Colorado Republicans Propose Bill Mandating Possible Jail Time For Striking Teachers.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/23) reports that two Republican Colorado state senators "have introduced a bill seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking and make it so they would face firing, fines or even jail time if they do so anyway." The proposal "comes amid a broader conversation across the state about education funding and educator pay, and as teachers gear up later this week for a second round of demonstrations at the Capitol." However, the bill's chances "are minuscule – with the Democratic-controlled House unlikely to support it and some GOP lawmakers weary themselves – though it has injected another level of debate and controversy into the already simmering issue."

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/22) reports that the bill would "bar teachers from striking and strip unions that endorse strikes of their bargaining power." However, "House Democrats already killed a bill this legislative session that would have prohibited any union activity by public employees during work hours, and this measure goes much further in limiting the rights of workers." The article says the bill's introduction "speaks to growing concern that the wave of teacher activism that has hit other states could come to Colorado."

Colorado Districts Planning To Close For Teacher Walkouts. [Chalkbeat](#) (4/23) reports a number of large Colorado districts are canceling classes over the next week as teachers plan "back-to-back walkouts next week to call for more funding for education – and they could be joined by other districts. Jeffco Public Schools canceled classes for April 26, next Thursday, after many teachers there said they plan to go to the Capitol, while the union representing Denver classroom teachers said they plan to walk out midday April 27, next Friday, to rally at the Capitol early in the afternoon."

Advertisement



POLITICS & POLICY

California, Florida Education Officials Submit Revised ESSA Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports the California Board of Education has submitted an ESSA plan after two years of “back-and-forth with the U.S. Department of Education.” The board “focused on aligning their ESSA plan with the state Local Control Funding Formula. But the formula requires the state to find and help low-performing districts, while ESSA requires states to identify and aid individual schools.”

Meanwhile, the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (4/23) reports the Florida Department of Education submitted “its revised federal school accountability plan Monday, months after the U.S. Education department said multiple revisions were needed.” State DOE officials say the department “had filed for a waiver of certain testing rules for middle school students in science and math, so they do not have to take more than one state exam in the same year.” The plan “also set a definition for languages other than English that are used to a significant extent in schools.”

Connecticut Await Information From ED On Education Funding For Hurricane Evacuees.

[Connecticut Public Radio](#) (4/23) reports that Congress appropriated funding “to help school districts pay for students that left Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria,” and that “details on how states could apply for federal disaster relief money for U.S. schools were due out over a week ago.” The article quotes Connecticut Department of Education COO Charlene Russell-Tucker saying, “So as it is right now, we’re still waiting to get that information from the U.S. Department of Education about the process that we need to follow to access the funds.”

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The [AP](#) (4/23) reports from Tallahassee, FL that the Justice Department "is awarding \$1 million to reimburse Florida

agencies for the cost of responding to a school shooting that claimed the lives of 17 people.” The department announced the grant award on Monday. The money “can be used for salary and overtime expenses for the law-enforcement agencies that responded to Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/23, Mordock) reports that Attorney General Sessions “said the grant demonstrates the department’s commitment to helping first responders. ‘The school shooting in Parkland shocked and horrified the nation, but the community and law enforcement at all levels have shown resilience and determination,’ Mr. Sessions said. ‘As I told our state and local partners back in February, the Department of Justice stands ready to help them in any way we can. Today we offer \$1 million to support the police who have been working overtime in the aftermath of this tragedy. They can be sure about this: we have their backs.’”

[Florida Politics](#) (4/23, McAuliffe) reports that the department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) “announced it would award a \$1 million grant to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to help cover expenses incurred by area first responders following the shooting.” The money “will be funded through the Byrne JAG Program,” which “is authorized by law to cover ‘precipitous or extraordinary increases’ in crimes such as mass violence, according to the Justice Department’s news release.” [WFOR-TV](#) Miami (4/23) also reports on its website.

Virginia Teens Lobby For Law That Addresses Mental Health Issues.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/23, Truong) reports that after seeing the stresses of high school go unacknowledged, three students in Virginia’s Albemarle County lobbied to pass a law to require mental health instruction for 9th and 10th graders. The legislation “sailed through the House and Senate” and was signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam (D) last month. The students said they hope the law will “reduce the stigma they said surrounds seeking help for mental health,” and will “better equip students with skills and resources to cope with mental health struggles.”

North Carolina Legislators Recommend School Safety Threat Assessment Teams, Peer Counseling.

The [AP](#) (4/23, Robertson) reports a North Carolina House subcommittee focused on school safety “agreed Monday to back mandates for schools to formally identify troubled youth needing help and for programs that let young people mentor classmates.” The panel “also agreed more people needed to be hired to fill gaps and vacancies for school counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists.” The recommendations come as the “Democratic governor announced last week a \$130 million school safety plan he’ll put in his impending budget proposal.”

SPECIAL NEEDS

New York City Schools Chancellor Outlines Special Education Program Overhaul.

[Staten Island \(NY\) Live](#) (4/23) reports New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza “said he is having conversations” with city education officials on how “to confront issues with special education programs throughout the city’s public schools.” He made three recommendations on how to address those issues, “starting with the updated Special Education Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOPM),” which “provides schools and personnel with the procedural framework necessary to develop supportive, inclusive education programs citywide, based on each student’s individual needs.” Carranza also called on the city Education Department to clarify “what its philosophy is – if special education should be programmatic or service-oriented.” Finally, Carranza said, he aims to “tackle how to empower parents to understand the process for assessment and what their rights are.” The city DOE is poised to release the plan “within the next month.”

Dallas Elementary Adds Interactive Robot To Special Education Program.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/23, Limón, Writer) reports Tom C. Gooch Elementary in Dallas recently introduced “Milo, a doll-like robot” that was “designed to help young students with autism learn new vocabulary, calming techniques and other coping skills.” The school’s community liaison, Soraya Gollop, described Milo as “a very non-threatening way for kids to learn better social and emotional skills.” She explained that one “key way to allow our students with autism to be within the general population and be part of the classroom, which is best for their academic achievement, is to teach them those coping skills. That’s when Milo comes in.” Overall, 18 percent of the student population at Gooch “is enrolled in special education classes, and the school’s special-needs population continues to grow.” Principal Kim Ashmore said Milo has helped Gooch maximize its special education resources. She noted 31 students are on the autism spectrum.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.](#)
- [DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.](#)
- [Texas School Apologizes After Students Asked To Identify Benefits Of Slavery.](#)
- [Indiana Legislature Considering Plan To Expand State Takeover Of Troubled Districts.](#)
- [School Shooter Apologizes For Wounding Student.](#)

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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

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

The Early Learning Cohort

Join us for the 2018-2019 Cohort and discover the profound impact of early learning programs on communities



➤ 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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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 04:44:40 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Say that to my face, you limp noodle
To: <diana.fesmire@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wouldn't know what to do" - [Oprah](#) apparently doesn't know how to pump her own gas. Wish we could say the same.

THINGS ON THE SUPREME RADAR

DACA

The Story

The Supreme Court is [staying out of the fight over DACA](#).

Tell me more.

DACA is the Obama-era program that protects hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the US as kids from deportation. Last year, the Trump administration moved to [get rid of the program](#), giving Congress until next week to find a fix. Cue the lawsuits to keep it in place. Last month, a federal judge [ruled that DACA can stay](#) for now. The Trump administration appealed. And asked the Supreme Court to step in. But yesterday, the Supremes said 'we'll pass.'

theSkimm

Now, DACA can stay while it goes back to the lower courts. This could all go out the window if Congress comes up with a plan. But it doesn't look like that's [happening anytime soon](#).

Unions

The Story

The Supremes will decide whether [all public-sector workers have to pay union fees](#).

Tell me more.

Back in the '70s, the Supreme Court ruled that it's up to the states to decide whether public sector workers who don't join a union still have to pay dues. Unions say these

requirements make sure there aren't any 'free riders' getting the benefits without paying up. Critics say workers shouldn't be forced to pay for something they disagree with.

Why are we hearing about this now?

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From: "theSkimm" <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 04:23:23 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: Say that to my face, you limp noodle
To: <denice.peterson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wouldn't know what to do" - [Oprah](#) apparently doesn't know how to pump her own gas. Wish we could say the same.

THINGS ON THE SUPREME RADAR

DACA

The Story

The Supreme Court is [staying out of the fight over DACA](#).

Tell me more.

DACA is the Obama-era program that protects hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the US as kids from deportation. Last year, the Trump administration moved to [get rid of the program](#), giving Congress until next week to find a fix. Cue the lawsuits to keep it in place. Last month, a federal judge [ruled that DACA can stay](#) for now. The Trump administration appealed. And asked the Supreme Court to step in. But yesterday, the Supremes said 'we'll pass.'

theSkimm

Now, DACA can stay while it goes back to the lower courts. This could all go out the window if Congress comes up with a plan. But it doesn't look like that's [happening anytime soon](#).

Unions

The Story

The Supremes will decide whether [all public-sector workers have to pay union fees](#).

Tell me more.

Back in the '70s, the Supreme Court ruled that it's up to the states to decide whether public sector workers who don't join a union still have to pay dues. Unions say these

requirements make sure there aren't any 'free riders' getting the benefits without paying up. Critics say workers shouldn't be forced to pay for something they disagree with.

Why are we hearing about this now?

An Illinois public sector worker [sued the state](#), saying that forcing non-members to pay fees to unions whose views they may not share violates his free speech rights. Now, the Supremes are hearing the case and it could affect [millions of workers](#) in dozens of states.

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The Supremes heard a similar case in 2016, but the court was split on the issue while then-President Obama's Supreme Court nomination was [held up by the Senate](#). Now, President Trump's appointee Neil Gorsuch is on the bench and he'll cast the deciding vote.

REPEAT AFTER ME...

What to say when your coworker trash talks you to your boss...

Won't stand for this. Thousands of teachers in West Virginia are expected to shut down schools in their [fourth day of protests](#) today. Teachers there are almost the lowest paid on average in the country. Last week, the state passed a law that would up their salary 4% in the next few years. But teachers said 'not good enough.' And that they want better salaries and better health care ASAP. So teachers from every school across the state didn't show up to work on Thursday. Or Friday. Or Monday. The walkouts have impacted more than a quarter of a million students. But the governor's expected to meet with teachers around the state on all this. TBD on how that all goes.

What to say when some Georgia Republicans want to [kill a tax break for Delta...](#)

Taking sides. Yesterday, a federal appeals court decided that companies [can't fire employees](#) for being gay. In 2010, a skydiving instructor filed a lawsuit for allegedly being fired after telling a client he was gay. Now, the court's taking the instructor's side. The judges say he's protected under Title VII - part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that says employers can't discriminate based on things like race, religion, or sex. And that sexual orientation falls under sex. Unclear if the employer will appeal to the Supremes. Meanwhile, yesterday it came out that the [first transgender recruit](#) joined the US military. This comes as the Pentagon missed its [Feb 21 deadline](#) to release details on its transgender military ban.

What to say when you get cut off in a meeting...

Not finished yet. Yesterday, [more details](#) came out about allegations against Ryan Seacrest. Last year, his former stylist at E! accused Seacrest of sexual misconduct. Seacrest [denied the allegations](#) and said he'd cooperate in the investigation. Earlier this month, E! said after looking into it that there was "[insufficient evidence to support the claims.](#)" Now, a media report dropped additional info. The woman reportedly alleges she dealt with years of sexual abuse by Seacrest including that he groped her and rubbed against her in his underwear multiple times. Her employment reportedly ended shortly after discussing the situation with HR execs in 2013.

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Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 04:45:03 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: You are the butter to my bread
To: <lisa.clouthier@carlsbadschools.net>

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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Skimm HQ's got a sweet tooth too. And is using [this electric toothbrush](#) to brush it real good. It's also super easy to travel with. Oh, and Skimm's get a discount off their first order. Sweeeet. [Get yours here.](#)*

For when you need some career inspo...

This will get you moving. Our guest on this week's episode of "Skimm'd from The Couch" is Sallie Krawcheck - Co-Founder and CEO of Ellevest. She started her own company after getting fired...twice. [Listen here](#) to get your inspiration on.

For when you're marking your calendar for November 6...

It's an election year. And women are more politically engaged than they have been in a long time. So theSkimm is teaming up with Vanity Fair's the Hive and Survey Monkey to better understand what this group is doing and thinking in the run-up to this midterm election. [Here's what we found so far.](#)

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Let's spice things up. Which movie about our favorite foodie is today's subject line from?

Julie & Julia

Chef

Ratatouille

No Reservations

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Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 04:31:33 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: You are the butter to my bread
To: <wendy.christiansen@carlsbadschools.net>

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 04:45:08 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Daily Skimm: You are the butter to my bread
To: <diana.fesmire@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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All I do is win, win, win, no matter what...is what we want you saying at the end of this week. Same game, same rules: Guess the movie our subject line is from. If you get 4 out of 5 correct at the end of this week, you could win \$1,000. One guess per day. Make it count. And for those who played yesterday...nice job, if you picked Mulan. Questions? [We've got answers.](#)

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Julie & Julia

Chef

Ratatouille

No Reservations

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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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[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

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, Schaff) 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,

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.”

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.”

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

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: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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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.”

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

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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Subject: DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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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."

[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

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.”

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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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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: <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

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

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,

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.

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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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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 21 Mar 2018 05:30:16 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVos Testifies About Budget, Discusses Safety Commission Before House Panel
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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First Lady Hosts White House Cyberbullying Summit.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Superville) reports First Lady Melania Trump hosted executives from major online and social media companies to discuss cyberbullying and Internet safety at the White House on Tuesday. The meeting was expected to be attended by Amazon, Snap, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, as well as the Internet Association.

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The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Persons) reports that Sheriff Cameron “identified Austin Wyatt Rollins as the shooter at Great Mills High School.” Cameron “said Rollins died after Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a school resource officer and a member of the SWAT team, fired at him.” The Times adds, “agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined deputies at Great Mills High School as students endured a lengthy lockdown, cowering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cochrane, Bidgood, Subscription Publication) reports that “the shooting here comes amid renewed urgency in the nation’s debate over gun control, with demonstrators around the country planning a nationwide march this weekend,” and “it is likely to draw further attention to the role of armed personnel in schools, which has been widely discussed after surveillance video showed that a sheriff’s deputy posted at the school in Parkland did not go inside a building to engage the gunman during that shooting, an apparent violation of protocol.”

The [AP](#) (3/20, Barakat, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) “said at a minimum, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism.” Maryland’s Senate “joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon,” and “teachers’ union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe.” Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) “accused the Democrat-led legislature of failing to take action on ‘one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country.’” Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (3/20), the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20), [The Seventy Four](#) (3/20), and [Politico](#) (3/20, Hefling, Leonor).

Tennessee Governor Makes Proposal For School Safety.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, Ebert, Gonzales) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam “recommended Tuesday spending \$30 million to help improve school safety.” Haslam’s recommendations included \$25 million “in one-time, nonrecurring funds, and an additional \$5.2 million he said would be dedicated to recurring school safety grants.”

According to the [AP](#) (3/20, Mattise), the Administration says the governor's proposal "will be spread among mental health, law enforcement safety, and education." The article quotes Haslam as saying in regards to what exactly will be funded: "I think it's open, everything from school resource officers, to physical improvements in the schools, to video monitors, to better alert notifications to law enforcement, but also for students to be able to notify people that, hey, there's somebody that's of concern here." The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (3/20) provides similar coverage.

House Advances Legislation To Arm Teachers. The [Tennessean](#) (3/20, Gonzales) reports that a House Bill "to arm some Tennessee teachers" passed the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday "on an 8-3 vote," and "will next move to a House education committee for consideration." The bill, which "would give school boards and school directors the power to adopt a policy allowing select school staff to carry a concealed firearm on school property," will "next move to a House education committee for consideration."

Stoneman Douglas Removes Three Students, State Increases School Entry Guards.

[WPLG-TV](#) Miami (3/20, Torres) reports that the sheriff's office in Broward County, Florida "removed three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Tuesday." The article says two of the students "were arrested for bringing weapons to school and a third was hospitalized over concerning posts on social media." Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to Sheriff Scott Israel and to Superintendent Robert Runcie in response, "offering help from the Florida Highway Patrol at the school's security entry;" Israel said late Tuesday that "he would accept the governor's offer."

Kentucky Students Gather At State Capitol To Call For Student Safety.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, McLaren) reports that "about 150 Kentucky students converged Tuesday evening on the State Capitol to fight for student safety." The students were taking part in a rally "organized by the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team." The article adds that "earlier in the day, about 100 students from around the commonwealth held a "teach-in" at the Capitol annex building."

Wisconsin State Senate Passes \$100 Million School Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/20) reports the Wisconsin state Senate, in a 28-4 vote on Tuesday, approved Gov. Scott Walker's school safety package, sending the measure "to the Assembly for potential action as soon as Thursday." The Journal Sentinel notes that the state Senate approved the school safety package "just hours after a student gunman in Maryland opened fire at a school, wounding two students and dying after an exchange of shots with a police officer at the school." While the vote was bipartisan, the floor debate over the bill, which would allocate "\$100 million to improve school safety," was "sharply divided, with Democrats saying the bill didn't go far enough." Republican state senators ultimately "rejected Democratic efforts" to strengthen gun control laws, and they also dropped "a Walker-backed requirement that parents be notified about cases of bullying within 48 hours."

Noting that the state Senate version of the school safety package "closely mirrored Walker's proposals," the [AP](#) (3/20) reports that the version removed specific "references to the money being able to pay for armed guards, which was included in Walker's bill." The state Senate version also omitted "a provision allowing schools to share surveillance footage with law enforcement." Meanwhile, Democratic state lawmakers "and other advocates have said Walker's proposal doesn't get to the root of the problem – increasing gun control."

Study: Young Children Increasingly See Scientists As Women.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Guarino) reports on a "landmark study" published by social scientist David Chambers in 1983. "During the late 1960s and the 1970s, teachers asked nearly 5,000 children to draw a scientist," and only 28 of the drawings – all done by girls – featured female scientists. However, this appears to be changing, the Post

reports, saying Northwestern University psychology grad student David Miller “and his Northwestern colleagues reviewed 78 draw-a-scientist studies completed after Chamber’s report. After 1980, 3 in 10 students drew women as scientists. Younger children, young girls in particular, were the most likely to sketch female scientists, according to the report published Tuesday in the journal *Child Development*.” [CNN](#) (3/20, Criss) reports Miller said the shift is “a reflection of both more women in science and more female scientists being represented in the media and popular culture.” [Newsweek](#) (3/20, Hignett) also covers this story.

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An advertisement for a school planner. It features a green background with white text. At the top, it says "School Planner" in a white box. Below that, it says "100% CUSTOMIZABLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PLANNERS" in white text. To the right of this text is a small image of a spiral-bound planner with a photo of a group of students on the cover. At the bottom, there is a purple button with white text that says "REQUEST SAMPLE" and a white circular arrow icon to its right.

Michigan Elementary School’s After School Robotic Club Highlighted.

The [Oscoda \(MI\) Press](#) (3/20) reported on Richardson Elementary School’s after school LEGO Robotics Club. Most of the club members who were interviewed “said they wanted to join because they like creating with LEGOs and were interested in learning how to program computers.” Polly Masterson, the club’s instructor, “said robotics club activities all relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components and combining them with problem solving and teamwork is preparing youth for the future.” According to the Oscoda Press, the club’s first LEGO kit was paid by a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) grant.

California Girls Learn STEM Skills In Femineer Program.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (3/20) reports Ramona High School is one of 41 K-12 schools in the country participating in Femineers, a program “created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in their education and career.” The program offers students “project-based learning, female engineering student mentors, and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona.”

California High School Students Rally For Support Ahead Of VEX Robotics Competition.

The [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (3/20) reports members of the robotics team at Armijo High School in California are rallying “for community support as the team returns to the VEX Robotics Competition April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky,” which is expected to attract at least 500 teams from more than 30 countries. The Armijo team launched a GoFundMe campaign in hopes of raising \$5,000; as of Tuesday, the team secured \$1,635. The Daily Republic says many of the Armijo robotics team members “discovered their interest in robotics prior to high school” through Lego Mindstorms. Notably, junior Marc Lejano “has applied to the Air Force Academy in hopes of doing product development when he graduates in 2019.” The Daily Republic notes the team is headed by Dianne Halsey, an engineering teacher who “attended aviation college and worked as an aircraft mechanic.”

Indiana Will Take Two Years To End ISTEP.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, Herron) reports that “it looks like” the ISTEP test in Indiana “will hang around for another two years.” Although state lawmakers adopted legislation “to switch to a college entrance exam,” the final version of the bill adopted “included a two-year waiting period to move to the new test.”

Duke Study Finds SNAP Assistance Linked To Improved Test Performance.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, Downey) reports on a study released Tuesday by Duke University “relating student performance on tests to when low-income families get” the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The study, which “examined data for 148,000 public school children receiving SNAP,” found that when a family “received their SNAP, benefit influenced test performance.” The article provides detail on the study’s findings.

Portland Press Herald Contributor: Maine Should Repeal Proficiency-based Diploma Law.

Maine State Representative Heidi Sampson argues in a special in the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/20) that “schools across Maine are rushing to implement proficiency-based education in the mistaken belief that it is their only option to comply with the proficiency-based diploma law,” which in fact “does not require that any particular system be used to attain or evaluate proficiency.” Sampson describes the history of the law, arguing that “Maine’s public education system has been manipulated to force an agenda without engaging parents, teachers, and students in the process,” and asserts that current proposals before the legislature “will not suddenly fix the unfixable.” Therefore, “the Legislature should repeal the entire proficiency-based diploma law, which would return the decision-making process to the local school districts.”

Oklahoma State DOE Requests Probe Into Alleged Grades, Attendance Tampering.

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Education issued a news release on Tuesday announcing “that it asked the state Bureau of Investigation for assistance after finding ‘unexpectedly high levels’ of grade changes from October through January” in the Chickasha Public Schools district. The state DOE released a report alleging that “there is evidence of tampering with both grades and attendance records,” although a spokeswoman for the state agency, Deana Silk, said the reasons behind the alleged tampering are unknown. In a news release, state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister stressed the need to investigate the allegations, which she described as “extremely troubling.”

Oklahoma Teachers Could Be Next To Stage Statewide Walkout.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports that the recent statewide walkout by West Virginia teachers over pay “looks like the potential beginning of a red-state rebellion.” In Arizona, teachers have conducted a series of demonstrations demanding higher pay, and in Kentucky, teachers have “organized rallies to protest proposed cuts to their pensions.” In Oklahoma, “where teachers have not had a raise from the state in a decade, they have vowed to go on strike on April 2 if the Legislature does not act to increase pay and education budgets.”

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Kentucky Teachers Demonstrate Against Proposed Pension Cuts.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, Yetter) says that “as the debate over Kentucky’s underfunded public pension system rages in Frankfort, Kentucky’s teachers...say it’s important to remind the public that their pensions are critical because they don’t get Social Security most retirees depend on.” That is why those teachers “have flooded the state Capitol in growing numbers.” The article quotes teachers explaining why they oppose the proposed cuts.



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Study Finds High Proportion Of Teachers Experiencing Assaults Do Not Report.

[Education Week](#) (3/20, Will) reports on a study published in the journal Social Psychology of Education which surveyed 2,505 K-12 teachers across the country “who had experienced an incident of violence at school.” The study “found that some teachers who were victimized also didn’t tell their family...or their colleagues.” The article cites findings of past research on the effects of teachers experiencing violence at school.

South Carolina Looks To Extend Teacher Retention Program.

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/20, Schechter) says school districts and state agencies in South Carolina “fear the end of” the Teacher Employee Retention Investment (TERI), which will soon expire. On Wednesday, a state Senate Finance panel “will take up a proposal...to head off the feared exodus of veteran educators from S.C. schools.” The article provides detail on the views of those apprehensive about the end of the program.

FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies present the next in their college admission and planning webinar series, “**You’re Accepted—Now What?**” The webinar is ideal for seniors faced with a decision in choosing one school among multiple offers. For those students who have made a selection, valuable tips to prepare for fall entry will be shared. Younger NHS and NJHS members will also pick up important guidance well before faced with the decision-making process. The webinar airs Wednesday, March 21 (tonight), 7:00–8:00 p.m. (ET). Registration is now open for NHS and NJHS student members, parents, and faculty/staff of affiliated schools at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

The National Honor Societies—NHS and NJHS—are programs of NASSP.

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EDUCATION POLICY

DeVos Testifies About Budget, Discusses Safety Commission Before House Panel.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports Education Secretary DeVos was scheduled to go before a House panel Tuesday “to defend her agency’s budget, including a sweeping overhaul of the Education Department that has strained relations within her agency and with Congress — and defies the White House’s budget office.” The Times says that in recent weeks, DeVos has “clashed fiercely with department staff members over the plan, which they say she tried to withhold from Congress as she imposed on the department what they call an illegal collective bargaining agreement.” DeVos will testify today before the House Appropriations Committee, “whose staff was told a week ago that her office had withheld vital information from it regarding the department’s budget for the fiscal year.” According to the Times, the budget request calls for “a 5 percent spending cut, eliminates dozens of programs and pitches a \$1 billion school choice proposal.”

In a subsequent article, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that DeVos fielded questions about her department’s “budget request for the fiscal year that begins in October.” While DeVos said, “This budget is about students,” Democrats “disagreed that the budget would benefit all students — especially minorities.” Rep. Barbara Lee said the budget is a “slap in the face” for minority students and told DeVos, “Your head is in the sand about racial bias and racial discrimination. ... You just don’t care about civil rights of black and brown children. This is horrible.”

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports DeVos “faced tough questions from House Democrats on Tuesday on gun control, racial bias and civil rights as she sought to defend funding cuts for her agency.” DeVos also “unveiled some details of a federal commission on school safety that she will be chairing. The commission, formed after the Florida high school shooting in which 17 people were killed, will comprise herself as well as the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments.” An ED spokesperson “later added that the panel will also involve students, teachers, law enforcement and mental health professionals as experts.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Balingit) reports DeVos “faced sharp criticism Tuesday over her proposed budget, which seeks to eliminate money that schools use to support student mental health — a move that has come under scrutiny following the Florida school shooting.” The piece reports members “signaled they would probably reject many of the proposed cuts in DeVos’s budget, as they did last year.”

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports DeVos “sparred with House Democrats over the Trump administration’s proposed budget’s support for private school choice, and its cuts to programs related to civil rights, safety, and after-school.” DeVos said the budget plan “would maintain its support for disadvantaged students, while also attempting to ensure greater opportunities for them through a new, \$1 billion school choice program. She also highlighted \$200 million in funds for science, technology, engineering, and math education, made available through the current Education Innovation and Research program, as well as level funding for the Title I program focused on disadvantaged students (\$14.9 billion), as well as for special education (\$12.8 billion).”

[NPR](#) (3/20) reports Republicans on the panel “were more supportive, praising DeVos for her efforts to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy, her support for charter schools and vouchers, and for her stance that states should decide whether teachers should carry guns.” DeVos said the budget proposal “has two main goals: first, to make the department more efficient by doing more with less, and, second, to reduce the federal footprint on state and local school reform.” Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (3/20, Elis), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20), [CBS News](#) (3/20), [Politico](#) (3/20, Wermund), and the [New York Daily News](#) (3/20).

House Lawmakers Debate Obama-Era School Discipline Guidance.

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports that a House Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on school safety Tuesday that

focused largely on “an Obama administration directive with the aim of driving down disproportionately high school discipline rates for black and Latino students.” The ED and DOJ joint guidance, issued in 2014, “includes a call for schools to ensure that they are not involving law enforcement in routine disciplinary issues. It also put schools on notice that they may be in violation of civil rights laws if their disciplinary policies lead to disparately high discipline rates for students of color, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” Republicans on the panel “asked Wednesday whether the accused shooter, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, should have been arrested at Stoneman Douglas when he was a student there.” The piece notes that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “has said she is reviewing” the guidance.

Report Aims To Help Michigan Improve Lagging Outcomes.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20, McVicar) discusses “a new report released today by Business Leaders for Michigan” which puts forth “a host of recommendations” on improving “Michigan’s lagging educational outcomes” and “details the challenges facing Michigan’s K-12 schools.” The article says “turning those strategies into real, sustained action” will be “key” for helping struggling parents and students across the state.

DIGITAL LEARNING

School Officials Urged To Use Educational Data To Improve Districts.

[Education Week](#) (3/21) reports on the push to use educational data to help improve school districts. Experts claim the current education system’s data infrastructure, “built in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Law and focused primarily on holding schools accountable, looms as a significant barrier.” Educational data experts say schools should focus on implementing improvement strategies “more methodically, but learning much more about them as they happen.” The ideal process would “entail identifying the problem schools want to fix; developing a theory about how to improve it; and then helping the people closest to the problem...to develop measures of day-to-day progress that are aligned to that theory.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED’s Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.](#)
- [Lawyers Seek To Stop Education Department Partial Student Loan Forgiveness Plan.](#)

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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[ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:50, Moton) said the shooting “comes during a national call to action to make schools safer, and days before thousands are expected in Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives rally, in response to the Parkland, Florida school massacre.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Hedgpeth) reports two other students – a male and a female – were injured in the shooting in a hallway at Great Mills High School. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (3/20) reports the injured female student “is in critical condition,” and the male student is “in stable condition.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Persons) reports that Sheriff Cameron “identified Austin Wyatt Rollins as the shooter at Great Mills High School.” Cameron “said Rollins died after Deputy First Class Blaine Gaskill, a school resource officer and a member of the SWAT team, fired at him.” The Times adds, “agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined deputies at Great Mills High School as students endured a lengthy lockdown, cowering inside classrooms and a locker room while officers worked to make sure there were no more threats on campus.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cochrane, Bidgood, Subscription Publication) reports that “the shooting here comes amid renewed urgency in the nation’s debate over gun control, with demonstrators around the country planning a nationwide march this weekend,” and “it is likely to draw further attention to the role of armed personnel in schools, which has been widely discussed after surveillance video showed that a sheriff’s deputy posted at the school in Parkland did not go inside a building to engage the gunman during that shooting, an apparent violation of protocol.”

The [AP](#) (3/20, Barakat, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) “said at a minimum, universal background checks and a ban on assault-style weapons are needed. He said he believes momentum is building for reform, fueled by student activism.” Maryland’s Senate “joined the House on Monday night to ban bump stocks, which enable a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon,” and “teachers’ union leaders issued statements Tuesday saying more policies must be changed nationwide to keep schools safe.” Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) “accused the Democrat-led legislature of failing to take action on ‘one of the most aggressive school safety plans in the country.’” Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (3/20), the [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/20), [The Seventy Four](#) (3/20), and [Politico](#) (3/20, Hefling, Leonor).

Tennessee Governor Makes Proposal For School Safety.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, Ebert, Gonzales) reports Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam “recommended Tuesday spending \$30 million to help improve school safety.” Haslam’s recommendations included \$25 million “in one-time, nonrecurring funds, and an additional \$5.2 million he said would be dedicated to recurring school safety grants.”

According to the [AP](#) (3/20, Mattise), the Administration says the governor's proposal "will be spread among mental health, law enforcement safety, and education." The article quotes Haslam as saying in regards to what exactly will be funded: "I think it's open, everything from school resource officers, to physical improvements in the schools, to video monitors, to better alert notifications to law enforcement, but also for students to be able to notify people that, hey, there's somebody that's of concern here." The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (3/20) provides similar coverage.

House Advances Legislation To Arm Teachers. The [Tennessean](#) (3/20, Gonzales) reports that a House Bill "to arm some Tennessee teachers" passed the House Civil Justice Committee on Tuesday "on an 8-3 vote," and "will next move to a House education committee for consideration." The bill, which "would give school boards and school directors the power to adopt a policy allowing select school staff to carry a concealed firearm on school property," will "next move to a House education committee for consideration."

Stoneman Douglas Removes Three Students, State Increases School Entry Guards.

[WPLG-TV](#) Miami (3/20, Torres) reports that the sheriff's office in Broward County, Florida "removed three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Tuesday." The article says two of the students "were arrested for bringing weapons to school and a third was hospitalized over concerning posts on social media." Gov. Rick Scott sent a letter to Sheriff Scott Israel and to Superintendent Robert Runcie in response, "offering help from the Florida Highway Patrol at the school's security entry;" Israel said late Tuesday that "he would accept the governor's offer."

Kentucky Students Gather At State Capitol To Call For Student Safety.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, McLaren) reports that "about 150 Kentucky students converged Tuesday evening on the State Capitol to fight for student safety." The students were taking part in a rally "organized by the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team." The article adds that "earlier in the day, about 100 students from around the commonwealth held a "teach-in" at the Capitol annex building."

Wisconsin State Senate Passes \$100 Million School Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/20) reports the Wisconsin state Senate, in a 28-4 vote on Tuesday, approved Gov. Scott Walker's school safety package, sending the measure "to the Assembly for potential action as soon as Thursday." The Journal Sentinel notes that the state Senate approved the school safety package "just hours after a student gunman in Maryland opened fire at a school, wounding two students and dying after an exchange of shots with a police officer at the school." While the vote was bipartisan, the floor debate over the bill, which would allocate "\$100 million to improve school safety," was "sharply divided, with Democrats saying the bill didn't go far enough." Republican state senators ultimately "rejected Democratic efforts" to strengthen gun control laws, and they also dropped "a Walker-backed requirement that parents be notified about cases of bullying within 48 hours."

Noting that the state Senate version of the school safety package "closely mirrored Walker's proposals," the [AP](#) (3/20) reports that the version removed specific "references to the money being able to pay for armed guards, which was included in Walker's bill." The state Senate version also omitted "a provision allowing schools to share surveillance footage with law enforcement." Meanwhile, Democratic state lawmakers "and other advocates have said Walker's proposal doesn't get to the root of the problem – increasing gun control."

Study: Young Children Increasingly See Scientists As Women.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Guarino) reports on a "landmark study" published by social scientist David Chambers in 1983. "During the late 1960s and the 1970s, teachers asked nearly 5,000 children to draw a scientist," and only 28 of the drawings – all done by girls – featured female scientists. However, this appears to be changing, the Post

reports, saying Northwestern University psychology grad student David Miller “and his Northwestern colleagues reviewed 78 draw-a-scientist studies completed after Chamber’s report. After 1980, 3 in 10 students drew women as scientists. Younger children, young girls in particular, were the most likely to sketch female scientists, according to the report published Tuesday in the journal *Child Development*.” [CNN](#) (3/20, Criss) reports Miller said the shift is “a reflection of both more women in science and more female scientists being represented in the media and popular culture.” [Newsweek](#) (3/20, Hignett) also covers this story.

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Michigan Elementary School’s After School Robotic Club Highlighted.

The [Oscoda \(MI\) Press](#) (3/20) reported on Richardson Elementary School’s after school LEGO Robotics Club. Most of the club members who were interviewed “said they wanted to join because they like creating with LEGOs and were interested in learning how to program computers.” Polly Masterson, the club’s instructor, “said robotics club activities all relate to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) components and combining them with problem solving and teamwork is preparing youth for the future.” According to the Oscoda Press, the club’s first LEGO kit was paid by a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) grant.

California Girls Learn STEM Skills In Femineer Program.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (3/20) reports Ramona High School is one of 41 K-12 schools in the country participating in Femineers, a program “created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Engineering in 2013 to inspire additional females to pursue science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, in their education and career.” The program offers students “project-based learning, female engineering student mentors, and opportunities to visit Cal Poly Pomona.”

California High School Students Rally For Support Ahead Of VEX Robotics Competition.

The [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (3/20) reports members of the robotics team at Armijo High School in California are rallying “for community support as the team returns to the VEX Robotics Competition April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky,” which is expected to attract at least 500 teams from more than 30 countries. The Armijo team launched a GoFundMe campaign in hopes of raising \$5,000; as of Tuesday, the team secured \$1,635. The Daily Republic says many of the Armijo robotics team members “discovered their interest in robotics prior to high school” through Lego Mindstorms. Notably, junior Marc Lejano “has applied to the Air Force Academy in hopes of doing product development when he graduates in 2019.” The Daily Republic notes the team is headed by Dianne Halsey, an engineering teacher who “attended aviation college and worked as an aircraft mechanic.”

Indiana Will Take Two Years To End ISTEP.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, Herron) reports that “it looks like” the ISTEP test in Indiana “will hang around for another two years.” Although state lawmakers adopted legislation “to switch to a college entrance exam,” the final version of the bill adopted “included a two-year waiting period to move to the new test.”

Duke Study Finds SNAP Assistance Linked To Improved Test Performance.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, Downey) reports on a study released Tuesday by Duke University “relating student performance on tests to when low-income families get” the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The study, which “examined data for 148,000 public school children receiving SNAP,” found that when a family “received their SNAP, benefit influenced test performance.” The article provides detail on the study’s findings.

Portland Press Herald Contributor: Maine Should Repeal Proficiency-based Diploma Law.

Maine State Representative Heidi Sampson argues in a special in the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/20) that “schools across Maine are rushing to implement proficiency-based education in the mistaken belief that it is their only option to comply with the proficiency-based diploma law,” which in fact “does not require that any particular system be used to attain or evaluate proficiency.” Sampson describes the history of the law, arguing that “Maine’s public education system has been manipulated to force an agenda without engaging parents, teachers, and students in the process,” and asserts that current proposals before the legislature “will not suddenly fix the unfixable.” Therefore, “the Legislature should repeal the entire proficiency-based diploma law, which would return the decision-making process to the local school districts.”

Oklahoma State DOE Requests Probe Into Alleged Grades, Attendance Tampering.

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports the Oklahoma State Department of Education issued a news release on Tuesday announcing “that it asked the state Bureau of Investigation for assistance after finding ‘unexpectedly high levels’ of grade changes from October through January” in the Chickasha Public Schools district. The state DOE released a report alleging that “there is evidence of tampering with both grades and attendance records,” although a spokeswoman for the state agency, Deana Silk, said the reasons behind the alleged tampering are unknown. In a news release, state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister stressed the need to investigate the allegations, which she described as “extremely troubling.”

Oklahoma Teachers Could Be Next To Stage Statewide Walkout.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Goldstein, Subscription Publication) reports that the recent statewide walkout by West Virginia teachers over pay “looks like the potential beginning of a red-state rebellion.” In Arizona, teachers have conducted a series of demonstrations demanding higher pay, and in Kentucky, teachers have “organized rallies to protest proposed cuts to their pensions.” In Oklahoma, “where teachers have not had a raise from the state in a decade, they have vowed to go on strike on April 2 if the Legislature does not act to increase pay and education budgets.”

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Kentucky Teachers Demonstrate Against Proposed Pension Cuts.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/20, Yetter) says that “as the debate over Kentucky’s underfunded public pension system rages in Frankfort, Kentucky’s teachers...say it’s important to remind the public that their pensions are critical because they don’t get Social Security most retirees depend on.” That is why those teachers “have flooded the state Capitol in growing numbers.” The article quotes teachers explaining why they oppose the proposed cuts.



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Study Finds High Proportion Of Teachers Experiencing Assaults Do Not Report.

[Education Week](#) (3/20, Will) reports on a study published in the journal Social Psychology of Education which surveyed 2,505 K-12 teachers across the country “who had experienced an incident of violence at school.” The study “found that some teachers who were victimized also didn’t tell their family...or their colleagues.” The article cites findings of past research on the effects of teachers experiencing violence at school.

South Carolina Looks To Extend Teacher Retention Program.

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/20, Schechter) says school districts and state agencies in South Carolina “fear the end of” the Teacher Employee Retention Investment (TERI), which will soon expire. On Wednesday, a state Senate Finance panel “will take up a proposal...to head off the feared exodus of veteran educators from S.C. schools.” The article provides detail on the views of those apprehensive about the end of the program.

FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies present the next in their college admission and planning webinar series, “**You’re Accepted—Now What?**” The webinar is ideal for seniors faced with a decision in choosing one school among multiple offers. For those students who have made a selection, valuable tips to prepare for fall entry will be shared. Younger NHS and NJHS members will also pick up important guidance well before faced with the decision-making process. The webinar airs Wednesday, March 21 (tonight), 7:00–8:00 p.m. (ET). Registration is now open for NHS and NJHS student members, parents, and faculty/staff of affiliated schools at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

The National Honor Societies—NHS and NJHS—are programs of NASSP.

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EDUCATION POLICY

DeVos Testifies About Budget, Discusses Safety Commission Before House Panel.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports Education Secretary DeVos was scheduled to go before a House panel Tuesday “to defend her agency’s budget, including a sweeping overhaul of the Education Department that has strained relations within her agency and with Congress — and defies the White House’s budget office.” The Times says that in recent weeks, DeVos has “clashed fiercely with department staff members over the plan, which they say she tried to withhold from Congress as she imposed on the department what they call an illegal collective bargaining agreement.” DeVos will testify today before the House Appropriations Committee, “whose staff was told a week ago that her office had withheld vital information from it regarding the department’s budget for the fiscal year.” According to the Times, the budget request calls for “a 5 percent spending cut, eliminates dozens of programs and pitches a \$1 billion school choice proposal.”

In a subsequent article, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that DeVos fielded questions about her department’s “budget request for the fiscal year that begins in October.” While DeVos said, “This budget is about students,” Democrats “disagreed that the budget would benefit all students — especially minorities.” Rep. Barbara Lee said the budget is a “slap in the face” for minority students and told DeVos, “Your head is in the sand about racial bias and racial discrimination. ... You just don’t care about civil rights of black and brown children. This is horrible.”

The [AP](#) (3/20) reports DeVos “faced tough questions from House Democrats on Tuesday on gun control, racial bias and civil rights as she sought to defend funding cuts for her agency.” DeVos also “unveiled some details of a federal commission on school safety that she will be chairing. The commission, formed after the Florida high school shooting in which 17 people were killed, will comprise herself as well as the heads of the Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments.” An ED spokesperson “later added that the panel will also involve students, teachers, law enforcement and mental health professionals as experts.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Balingit) reports DeVos “faced sharp criticism Tuesday over her proposed budget, which seeks to eliminate money that schools use to support student mental health — a move that has come under scrutiny following the Florida school shooting.” The piece reports members “signaled they would probably reject many of the proposed cuts in DeVos’s budget, as they did last year.”

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports DeVos “sparred with House Democrats over the Trump administration’s proposed budget’s support for private school choice, and its cuts to programs related to civil rights, safety, and after-school.” DeVos said the budget plan “would maintain its support for disadvantaged students, while also attempting to ensure greater opportunities for them through a new, \$1 billion school choice program. She also highlighted \$200 million in funds for science, technology, engineering, and math education, made available through the current Education Innovation and Research program, as well as level funding for the Title I program focused on disadvantaged students (\$14.9 billion), as well as for special education (\$12.8 billion).”

[NPR](#) (3/20) reports Republicans on the panel “were more supportive, praising DeVos for her efforts to shrink the size of the federal bureaucracy, her support for charter schools and vouchers, and for her stance that states should decide whether teachers should carry guns.” DeVos said the budget proposal “has two main goals: first, to make the department more efficient by doing more with less, and, second, to reduce the federal footprint on state and local school reform.” Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (3/20, Elis), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20), [CBS News](#) (3/20), [Politico](#) (3/20, Wermund), and the [New York Daily News](#) (3/20).

House Lawmakers Debate Obama-Era School Discipline Guidance.

[Education Week](#) (3/20) reports that a House Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on school safety Tuesday that

focused largely on “an Obama administration directive with the aim of driving down disproportionately high school discipline rates for black and Latino students.” The ED and DOJ joint guidance, issued in 2014, “includes a call for schools to ensure that they are not involving law enforcement in routine disciplinary issues. It also put schools on notice that they may be in violation of civil rights laws if their disciplinary policies lead to disparately high discipline rates for students of color, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” Republicans on the panel “asked Wednesday whether the accused shooter, 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz, should have been arrested at Stoneman Douglas when he was a student there.” The piece notes that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “has said she is reviewing” the guidance.

Report Aims To Help Michigan Improve Lagging Outcomes.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/20, McVicar) discusses “a new report released today by Business Leaders for Michigan” which puts forth “a host of recommendations” on improving “Michigan’s lagging educational outcomes” and “details the challenges facing Michigan’s K-12 schools.” The article says “turning those strategies into real, sustained action” will be “key” for helping struggling parents and students across the state.

DIGITAL LEARNING

School Officials Urged To Use Educational Data To Improve Districts.

[Education Week](#) (3/21) reports on the push to use educational data to help improve school districts. Experts claim the current education system’s data infrastructure, “built in response to the federal No Child Left Behind Law and focused primarily on holding schools accountable, looms as a significant barrier.” Educational data experts say schools should focus on implementing improvement strategies “more methodically, but learning much more about them as they happen.” The ideal process would “entail identifying the problem schools want to fix; developing a theory about how to improve it; and then helping the people closest to the problem...to develop measures of day-to-day progress that are aligned to that theory.”

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Texas Education Agency Releases Latest Draft Of Remedial Special Education Plan.](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer Criticizes ED’s Plan To Toss School Discipline Racial Disparity Guidelines.](#)
- [Lawyers Seek To Stop Education Department Partial Student Loan Forgiveness Plan.](#)

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Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 05:36:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan
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March 12, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



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.'"

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.”

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

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.

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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

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

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

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: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 05:36:05 -0600 (MDT)
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

Advertisement



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.'"

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.”

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

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 Sidelines 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.”

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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

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: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 05:36:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

March 12, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



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.'"

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.”

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

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

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.”

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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

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: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 05:44:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVoss: US Cannot "Spend Our Way" Out of Stagnant Test Scores
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

April 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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Atlanta High Schools Offer Courses To Fill Demand For Construction Workers.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/12, Sturgis) reports Atlanta is finding it a "challenge" to fill the demand for construction workers. As part of a move away "from the idea that everyone graduates from high school and heads to college," Atlanta "high schools are partnering with businesses, technical colleges and four-year universities to produce the necessary workforce." The Construction Education Foundation of Georgia say "the state's public schools have over 150 skilled-trade construction and metals programs with 17,000-plus students enrolled."

Study: Students At Many For-Profit Colleges Can't Secure Decent Jobs After Graduation Or Pay Student Debt.

The [Rochester \(NY\) Democrat & Chronicle](#) (4/12, Murphy) reports a new report by the think tank The Center for an Urban Future found that "students at many of New York's for-profit colleges can't secure decent jobs after graduation or afford to pay down their substantial debt." The study found that "in 73 percent of for-profit programs, graduates earn less than \$25,000," and "in 38 percent of programs, graduates pay more than 8 percent of their annual earnings toward student debt, more than 9 times the rate at public occupational programs." The report's authors "urge the state to set a 'gainful employment' standard for colleges – for-profit or otherwise – to qualify for public funding."

SAFETY & SECURITY

Giffords Group Criticizes Arizona Governor's School Safety Plan As Being Full Of Loopholes.

The [AP](#) (4/12, Christie) reports the gun safety group "Giffords," founded by shooting victim and former Rep. Gabby Giffords, opposes Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's school safety plan, saying, in the AP's words, hit as "so many loopholes in the proposal on taking guns away from dangerous people that it is actually more cumbersome than current law." The group also criticized it "for not containing a provision requiring universal background checks for gun purchases." Gun right groups "lobbied the governor's office to weaken the proposal and also got him to drop some other parts of the plan."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Under Settlement Flint Children Will Be Screened For Needing Special-Education Services.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/12) reports US District Judge Arnold Tarnow “approved a settlement of a lawsuit that will mean up to 30,000 Flint children will be screened to determine whether they need health or special-education services.” Remaining parts of the class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the New Jersey-based Education Law Center on behalf of children and families in the city – “including the plaintiffs’ efforts to ensure that children actually receive the services they need – are still being litigated.”

The [Detroit News](#) (4/12, Chambers) calls the agreement “unprecedented.” Under the settlement, “the state of Michigan will pay \$4.1 million to create a program that would identify all Flint schoolchildren – from birth through age 25 – and place them on the Flint Health Registry for universal health screenings” to determine the effects of the city’s lead-contaminated water.

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Some Schools Pairing College-Oriented Courses With CTE.](#)
- [DeVos To Speak At Reagan Institute Summit On Education.](#)
- [Study Finds Head Start Crucial to Rural Counties.](#)
- [California Online Schools’ Teachers Negotiate Contract.](#)
- [Google Putting Wifi In Buses To Add To Students’ Learning Time.](#)

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Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 05:44:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVoss: US Cannot "Spend Our Way" Out of Stagnant Test Scores
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 05:44:37 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVoss: US Cannot "Spend Our Way" Out of Stagnant Test Scores
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Friday, April 13, 2018

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To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 05:44:37 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVoss: US Cannot "Spend Our Way" Out of Stagnant Test Scores
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Friday, April 13, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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FROM NASSP

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Sent Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2018 05:44:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DeVoss: US Cannot "Spend Our Way" Out of Stagnant Test Scores
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

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SAFETY & SECURITY

Giffords Group Criticizes Arizona Governor's School Safety Plan As Being Full Of Loopholes.

The [AP](#) (4/12, Christie) reports the gun safety group "Giffords," founded by shooting victim and former Rep. Gabby Giffords, opposes Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's school safety plan, saying, in the AP's words, hit as "so many loopholes in the proposal on taking guns away from dangerous people that it is actually more cumbersome than current law." The group also criticized it "for not containing a provision requiring universal background checks for gun purchases." Gun right groups "lobbied the governor's office to weaken the proposal and also got him to drop some other parts of the plan."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Under Settlement Flint Children Will Be Screened For Needing Special-Education Services.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/12) reports US District Judge Arnold Tarnow “approved a settlement of a lawsuit that will mean up to 30,000 Flint children will be screened to determine whether they need health or special-education services.” Remaining parts of the class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the New Jersey-based Education Law Center on behalf of children and families in the city – “including the plaintiffs’ efforts to ensure that children actually receive the services they need – are still being litigated.”

The [Detroit News](#) (4/12, Chambers) calls the agreement “unprecedented.” Under the settlement, “the state of Michigan will pay \$4.1 million to create a program that would identify all Flint schoolchildren – from birth through age 25 – and place them on the Flint Health Registry for universal health screenings” to determine the effects of the city’s lead-contaminated water.

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Sent Date: Tue, 24 Apr 2018 05:34:07 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DOJ Awards \$1 Million Grant For Parkland Shooting Response
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Tuesday, April 24, 2018

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The [AP](#) (4/23) reports from Tallahassee, FL that the Justice Department "is awarding \$1 million to reimburse Florida agencies for the cost of responding to a school shooting that claimed the lives of 17 people." The department announced the grant award on Monday. The money "can be used for salary and overtime expenses for the law-enforcement agencies that responded to Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/23, Mordock) reports that Attorney General Sessions "said the grant demonstrates the department's commitment to helping first responders. 'The school shooting in Parkland shocked and horrified the nation, but the community and law enforcement at all levels

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Iowa Teen Who Submitted Etch A Sketch Video Accepted To Caltech, MIT.

The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (4/23, Ryan) reports that a Des Moines, Iowa high school senior “submitted a video explaining the history of calculus on an Etch A Sketch when applying to some of the country's top engineering and technology schools” and “recently learned he'd been accepted to MIT and Caltech – two of his 'dream' colleges.” The student, Dezell Turner, “said the video, which he originally created for an AP calculus course his sophomore year, might have played a role.”

Education Publisher Pearson Conducts Social Research On College Students Without Permission.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/23, Strauss) reports that leading education company Pearson “conducted a ‘social-psychological’ experiment on thousands of college students in the United States – without asking for permission – by adding language into some of its software programs and then tracking how much the messages affected problem-solving.” The research was revealed in a paper presented at the 2018 American Educational Research Association convention. The Post explains that privacy advocates are concerned that firms such as Pearson “have inserted draft questions into annual tests for possible future use. Students and their families do not know when and which questions are part of the company's own research on question effectiveness.”

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.](#)
- [DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.](#)
- [Syracuse University Expels Fraternity Over Racist Video.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 24 Apr 2018 05:34:08 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: DOJ Awards \$1 Million Grant For Parkland Shooting Response
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

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The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (4/23, Ryan) reports that a Des Moines, Iowa high school senior “submitted a video explaining the history of calculus on an Etch A Sketch when applying to some of the country's top engineering and technology schools” and “recently learned he'd been accepted to MIT and Caltech – two of his 'dream' colleges.” The student, Dezell Turner, “said the video, which he originally created for an AP calculus course his sophomore year, might have played a role.”

Education Publisher Pearson Conducts Social Research On College Students Without Permission.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/23, Strauss) reports that leading education company Pearson “conducted a ‘social-psychological’ experiment on thousands of college students in the United States – without asking for permission – by adding language into some of its software programs and then tracking how much the messages affected problem-solving.” The research was revealed in a paper presented at the 2018 American Educational Research Association convention. The Post explains that privacy advocates are concerned that firms such as Pearson “have inserted draft questions into annual tests for possible future use. Students and their families do not know when and which questions are part of the company's own research on question effectiveness.”

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence.](#)
- [DeVos Meets With DOD Officials To Discuss School Choice For Military Children.](#)
- [Syracuse University Expels Fraternity Over Racist Video.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:31:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires
To: <andrew.harris@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning Andrew Harris

May 1, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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California Video Game Design Charter To Host Third Annual STEAM Day Expo.

The [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (4/30) reports Manteca Unified School District’s be.next Video Game Design Academy in California is hosting its third annual STEAM Day Expo on Wednesday and Thursday. The event will feature “science experiments, art projects, computer programming lessons, and physics demonstrations, led by students from the be.next Video Game Design Academy and the Lathrop High School Science and CTE Careers with Children departments.” The expo “has grown from a small group of 50 students to hosting 300 students in five different classroom sessions.” The Bulletin adds that “be.next is a charter school designed for student’s looking to become video game designers,” and its curriculum is “focused on the art, design, programming of video games, and college preparatory courses.”

Pennsylvania State House Approves Legislative Package To Boost CTE.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania state House approved a “bi-partisan package of eight bills that aims to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the mis-perception attached to career and technical education,” the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/30) reports. The lawmakers “who introduced the pieces of legislation said career and technical education can lead to a career path with lower or no debt and a family-sustaining wage.” The measure “grows out of two years of work by a House select committee that traveled the state and gathered information about career and technical education and employers’ needs for skilled labor.” One bill “creates an online career resource center that provides information to students and public about on educational and career options, available career and technical education resources, and data and statistics on employment opportunities and

compensation.” Another would “seek to alter the qualifications that career and technical educators need to be able to teach to remove barriers that hindered their ability to teach.”

Maryland Teachers Fear Computer-Based PARCC Format Will Widen Achievement Gap.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Richman) reports that as Maryland students sit for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests this year, “it will be the first time that all schools are required to administer the computerized version.” Advocates argue “online testing is an important way to prepare students for a workplace reliant on technological skills,” and test officials maintain “computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions.” Some teachers, however, “remain concerned that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they’ve spent decades working to close.” In fact, a Pew Research Center study found low-income households “with children are four times less likely to have a broadband Internet connection than their middle- or upper-class counterparts,” and that the “gap is wider for children from black and Hispanic households.”

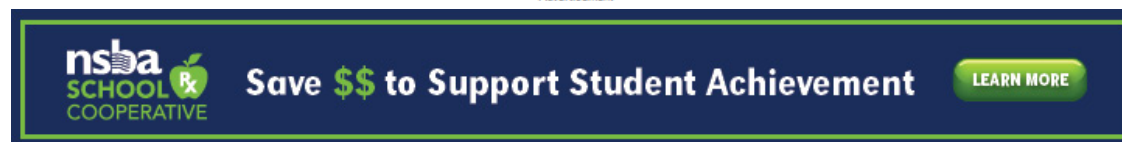
Analysis: Louisiana State Superintendent Exaggerates Computer Illiteracy’s Impact On NAEP Scores.

A [Louisiana Weekly](#) (4/30, Harden) analysis says Louisiana students’ 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are “dismal.” After state Education Superintendent John White previewed “the less-than-impressive scores,” he “wrote a letter to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)” to request “a more detailed breakdown of the data” and to express “concerns the 2017 scores might have more to do with computer literacy.” White has been “considered a darling of the ‘reform’ movement and ideology, of which the wholesale privatization of public education in New Orleans is a central tenet, as well as the statewide voucher program which funnels public money into private schools.” To Louisiana Weekly, however, “even if the 2015 to 2017 scores were impacted by the switch to online testing, the historical NAEP data still makes it a stretch to conclude that White’s tenure and reform in Louisiana is working.”

Tennessee Leaders Divided On How To Mitigate Problematic Testing Season.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30, Stringer) reports “cyberattacks and technical glitches over the past two weeks prevented some students” in Tennessee “from taking state tests and caused chaos for teachers and state leaders alike.” The various testing problems led “state legislators to pass a law last month preventing this year’s test results from negatively impacting students’ grades, teacher compensation, or employment status for educators.” Whether the state would be granted a federal waiver to be excused from testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act remains unclear, “as the federal government has shown flexibility in the past but is trying to shift away from waivers.” Meanwhile, some state legislators are calling for state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen’s resignation, and others are demanding “a return to pencil-and-paper tests.” Tennessee Tech University’s Eric Brown “called the cybersecurity and technological glitches part of the growing process for schools as they transition not just to online testing but to an online world.”

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OPERATIONS

Philanthropist Beutner Likely To Be Named LAUSD Superintendent.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/30, Blume) reports that according to anonymous sources, “the Los Angeles Board of Education is poised to select philanthropist and former investment banker Austin Beutner to be the next superintendent.” The sources say the board already has discussed the terms of Beutner’s contract. As Beutner has no education experience, his selection “would be a signal that the board majority that took control nearly a year ago wants to rely on business management skills instead of insider educational expertise.” The district is facing “serious financial problems,” and addressing those problems “would be a central duty suited to Beutner’s skill set.”

LAUSD Interim Superintendent Wants To Give Principals Teacher Hiring Flexibility.

The [Los Angeles School Report](#) (4/30) reports that under current policies, principals in Los Angeles must fill teaching vacancies by hiring first from “what’s known as the ‘must place’ list. These are teachers who have lost or stepped away from their positions at one school but have not been hired at another.” However, interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchain wants to give principals at 227 struggling LAUSD schools waivers to allow them to skip this process.

New York Schools Chancellor Apologizes For Tweeting “Wealthy White Manhattan Parents Angrily Rant.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Strauss) reports that New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, who has been on the job for around a month, apologized for a Friday tweet “that includes the words ‘WATCH: Wealthy white Manhattan parents angrily rant.’” Carranza was tweeting about a report “that detailed how some white parents in a wealthy Upper West Side neighborhood in Manhattan were vocally upset at a meeting about a plan to diversify neighborhood schools.” Carranza “apologized to anyone who was offended – while noting that the words in the tweet weren’t actually his. And he said he would push forward with school desegregation.”

Austin ISD Board Approves T-STEM Coalition As Partner For Struggling School.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports Austin Independent School District “trustees Monday night approved a partner to help turn around Mendez Middle School, which is at risk of closure by the state for failing to meet academic standards for four consecutive years.” The partner – the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (T-STEM Coalition) – will “operate as an in-district charter over the school and will partner with the district, the University of Texas at Tyler, UT Austin’s UTeach Institute, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, and Austin Interfaith.” Teachers and parents said “they were excited” about the potential performance agreement, which Austin ISD “submitted...to the state after the vote.” The Texas Education Agency is expected to “determine whether it approves” of the partnership “within 15 days of the district’s submission.” If TEA approves, “Mendez could get a two-year reprieve from state sanctions and more money per student.”

DC Mayor Open To Independent Review Of School System Plagued By Controversies.

On its website, [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/30, Austermuhle) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson are planning to establish a commission tasked with reviewing the “troubled” DC Public Schools system. In a Monday email, “Bowser spokeswoman LaToya Foster confirmed that the mayor had discussed a ‘top to bottom review by an outside party’ with Mendelson, and that she was on board with the idea.” DCPS is “struggling after months of difficult revelations and persistent scandals, including inflated graduation rates, a failure to

properly report school suspensions and allegations of mispending of funds meant to help at-risk students.” Earlier this month, “a super-majority of the Council’s 13 members backed a bill to create a separate body that would review school data and engage in independent research on how the schools could improve,” but the idea evoked “reservations from Bowser officials, who say they would want any such body to work with the school system – not against it.”

Virginia District To Conduct Transcript Audit Over Incorrectly Weighed GPAs.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/30) reports Richmond Public Schools officials and school board members apologized Monday for inaccurately weighing “dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses in students’ grade point averages” over the last four years, “an issue that could lower class rank and affect merit-based scholarships.” RPS “Interim Chief Academic Officer Victoria Oakley said students’ transcripts, along with their adjusted GPA and class rank, were updated and new transcripts will be sent Tuesday – what’s known as National College Decision Day because it’s the common deadline for students to make deposits to attend their desired college.” According to Oakley’s presentation, roughly two in four “seniors at the affected schools had their class rankings increased.” It is “unclear how many students were affected over the past four years, but Oakley said 104 students were affected this year.” RPS will also conduct “a transcript audit for students in grades 9-11.”

Idaho State Superintendent Eyes Second Term.

The [AP](#) (4/30, Kruesi, Press) reports Idaho state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra “is hoping to secure another four-year term as Idaho’s schools chief, but she first must succeed against her opponent Jeff Dillon” in the May 15 Republican primary election. She “narrowly won the open state superintendent of public instruction seat in 2014,” but the “focus on the statewide superintendent spot has softened” this year “due in comparison to high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races also up for grabs.” Ybarra “surprised Idaho’s political experts” in 2014 “by winning the education seat by raising less than \$3,000 in campaign funds and barely traveling outside the small town she lives in,” and she “hasn’t shown signs she plans on breaking any fundraising records this year either.” If Ybarra is victorious in May, she will face one of two Democratic candidates “also running for the position: Boise teacher Cindy Wilson and Boise resident Allen Humble.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Fix.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas legislature passed “a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they’ve been promised to meet a court mandate.” The new law makes “sure that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended. The House had approved the measure Saturday, and it now goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it.” The state Supreme Court “ruled in October that the state’s current education funding of more than \$4 billion a year isn’t sufficient to provide a suitable education for every child as required by the Kansas Constitution.”

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/30) reports the bill passed “overwhelmingly” and corrects “a mistake embedded in a state law that short-circuited expenditure of a chunk of the \$525 million that is part of a five-year plan boosting aid to public schools.” Legislators “were keen for the Kansas Supreme Court to consider that piece of financing when evaluating constitutionality of the Legislature’s five-year expansion of state aid to K-12 education.” [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/30, Ryan) also covers this story.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Vermont State Lawmakers Consider Rapid Criminal Law Overhaul.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (4/30) reports the “alleged school shooting plot in Fair Haven has sent shock waves through Vermont politics, giving unprecedented momentum to gun restrictions and motivating new changes to criminal law.” Vermont “Gov. Phil Scott has called for quick action” in the wake of the incident, and “leading lawmakers have made the bills a priority.” Any resulting changes to the state’s criminal laws “could not apply to the Fair Haven case, but could make it easier to intervene and prosecute potential mass shooters in the future.” Meanwhile, “some observers have questioned the wisdom of quick changes to criminal laws,” especially with “less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session” to consider such measures. Meanwhile, Scott and “Rutland County State’s Attorney Rose Kennedy have been frustrated by the state’s inability to prosecute [Fair Haven suspect Jack] Sawyer for felony crimes.”

Kentucky Schools Chief Calls For State Takeover Of Jefferson County Schools.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30) reports Kentucky interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis recommended Monday a state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools to address “long-standing problems in the state’s largest school district.” Lewis “cited a flawed system to investigate and account for physical restraints of students, poor achievement test scores and a student assignment plan that ‘has a distinct, negative impact on the most vulnerable populations of JCPS students.’” The state BOE would have to approve the plan.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Lewis pointed to “the serial abuse of students and an abundance of low-performing schools” in announcing that he “would attempt to seize control of one of the country’s largest school districts in a decision sure to inflame tensions between teachers and the state’s Republican administration.” Lewis’ decision came “after a more than yearlong audit of the governance and administration of Jefferson County Public Schools, which includes Louisville.” Such a takeover “would strip all authority from the elected school board and give it to Lewis.”

Columnist: Give New Superintendent Chance To Improve District. In a column for the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30), Joseph Gerth writes that Lewis shouldn’t take over the district yet, arguing for Superintendent Marty Pollio to have more time to make improvements. Gerth writes that Pollio has been on the job for only two months, and is “a principal with a track record of turning around a failing school. He should be given a chance to do his job.”

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- [DC Public Schools Indicates Scandal Will Result In Sharp Decline In Graduation Rate.](#)
- [Marijuana Sales Don’t Contribute Much To Colorado Schools.](#)

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Fix.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas legislature passed “a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they’ve been promised to meet a court mandate.” The new law makes “sure that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended. The House had approved the measure Saturday, and it now goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it.” The state Supreme Court “ruled in October that the state’s current education funding of more than \$4 billion a year isn’t sufficient to provide a suitable education for every child as required by the Kansas Constitution.”

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/30) reports the bill passed “overwhelmingly” and corrects “a mistake embedded in a state law that short-circuited expenditure of a chunk of the \$525 million that is part of a five-year plan boosting aid to public schools.” Legislators “were keen for the Kansas Supreme Court to consider that piece of financing when evaluating constitutionality of the Legislature’s five-year expansion of state aid to K-12 education.” [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/30, Ryan) also covers this story.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Vermont State Lawmakers Consider Rapid Criminal Law Overhaul.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (4/30) reports the “alleged school shooting plot in Fair Haven has sent shock waves through Vermont politics, giving unprecedented momentum to gun restrictions and motivating new changes to criminal law.” Vermont “Gov. Phil Scott has called for quick action” in the wake of the incident, and “leading lawmakers have made the bills a priority.” Any resulting changes to the state’s criminal laws “could not apply to the Fair Haven case, but could make it easier to intervene and prosecute potential mass shooters in the future.” Meanwhile, “some observers have questioned the wisdom of quick changes to criminal laws,” especially with “less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session” to consider such measures. Meanwhile, Scott and “Rutland County State’s Attorney Rose Kennedy have been frustrated by the state’s inability to prosecute [Fair Haven suspect Jack] Sawyer for felony crimes.”

Kentucky Schools Chief Calls For State Takeover Of Jefferson County Schools.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30) reports Kentucky interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis recommended Monday a state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools to address “long-standing problems in the state’s largest school district.” Lewis “cited a flawed system to investigate and account for physical restraints of students, poor achievement test scores and a student assignment plan that ‘has a distinct, negative impact on the most vulnerable populations of JCPS students.’” The state BOE would have to approve the plan.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Lewis pointed to “the serial abuse of students and an abundance of low-performing schools” in announcing that he “would attempt to seize control of one of the country’s largest school districts in a decision sure to inflame tensions between teachers and the state’s Republican administration.” Lewis’ decision came “after a more than yearlong audit of the governance and administration of Jefferson County Public Schools, which includes Louisville.” Such a takeover “would strip all authority from the elected school board and give it to Lewis.”

Columnist: Give New Superintendent Chance To Improve District. In a column for the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30), Joseph Gerth writes that Lewis shouldn’t take over the district yet, arguing for Superintendent Marty Pollio to have more time to make improvements. Gerth writes that Pollio has been on the job for only two months, and is “a principal with a track record of turning around a failing school. He should be given a chance to do his job.”

MONDAY’S LEAD STORIES

- [Teachers Continue Strikes In Arizona, Colorado.](#)
- [Congressman Calls On DeVos To Investigate Charlotte Schools Over Anti-Gun “Indoctrination.”](#)
- [DeVos Attends Robotics Competition In Detroit.](#)
- [DC Public Schools Indicates Scandal Will Result In Sharp Decline In Graduation Rate.](#)
- [Marijuana Sales Don’t Contribute Much To Colorado Schools.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:31:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires
To: <simon.rubio@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning Simon Rubio

May 1, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "announced Monday that two states and Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$700 million in federal money to help their schools recover from natural disaster." DeVos said that Puerto Rico "will receive \$589 million of this Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program money, while the Texas education department will receive \$89.4 million and California's department will get \$14.4 million."

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports ED has announced that the Texas Education Agency will disburse \$89.4 million to "public and private schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey." The funding comes from

"Congress' \$2.5 billion appropriation to help students affected by various natural disasters last year, including the California wildfires and hurricanes Irma and Maria." The piece quotes DeVos saying in a statement, "As communities get back on their feet in disaster affected regions, we continue to support them in every way we can. This additional funding will ensure students, teachers and staff have ongoing access to the services they need to fully recover and rebuild."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/30, Matos) reports the storm "inundated schools across Houston and the state's coastal region, forcing districts to close down some schools and transfer students to other campuses." Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in October "that it will cost Texas taxpayers \$1.64 billion over the next two years to help schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and avoid financial losses."

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (4/30) reports DeVos "announced about \$693 million in new federal assistance for education institutions affected by this year's hurricanes and wildfires. The awards announced Monday are the first in a multi-phased process to provide initial funding."

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (4/28) reports ED announced Monday that “Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$600 million in emergency federal assistance to help the island’s schools recover from Hurricane Maria.” The funding is from ED’s Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, “also known as the K-12 Restart program, which allows the agency to award emergency assistance to schools affected by last year’s natural disasters, including three hurricanes and wildfires.”

POLITICS & POLICY

Pennsylvania ESSA Plan Broadens School Assessment Criteria.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (4/30) runs an article on the impact ESSA will have on school assessments. The piece says Pennsylvania’s plan “broadens the criteria by which schools are judged to include statistics on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. While the annual testing is still mandatory, Pennsylvania has reduced its amount and length.”

Few States Pushing School Choice Under ESSA.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports that while school choice advocates in Congress were unable to “persuade their colleagues to include Title I portability in” ESSA, “the law...has some limited avenues for states to champion various types of school choice options. But only a handful of states are taking advantage of those opportunities, according to reviews of the plans by Education Week and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/30, story 6, 1:20, Holt) reported, “Many schools remain closed for a third day in Arizona as tens of thousands of teachers protest for higher pay and more resources for their classrooms.” Gov. Doug Ducey “has announced a budget deal with state lawmakers that would boost pay, but teachers on the picket lines remain skeptical.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/30, story 4, 0:20, Glor) reported, “Teachers want higher pay and more funding for education. They average about \$48,000 a year, among the lowest in the nation.”

The [AP](#) (4/30, Daniels, Christie) reports thousands of teachers demonstrated at the Arizona state Capitol “to protest low pay and school funding, and many schools around the state remained closed, while the Legislature prepared to introduce a budget package that gives them raises but falls short of other demands.” The budget package “provides the first 10 percent of what will be a 20 percent increase by 2020” and “restores \$100 million out of the nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts to a fund that helps schools pay for books, school buses and other capital expenses.” However, teachers say “that doesn’t go far enough after years of low funding that not only left them among the lowest paid in the nation but also has many schools operating with broken equipment and outdated books.”

Colorado Lawmaker Withdraws Bill To Punish Teachers For Walkouts.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/30) reports Colorado state Sen. Bob Gardner (R) has said he will withdraw his bill “seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking by threatening firings, fines or even jail time” due to “concerns over lawmakers’ already large workload in the waning days of this legislative session.” The measure, “which came as thousands of teachers were gearing up to protest education funding and educator pay at the state Capitol, drew swift

outrage from teachers across Colorado and statehouse Democrats after it was introduced earlier this month.”

White Paper: Disadvantaged Students Have Less Access To High-Quality Teachers.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30) reports that according to a working paper presented by the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, “differences in the quality of elementary and middle school teachers can explain much of why disadvantaged students perform worse in math than their whiter, more affluent schoolmates.” However, the report’s authors say “that our understanding of teachers’ effects on students depends on how we measure teacher quality.”

Research: Teaching Aides More Effective As Tutors Than Volunteers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/30) reports recent research shows that teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals, are “at least as good as teachers when it comes to one-to-one and small group tutoring. And both sets of paid professionals—aides and teachers—were far more effective than volunteer tutors.” The article describes research by Robert Slavin, director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, who “recently set out to find the most effective programs to teach elementary and middle school students. In the course of analyzing almost 200 studies on particular methods...he confirmed that students tended to make more progress with tutors than with a teacher in front of an entire classroom.”

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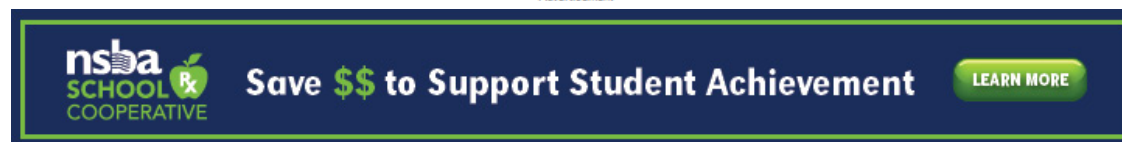
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Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:31:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires
To: <david.shoup@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning David Shoup

May 1, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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outrage from teachers across Colorado and statehouse Democrats after it was introduced earlier this month.”

White Paper: Disadvantaged Students Have Less Access To High-Quality Teachers.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30) reports that according to a working paper presented by the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, “differences in the quality of elementary and middle school teachers can explain much of why disadvantaged students perform worse in math than their whiter, more affluent schoolmates.” However, the report’s authors say “that our understanding of teachers’ effects on students depends on how we measure teacher quality.”

Research: Teaching Aides More Effective As Tutors Than Volunteers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/30) reports recent research shows that teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals, are “at least as good as teachers when it comes to one-to-one and small group tutoring. And both sets of paid professionals—aides and teachers—were far more effective than volunteer tutors.” The article describes research by Robert Slavin, director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, who “recently set out to find the most effective programs to teach elementary and middle school students. In the course of analyzing almost 200 studies on particular methods...he confirmed that students tended to make more progress with tutors than with a teacher in front of an entire classroom.”

Indiana Teacher Resurrects NASA Young Astronauts Program.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Julie Muffler, an elementary school teacher in Borden, Indiana, has launched “a charter location for ‘Young Astronauts,’ once a nationwide program that had 25,000 chapters across every state and 41 countries.” Students take part in “activities that teach them more about the universe, giving them a chance to hone their science skills, dabble in art and delve into ethical questions while they’re at it.” The program draws on an online NASA database “of space-related activities teachers can do with their students.”

California Video Game Design Charter To Host Third Annual STEAM Day Expo.

The [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (4/30) reports Manteca Unified School District’s be.next Video Game Design Academy in California is hosting its third annual STEAM Day Expo on Wednesday and Thursday. The event will feature “science experiments, art projects, computer programming lessons, and physics demonstrations, led by students from the be.next Video Game Design Academy and the Lathrop High School Science and CTE Careers with Children departments.” The expo “has grown from a small group of 50 students to hosting 300 students in five different classroom sessions.” The Bulletin adds that “be.next is a charter school designed for student’s looking to become video game designers,” and its curriculum is “focused on the art, design, programming of video games, and college preparatory courses.”

Pennsylvania State House Approves Legislative Package To Boost CTE.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania state House approved a “bi-partisan package of eight bills that aims to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the mis-perception attached to career and technical education,” the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/30) reports. The lawmakers “who introduced the pieces of legislation said career and technical education can lead to a career path with lower or no debt and a family-sustaining wage.” The measure “grows out of two years of work by a House select committee that traveled the state and gathered information about career and technical education and employers’ needs for skilled labor.” One bill “creates an online career resource center that provides information to students and public about on educational and career options, available career and technical education resources, and data and statistics on employment opportunities and

compensation.” Another would “seek to alter the qualifications that career and technical educators need to be able to teach to remove barriers that hindered their ability to teach.”

Maryland Teachers Fear Computer-Based PARCC Format Will Widen Achievement Gap.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Richman) reports that as Maryland students sit for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests this year, “it will be the first time that all schools are required to administer the computerized version.” Advocates argue “online testing is an important way to prepare students for a workplace reliant on technological skills,” and test officials maintain “computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions.” Some teachers, however, “remain concerned that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they’ve spent decades working to close.” In fact, a Pew Research Center study found low-income households “with children are four times less likely to have a broadband Internet connection than their middle- or upper-class counterparts,” and that the “gap is wider for children from black and Hispanic households.”

Analysis: Louisiana State Superintendent Exaggerates Computer Illiteracy’s Impact On NAEP Scores.

A [Louisiana Weekly](#) (4/30, Harden) analysis says Louisiana students’ 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are “dismal.” After state Education Superintendent John White previewed “the less-than-impressive scores,” he “wrote a letter to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)” to request “a more detailed breakdown of the data” and to express “concerns the 2017 scores might have more to do with computer literacy.” White has been “considered a darling of the ‘reform’ movement and ideology, of which the wholesale privatization of public education in New Orleans is a central tenet, as well as the statewide voucher program which funnels public money into private schools.” To Louisiana Weekly, however, “even if the 2015 to 2017 scores were impacted by the switch to online testing, the historical NAEP data still makes it a stretch to conclude that White’s tenure and reform in Louisiana is working.”

Tennessee Leaders Divided On How To Mitigate Problematic Testing Season.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30, Stringer) reports “cyberattacks and technical glitches over the past two weeks prevented some students” in Tennessee “from taking state tests and caused chaos for teachers and state leaders alike.” The various testing problems led “state legislators to pass a law last month preventing this year’s test results from negatively impacting students’ grades, teacher compensation, or employment status for educators.” Whether the state would be granted a federal waiver to be excused from testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act remains unclear, “as the federal government has shown flexibility in the past but is trying to shift away from waivers.” Meanwhile, some state legislators are calling for state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen’s resignation, and others are demanding “a return to pencil-and-paper tests.” Tennessee Tech University’s Eric Brown “called the cybersecurity and technological glitches part of the growing process for schools as they transition not just to online testing but to an online world.”

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OPERATIONS

Philanthropist Beutner Likely To Be Named LAUSD Superintendent.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/30, Blume) reports that according to anonymous sources, “the Los Angeles Board of Education is poised to select philanthropist and former investment banker Austin Beutner to be the next superintendent.” The sources say the board already has discussed the terms of Beutner’s contract. As Beutner has no education experience, his selection “would be a signal that the board majority that took control nearly a year ago wants to rely on business management skills instead of insider educational expertise.” The district is facing “serious financial problems,” and addressing those problems “would be a central duty suited to Beutner’s skill set.”

LAUSD Interim Superintendent Wants To Give Principals Teacher Hiring Flexibility.

The [Los Angeles School Report](#) (4/30) reports that under current policies, principals in Los Angeles must fill teaching vacancies by hiring first from “what’s known as the ‘must place’ list. These are teachers who have lost or stepped away from their positions at one school but have not been hired at another.” However, interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchain wants to give principals at 227 struggling LAUSD schools waivers to allow them to skip this process.

New York Schools Chancellor Apologizes For Tweeting “Wealthy White Manhattan Parents Angrily Rant.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Strauss) reports that New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, who has been on the job for around a month, apologized for a Friday tweet “that includes the words ‘WATCH: Wealthy white Manhattan parents angrily rant.’” Carranza was tweeting about a report “that detailed how some white parents in a wealthy Upper West Side neighborhood in Manhattan were vocally upset at a meeting about a plan to diversify neighborhood schools.” Carranza “apologized to anyone who was offended – while noting that the words in the tweet weren’t actually his. And he said he would push forward with school desegregation.”

Austin ISD Board Approves T-STEM Coalition As Partner For Struggling School.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports Austin Independent School District “trustees Monday night approved a partner to help turn around Mendez Middle School, which is at risk of closure by the state for failing to meet academic standards for four consecutive years.” The partner – the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (T-STEM Coalition) – will “operate as an in-district charter over the school and will partner with the district, the University of Texas at Tyler, UT Austin’s UTeach Institute, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, and Austin Interfaith.” Teachers and parents said “they were excited” about the potential performance agreement, which Austin ISD “submitted...to the state after the vote.” The Texas Education Agency is expected to “determine whether it approves” of the partnership “within 15 days of the district’s submission.” If TEA approves, “Mendez could get a two-year reprieve from state sanctions and more money per student.”

DC Mayor Open To Independent Review Of School System Plagued By Controversies.

On its website, [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/30, Austermuhle) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson are planning to establish a commission tasked with reviewing the “troubled” DC Public Schools system. In a Monday email, “Bowser spokeswoman LaToya Foster confirmed that the mayor had discussed a ‘top to bottom review by an outside party’ with Mendelson, and that she was on board with the idea.” DCPS is “struggling after months of difficult revelations and persistent scandals, including inflated graduation rates, a failure to

properly report school suspensions and allegations of mispending of funds meant to help at-risk students.” Earlier this month, “a super-majority of the Council’s 13 members backed a bill to create a separate body that would review school data and engage in independent research on how the schools could improve,” but the idea evoked “reservations from Bowser officials, who say they would want any such body to work with the school system – not against it.”

Virginia District To Conduct Transcript Audit Over Incorrectly Weighed GPAs.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/30) reports Richmond Public Schools officials and school board members apologized Monday for inaccurately weighing “dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses in students’ grade point averages” over the last four years, “an issue that could lower class rank and affect merit-based scholarships.” RPS “Interim Chief Academic Officer Victoria Oakley said students’ transcripts, along with their adjusted GPA and class rank, were updated and new transcripts will be sent Tuesday – what’s known as National College Decision Day because it’s the common deadline for students to make deposits to attend their desired college.” According to Oakley’s presentation, roughly two in four “seniors at the affected schools had their class rankings increased.” It is “unclear how many students were affected over the past four years, but Oakley said 104 students were affected this year.” RPS will also conduct “a transcript audit for students in grades 9-11.”

Idaho State Superintendent Eyes Second Term.

The [AP](#) (4/30, Kruesi, Press) reports Idaho state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra “is hoping to secure another four-year term as Idaho’s schools chief, but she first must succeed against her opponent Jeff Dillon” in the May 15 Republican primary election. She “narrowly won the open state superintendent of public instruction seat in 2014,” but the “focus on the statewide superintendent spot has softened” this year “due in comparison to high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races also up for grabs.” Ybarra “surprised Idaho’s political experts” in 2014 “by winning the education seat by raising less than \$3,000 in campaign funds and barely traveling outside the small town she lives in,” and she “hasn’t shown signs she plans on breaking any fundraising records this year either.” If Ybarra is victorious in May, she will face one of two Democratic candidates “also running for the position: Boise teacher Cindy Wilson and Boise resident Allen Humble.”

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Virginia District To Conduct Transcript Audit Over Incorrectly Weighed GPAs.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/30) reports Richmond Public Schools officials and school board members apologized Monday for inaccurately weighing “dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses in students’ grade point averages” over the last four years, “an issue that could lower class rank and affect merit-based scholarships.” RPS “Interim Chief Academic Officer Victoria Oakley said students’ transcripts, along with their adjusted GPA and class rank, were updated and new transcripts will be sent Tuesday – what’s known as National College Decision Day because it’s the common deadline for students to make deposits to attend their desired college.” According to Oakley’s presentation, roughly two in four “seniors at the affected schools had their class rankings increased.” It is “unclear how many students were affected over the past four years, but Oakley said 104 students were affected this year.” RPS will also conduct “a transcript audit for students in grades 9-11.”

Idaho State Superintendent Eyes Second Term.

The [AP](#) (4/30, Kruesi, Press) reports Idaho state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra “is hoping to secure another four-year term as Idaho’s schools chief, but she first must succeed against her opponent Jeff Dillon” in the May 15 Republican primary election. She “narrowly won the open state superintendent of public instruction seat in 2014,” but the “focus on the statewide superintendent spot has softened” this year “due in comparison to high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races also up for grabs.” Ybarra “surprised Idaho’s political experts” in 2014 “by winning the education seat by raising less than \$3,000 in campaign funds and barely traveling outside the small town she lives in,” and she “hasn’t shown signs she plans on breaking any fundraising records this year either.” If Ybarra is victorious in May, she will face one of two Democratic candidates “also running for the position: Boise teacher Cindy Wilson and Boise resident Allen Humble.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Fix.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas legislature passed “a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they’ve been promised to meet a court mandate.” The new law makes “sure that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended. The House had approved the measure Saturday, and it now goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it.” The state Supreme Court “ruled in October that the state’s current education funding of more than \$4 billion a year isn’t sufficient to provide a suitable education for every child as required by the Kansas Constitution.”

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/30) reports the bill passed “overwhelmingly” and corrects “a mistake embedded in a state law that short-circuited expenditure of a chunk of the \$525 million that is part of a five-year plan boosting aid to public schools.” Legislators “were keen for the Kansas Supreme Court to consider that piece of financing when evaluating constitutionality of the Legislature’s five-year expansion of state aid to K-12 education.” [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/30, Ryan) also covers this story.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Vermont State Lawmakers Consider Rapid Criminal Law Overhaul.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (4/30) reports the “alleged school shooting plot in Fair Haven has sent shock waves through Vermont politics, giving unprecedented momentum to gun restrictions and motivating new changes to criminal law.” Vermont “Gov. Phil Scott has called for quick action” in the wake of the incident, and “leading lawmakers have made the bills a priority.” Any resulting changes to the state’s criminal laws “could not apply to the Fair Haven case, but could make it easier to intervene and prosecute potential mass shooters in the future.” Meanwhile, “some observers have questioned the wisdom of quick changes to criminal laws,” especially with “less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session” to consider such measures. Meanwhile, Scott and “Rutland County State’s Attorney Rose Kennedy have been frustrated by the state’s inability to prosecute [Fair Haven suspect Jack] Sawyer for felony crimes.”

Kentucky Schools Chief Calls For State Takeover Of Jefferson County Schools.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30) reports Kentucky interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis recommended Monday a state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools to address “long-standing problems in the state’s largest school district.” Lewis “cited a flawed system to investigate and account for physical restraints of students, poor achievement test scores and a student assignment plan that ‘has a distinct, negative impact on the most vulnerable populations of JCPS students.’” The state BOE would have to approve the plan.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Lewis pointed to “the serial abuse of students and an abundance of low-performing schools” in announcing that he “would attempt to seize control of one of the country’s largest school districts in a decision sure to inflame tensions between teachers and the state’s Republican administration.” Lewis’ decision came “after a more than yearlong audit of the governance and administration of Jefferson County Public Schools, which includes Louisville.” Such a takeover “would strip all authority from the elected school board and give it to Lewis.”

Columnist: Give New Superintendent Chance To Improve District. In a column for the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30), Joseph Gerth writes that Lewis shouldn’t take over the district yet, arguing for Superintendent Marty Pollio to have more time to make improvements. Gerth writes that Pollio has been on the job for only two months, and is “a principal with a track record of turning around a failing school. He should be given a chance to do his job.”

MONDAY’S LEAD STORIES

- [Teachers Continue Strikes In Arizona, Colorado.](#)
- [Congressman Calls On DeVos To Investigate Charlotte Schools Over Anti-Gun “Indoctrination.”](#)
- [DeVos Attends Robotics Competition In Detroit.](#)
- [DC Public Schools Indicates Scandal Will Result In Sharp Decline In Graduation Rate.](#)
- [Marijuana Sales Don’t Contribute Much To Colorado Schools.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:31:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

May 1, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "announced Monday that two states and Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$700 million in federal money to help their schools recover from natural disaster." DeVos said that Puerto Rico "will receive \$589 million of this Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program money, while the Texas education department will receive \$89.4 million and California's department will get \$14.4 million."

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports ED has announced that the Texas Education Agency will disburse \$89.4 million to "public and private schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey." The funding comes from

"Congress' \$2.5 billion appropriation to help students affected by various natural disasters last year, including the California wildfires and hurricanes Irma and Maria." The piece quotes DeVos saying in a statement, "As communities get back on their feet in disaster affected regions, we continue to support them in every way we can. This additional funding will ensure students, teachers and staff have ongoing access to the services they need to fully recover and rebuild."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/30, Matos) reports the storm "inundated schools across Houston and the state's coastal region, forcing districts to close down some schools and transfer students to other campuses." Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in October "that it will cost Texas taxpayers \$1.64 billion over the next two years to help schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and avoid financial losses."

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (4/30) reports DeVos "announced about \$693 million in new federal assistance for education institutions affected by this year's hurricanes and wildfires. The awards announced Monday are the first in a multi-phased process to provide initial funding."

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (4/28) reports ED announced Monday that “Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$600 million in emergency federal assistance to help the island’s schools recover from Hurricane Maria.” The funding is from ED’s Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, “also known as the K-12 Restart program, which allows the agency to award emergency assistance to schools affected by last year’s natural disasters, including three hurricanes and wildfires.”

POLITICS & POLICY

Pennsylvania ESSA Plan Broadens School Assessment Criteria.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (4/30) runs an article on the impact ESSA will have on school assessments. The piece says Pennsylvania’s plan “broadens the criteria by which schools are judged to include statistics on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. While the annual testing is still mandatory, Pennsylvania has reduced its amount and length.”

Few States Pushing School Choice Under ESSA.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports that while school choice advocates in Congress were unable to “persuade their colleagues to include Title I portability in” ESSA, “the law...has some limited avenues for states to champion various types of school choice options. But only a handful of states are taking advantage of those opportunities, according to reviews of the plans by Education Week and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/30, story 6, 1:20, Holt) reported, “Many schools remain closed for a third day in Arizona as tens of thousands of teachers protest for higher pay and more resources for their classrooms.” Gov. Doug Ducey “has announced a budget deal with state lawmakers that would boost pay, but teachers on the picket lines remain skeptical.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/30, story 4, 0:20, Glor) reported, “Teachers want higher pay and more funding for education. They average about \$48,000 a year, among the lowest in the nation.”

The [AP](#) (4/30, Daniels, Christie) reports thousands of teachers demonstrated at the Arizona state Capitol “to protest low pay and school funding, and many schools around the state remained closed, while the Legislature prepared to introduce a budget package that gives them raises but falls short of other demands.” The budget package “provides the first 10 percent of what will be a 20 percent increase by 2020” and “restores \$100 million out of the nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts to a fund that helps schools pay for books, school buses and other capital expenses.” However, teachers say “that doesn’t go far enough after years of low funding that not only left them among the lowest paid in the nation but also has many schools operating with broken equipment and outdated books.”

Colorado Lawmaker Withdraws Bill To Punish Teachers For Walkouts.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/30) reports Colorado state Sen. Bob Gardner (R) has said he will withdraw his bill “seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking by threatening firings, fines or even jail time” due to “concerns over lawmakers’ already large workload in the waning days of this legislative session.” The measure, “which came as thousands of teachers were gearing up to protest education funding and educator pay at the state Capitol, drew swift

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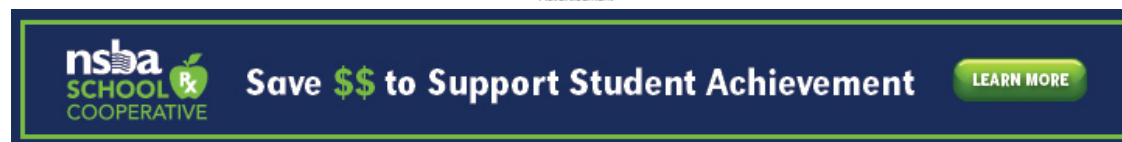
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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
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Subject: ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbadschools.net>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

May 1, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "announced Monday that two states and Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$700 million in federal money to help their schools recover from natural disaster." DeVos said that Puerto Rico "will receive \$589 million of this Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program money, while the Texas education department will receive \$89.4 million and California's department will get \$14.4 million."

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports ED has announced that the Texas Education Agency will disburse \$89.4 million to "public and private schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey." The funding comes from

"Congress' \$2.5 billion appropriation to help students affected by various natural disasters last year, including the California wildfires and hurricanes Irma and Maria." The piece quotes DeVos saying in a statement, "As communities get back on their feet in disaster affected regions, we continue to support them in every way we can. This additional funding will ensure students, teachers and staff have ongoing access to the services they need to fully recover and rebuild."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/30, Matos) reports the storm "inundated schools across Houston and the state's coastal region, forcing districts to close down some schools and transfer students to other campuses." Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in October "that it will cost Texas taxpayers \$1.64 billion over the next two years to help schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and avoid financial losses."

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (4/30) reports DeVos "announced about \$693 million in new federal assistance for education institutions affected by this year's hurricanes and wildfires. The awards announced Monday are the first in a multi-phased process to provide initial funding."

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (4/28) reports ED announced Monday that “Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$600 million in emergency federal assistance to help the island’s schools recover from Hurricane Maria.” The funding is from ED’s Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, “also known as the K-12 Restart program, which allows the agency to award emergency assistance to schools affected by last year’s natural disasters, including three hurricanes and wildfires.”

POLITICS & POLICY

Pennsylvania ESSA Plan Broadens School Assessment Criteria.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (4/30) runs an article on the impact ESSA will have on school assessments. The piece says Pennsylvania’s plan “broadens the criteria by which schools are judged to include statistics on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. While the annual testing is still mandatory, Pennsylvania has reduced its amount and length.”

Few States Pushing School Choice Under ESSA.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports that while school choice advocates in Congress were unable to “persuade their colleagues to include Title I portability in” ESSA, “the law...has some limited avenues for states to champion various types of school choice options. But only a handful of states are taking advantage of those opportunities, according to reviews of the plans by Education Week and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/30, story 6, 1:20, Holt) reported, “Many schools remain closed for a third day in Arizona as tens of thousands of teachers protest for higher pay and more resources for their classrooms.” Gov. Doug Ducey “has announced a budget deal with state lawmakers that would boost pay, but teachers on the picket lines remain skeptical.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/30, story 4, 0:20, Glor) reported, “Teachers want higher pay and more funding for education. They average about \$48,000 a year, among the lowest in the nation.”

The [AP](#) (4/30, Daniels, Christie) reports thousands of teachers demonstrated at the Arizona state Capitol “to protest low pay and school funding, and many schools around the state remained closed, while the Legislature prepared to introduce a budget package that gives them raises but falls short of other demands.” The budget package “provides the first 10 percent of what will be a 20 percent increase by 2020” and “restores \$100 million out of the nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts to a fund that helps schools pay for books, school buses and other capital expenses.” However, teachers say “that doesn’t go far enough after years of low funding that not only left them among the lowest paid in the nation but also has many schools operating with broken equipment and outdated books.”

Colorado Lawmaker Withdraws Bill To Punish Teachers For Walkouts.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/30) reports Colorado state Sen. Bob Gardner (R) has said he will withdraw his bill “seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking by threatening firings, fines or even jail time” due to “concerns over lawmakers’ already large workload in the waning days of this legislative session.” The measure, “which came as thousands of teachers were gearing up to protest education funding and educator pay at the state Capitol, drew swift

outrage from teachers across Colorado and statehouse Democrats after it was introduced earlier this month.”

White Paper: Disadvantaged Students Have Less Access To High-Quality Teachers.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30) reports that according to a working paper presented by the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, “differences in the quality of elementary and middle school teachers can explain much of why disadvantaged students perform worse in math than their whiter, more affluent schoolmates.” However, the report’s authors say “that our understanding of teachers’ effects on students depends on how we measure teacher quality.”

Research: Teaching Aides More Effective As Tutors Than Volunteers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/30) reports recent research shows that teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals, are “at least as good as teachers when it comes to one-to-one and small group tutoring. And both sets of paid professionals—aides and teachers—were far more effective than volunteer tutors.” The article describes research by Robert Slavin, director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, who “recently set out to find the most effective programs to teach elementary and middle school students. In the course of analyzing almost 200 studies on particular methods...he confirmed that students tended to make more progress with tutors than with a teacher in front of an entire classroom.”

Indiana Teacher Resurrects NASA Young Astronauts Program.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Julie Muffler, an elementary school teacher in Borden, Indiana, has launched “a charter location for ‘Young Astronauts,’ once a nationwide program that had 25,000 chapters across every state and 41 countries.” Students take part in “activities that teach them more about the universe, giving them a chance to hone their science skills, dabble in art and delve into ethical questions while they’re at it.” The program draws on an online NASA database “of space-related activities teachers can do with their students.”

California Video Game Design Charter To Host Third Annual STEAM Day Expo.

The [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (4/30) reports Manteca Unified School District’s be.next Video Game Design Academy in California is hosting its third annual STEAM Day Expo on Wednesday and Thursday. The event will feature “science experiments, art projects, computer programming lessons, and physics demonstrations, led by students from the be.next Video Game Design Academy and the Lathrop High School Science and CTE Careers with Children departments.” The expo “has grown from a small group of 50 students to hosting 300 students in five different classroom sessions.” The Bulletin adds that “be.next is a charter school designed for student’s looking to become video game designers,” and its curriculum is “focused on the art, design, programming of video games, and college preparatory courses.”

Pennsylvania State House Approves Legislative Package To Boost CTE.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania state House approved a “bi-partisan package of eight bills that aims to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the mis-perception attached to career and technical education,” the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/30) reports. The lawmakers “who introduced the pieces of legislation said career and technical education can lead to a career path with lower or no debt and a family-sustaining wage.” The measure “grows out of two years of work by a House select committee that traveled the state and gathered information about career and technical education and employers’ needs for skilled labor.” One bill “creates an online career resource center that provides information to students and public about on educational and career options, available career and technical education resources, and data and statistics on employment opportunities and

compensation.” Another would “seek to alter the qualifications that career and technical educators need to be able to teach to remove barriers that hindered their ability to teach.”

Maryland Teachers Fear Computer-Based PARCC Format Will Widen Achievement Gap.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Richman) reports that as Maryland students sit for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests this year, “it will be the first time that all schools are required to administer the computerized version.” Advocates argue “online testing is an important way to prepare students for a workplace reliant on technological skills,” and test officials maintain “computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions.” Some teachers, however, “remain concerned that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they’ve spent decades working to close.” In fact, a Pew Research Center study found low-income households “with children are four times less likely to have a broadband Internet connection than their middle- or upper-class counterparts,” and that the “gap is wider for children from black and Hispanic households.”

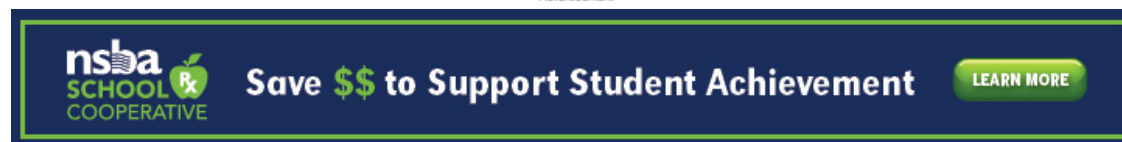
Analysis: Louisiana State Superintendent Exaggerates Computer Illiteracy’s Impact On NAEP Scores.

A [Louisiana Weekly](#) (4/30, Harden) analysis says Louisiana students’ 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are “dismal.” After state Education Superintendent John White previewed “the less-than-impressive scores,” he “wrote a letter to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)” to request “a more detailed breakdown of the data” and to express “concerns the 2017 scores might have more to do with computer literacy.” White has been “considered a darling of the ‘reform’ movement and ideology, of which the wholesale privatization of public education in New Orleans is a central tenet, as well as the statewide voucher program which funnels public money into private schools.” To Louisiana Weekly, however, “even if the 2015 to 2017 scores were impacted by the switch to online testing, the historical NAEP data still makes it a stretch to conclude that White’s tenure and reform in Louisiana is working.”

Tennessee Leaders Divided On How To Mitigate Problematic Testing Season.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30, Stringer) reports “cyberattacks and technical glitches over the past two weeks prevented some students” in Tennessee “from taking state tests and caused chaos for teachers and state leaders alike.” The various testing problems led “state legislators to pass a law last month preventing this year’s test results from negatively impacting students’ grades, teacher compensation, or employment status for educators.” Whether the state would be granted a federal waiver to be excused from testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act remains unclear, “as the federal government has shown flexibility in the past but is trying to shift away from waivers.” Meanwhile, some state legislators are calling for state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen’s resignation, and others are demanding “a return to pencil-and-paper tests.” Tennessee Tech University’s Eric Brown “called the cybersecurity and technological glitches part of the growing process for schools as they transition not just to online testing but to an online world.”

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OPERATIONS

Philanthropist Beutner Likely To Be Named LAUSD Superintendent.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/30, Blume) reports that according to anonymous sources, “the Los Angeles Board of Education is poised to select philanthropist and former investment banker Austin Beutner to be the next superintendent.” The sources say the board already has discussed the terms of Beutner’s contract. As Beutner has no education experience, his selection “would be a signal that the board majority that took control nearly a year ago wants to rely on business management skills instead of insider educational expertise.” The district is facing “serious financial problems,” and addressing those problems “would be a central duty suited to Beutner’s skill set.”

LAUSD Interim Superintendent Wants To Give Principals Teacher Hiring Flexibility.

The [Los Angeles School Report](#) (4/30) reports that under current policies, principals in Los Angeles must fill teaching vacancies by hiring first from “what’s known as the ‘must place’ list. These are teachers who have lost or stepped away from their positions at one school but have not been hired at another.” However, interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchain wants to give principals at 227 struggling LAUSD schools waivers to allow them to skip this process.

New York Schools Chancellor Apologizes For Tweeting “Wealthy White Manhattan Parents Angrily Rant.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Strauss) reports that New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, who has been on the job for around a month, apologized for a Friday tweet “that includes the words ‘WATCH: Wealthy white Manhattan parents angrily rant.’” Carranza was tweeting about a report “that detailed how some white parents in a wealthy Upper West Side neighborhood in Manhattan were vocally upset at a meeting about a plan to diversify neighborhood schools.” Carranza “apologized to anyone who was offended – while noting that the words in the tweet weren’t actually his. And he said he would push forward with school desegregation.”

Austin ISD Board Approves T-STEM Coalition As Partner For Struggling School.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports Austin Independent School District “trustees Monday night approved a partner to help turn around Mendez Middle School, which is at risk of closure by the state for failing to meet academic standards for four consecutive years.” The partner – the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (T-STEM Coalition) – will “operate as an in-district charter over the school and will partner with the district, the University of Texas at Tyler, UT Austin’s UTeach Institute, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, and Austin Interfaith.” Teachers and parents said “they were excited” about the potential performance agreement, which Austin ISD “submitted...to the state after the vote.” The Texas Education Agency is expected to “determine whether it approves” of the partnership “within 15 days of the district’s submission.” If TEA approves, “Mendez could get a two-year reprieve from state sanctions and more money per student.”

DC Mayor Open To Independent Review Of School System Plagued By Controversies.

On its website, [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/30, Austermuhle) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson are planning to establish a commission tasked with reviewing the “troubled” DC Public Schools system. In a Monday email, “Bowser spokeswoman LaToya Foster confirmed that the mayor had discussed a ‘top to bottom review by an outside party’ with Mendelson, and that she was on board with the idea.” DCPS is “struggling after months of difficult revelations and persistent scandals, including inflated graduation rates, a failure to

properly report school suspensions and allegations of misspending of funds meant to help at-risk students.” Earlier this month, “a super-majority of the Council’s 13 members backed a bill to create a separate body that would review school data and engage in independent research on how the schools could improve,” but the idea evoked “reservations from Bowser officials, who say they would want any such body to work with the school system – not against it.”

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To: "LaVern Shan" <lavern.shan@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

From: "Stan Rounds" <stan@nmcel.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2018 10:35:06 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: [state-execs] AASA Student Protests

"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@mpschoos.net>, "Diane Cordova (Admin Pojoaque)" <dlc@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Diller, Stacy (Clayton)" <stacy.diller@claytonschools.us>, "Lesla 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)" <ksumpterdm@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@lovingtonschools.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. 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Attachments:Student Protests Advisory.pdf (35.64k)

Colleagues:

FYI

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

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From: CJ Reid [mailto:creid@aasa.org]
Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 9:43 AM
To: Stan Rounds <stan@nmcel.org>
Subject: [state-execs] AASA Student Protests

Good morning ... attached is an advisory from Hogan Lovells - Student Activism after Parkland - Some First Amendment considerations for school district leaders.

This information and more, can also be found on the AASA website:

<http://www.aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?id=42161&blogid=84002>

Please let us know if you have any questions. C J

page 2 of 3

From: "Stan Rounds" <stan@nmcel.org>
Sent Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2018 10:33:53 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: Funding Gaps 2018: An Analysis of School Funding Equity Across the U.S. and Within Each State

"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>, "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@mpschoools.net>, "Diane Cordova (Admin Pojoaque)" <dlc@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "Diller, Stacy (Clayton)" <stacy.diller@claytonschools.us>, "Lesla Dodd" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "Dorothy Abbott (RRPS Exec Admin)" <Dorothy.Abbott@rrps.net>, "Ella Arellano (Mora)" <earellano@mora.k12.nm.us>, "Elnabeth Grau (Grady)" <egräu@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 (Hatch)" <gewing@lcpss.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)" <jshirley@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)" <ksumpter@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>, "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@lovingtonschools.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)" <nchavez@aps.edu>, "Norma Cavazos - Jemez Mountain" <cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, "Parks, T.J. 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Colleagues:

FYI

Best Regards:

Stan

From: AASA News of the Nation [mailto:communications@aasa.org]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 4:00 PM

To: Stan Rounds <stan@nmcel.org>

Subject: Funding Gaps 2018: An Analysis of School Funding Equity Across the U.S. and Within Each State



February 27, 2018

HOT TOPICS

Funding Gaps 2018: An Analysis of School Funding Equity Across the U.S. and Within Each State

February 27, Education Trust

U.S. school districts serving the largest populations of minority students receive roughly \$1,800, or 13 percent, less per student in state and local funding than those serving the fewest students of color. edtrust.org.

West Virginia Teacher Strike Continues Into Day 4

February 26, Teacher Beat

Public schools across the state of West Virginia are closed for the fourth day of a teacher walkout that began last Thursday over low wages and rising costs of health-care benefits. edweek.org

These Are School Safety Bills Congress Can Already Vote on After Parkland

February 26, Politics K-12

As we are left wondering what lawmakers will do to address school shootings



2018 AASA National Women's Leadership Consortium

after the tragedy in Parkland, Fla., there have already been a handful of bills introduced this Congress that attempt to tackle various aspects of school safety and mental health in K-12. edweek.org

🔔 **With Hundreds of Students, School Counselors Just Try to 'Stay Afloat'**
February 26, NPR

School counselors, who work with students on academic and personal levels, are often stretched too thin—and lack resources like money, support and time. npr.org



LEADERSHIP MATTERS

🔔 **Save the Date: Public Schools Week is March 12-16**

February 27, AASA

#PublicSchoolsWeek will take place March 12-16, 2018. Let's use our collective voice to express the importance of providing our nation's public schools, which serve 90 percent of students in America, with the tools they need to support our children and keep them safe. lovepubliceducation.org

🔔 **Need a Little Inspiration? Read About Outstanding District Leaders**

February 27, Politics K-12

Education Week's annual Leaders To Learn From project recognizes a dozen outstanding district leaders from all around the country. edweek.org

🔔 **Stoneman Douglas Students Launch #WhatIf Social Media Campaign**

February 26, Sun Sentinel

After 17 people were killed in a mass shooting at their school, students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., are launching a social media campaign to raise awareness and pressure Congress to act on gun control. sun-sentinel.com

🔔 **Teachers Protest Push for Guns in Schools with #ArmMeWith Movement**

February 22, The Hill

In the wake of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Fla., teachers took to social media to lash out at lawmakers' suggestions that school employees should be armed and instead are asking to be armed with better school supplies, funding for mental health resources and increased pay. thehill.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 between life and death. Make the ZOLL® AED Plus® part of your school's emergency plan. [Learn more.](#)

SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE NEWS

🔔 **Superintendent Runcie: 'Don't Put Guns in Hands of Teachers'**

February 23, Miami Herald

As teachers returned to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Fla. for the first time since the massacre, Broward Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie called for more resources and support for educators—but drew the

AASA is seeking 20 women superintendents, who have exhibited professional excellence and a commitment to their work in the education field, and five successful women leaders from the business/nonprofit community to participate in the 2018 AASA National Women's Leadership Consortium. [Learn more.](#)

AASA Community

🔔 [Access Conference Coverage of AASA's 2018 National Conference on Education, via Conference Daily Online](#)

🔔 [529 Accounts Are The New Frontier for Private School Choice: What Do YOU Need to Know? \(Webinar, 3/8 at 2 p.m. ET\)](#)

🔔 [Supporting Superintendents, Supporting Students: Resources For Schools And Gun Safety Discussions And Advocacy](#)

🔔 [AASA Releases 2018 Addendum to 2017 Report, Cutting Medicaid: A Prescription to Hurt the Neediest Kids](#)

🔔 [NEW Report: Ten Years Later: How Funding Pressures Continue to Impact Our Nation's Schools](#)

🔔 [2017-18 AASA Superintendent Salary and Benefits Study](#)

🔔 [National Conference on Education Attendees Utilize #NCE18 Conference Hashtag](#)

🔔 [Sign Up for the Spring 2018 Middle School](#)

line at arming them. miamiherald.com.

Sharon L. Contreras: Keeping Schoolchildren Safe Requires Community Support, Action

February 25, *News & Record*

"We need to join with students and school officials across the nation in calling on every community and every state to come together to prevent another terrible tragedy," said Guilford County (N.C.) School District Superintendent Sharon Contreras. greensboro.com.

Wall Street Billionaire Steve Schwarzman Gave a Record-Setting Gift to His Public High School—and it Highlights the Dire Situation American Schools Face

February 24, *Business Insider*

Steve Schwarzman, the billionaire founder of private-equity firm Blackstone Group, gave a \$25 million donation to his public high school in Abington, Pennsylvania, led by Superintendent Amy Sichel. businessinsider.com



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](#).

[Kindness Challenge](#)

[Video: Highlights from AASA's Leadership Services Department](#)

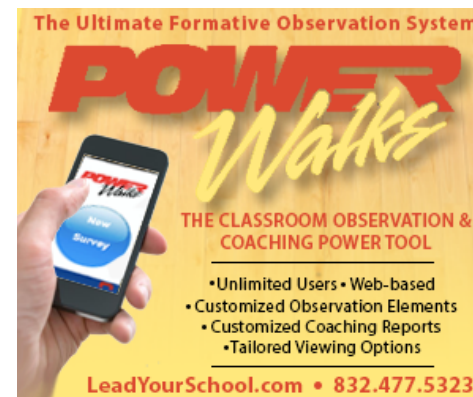
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From: "Cindy Romero" <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2018 15:26:27 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: FW: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Not sure if you wanted me to forward this?

Cindy

From: Joanna Suarez [mailto:automailer@edlio.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 3:23 PM
To: Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools

From: Joanna Suarez <joanna.suarez@fusion.net>

Hello, My name is Joanna Suarez and I'm a producer at FUSION TV. We're a digital and cable channel based in South Florida. Our team is working on a documentary speaking to students across the country on their views regarding the second amendment and the current gun control debate. I understand that Will Riley, a student at Carlsbad HS, has organized a Stand for the Second walkout on May 2. My understanding is that the students participating will not be walking off school grounds (which we have seen happen in other schools and is understandable). Would media outlets -- like our own -- interested in covering this short event be granted permission to be on campus for the duration of the walkout to get footage of it? I can be reached at Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net Many thanks for your time. Best, Joanna Suarez Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net

This email was automatically sent at by IP address 2600:1006:b06e:8d41:2456:d4a5:6254:b390 (computer id: 0.9281865956329509) on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 03:22 PM US/Mountain timezone.

This user has been authenticated with the following credentials from google: display name: Joanna Suarez; email: joanna.suarez@fusion.net; ID: 116520402056194283427.

From: "Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:39:02 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Misti Fernandez" <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Deborah Beard"
To: <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:



National Day of Action Walkout Response



Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 15:24:56 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Renee McGuire Laird" <Renee.Laird@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Carlos Carrillo" <Carlos.Carrillo@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image001.jpg (558 bytes) ~WRD000.jpg (1.1k)

We will need to do this....I do not know how to use the messenger! I will need help!!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2018 11:07:52 -0700 (MST)
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image001.jpg (558 bytes) ~WRD000.jpg (1.1k)

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM

To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Christopher Pash" <cpash@fms.k12.nm.us>
Sent Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2018 10:49:18 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Fwd: FW: [state-execs] AASA Student Protests

<aarchuleta@cimarronschools.org>, <acasados@chamaschools.org>, <adprokta@aztec.k12.nm.us>, <carrillo@cobre.k12.nm.us>, <colleen.tagle@aps4kids.org>, <denise.ruttle@demingps.org>, <dhernandez@bsin.k12.nm.us>, <esther.romero@k12espanola.org>, <ghays@doraschools.com>, <HR@dexterdemons.org>, <jamie.sheppard@capitantigers.org>, <jrnull@bulldogs.org>, <katherine.wingo@claytonschools.us>, <kellv@centralschools.org>, <kerry.parker@clovis-schools.org>, <kmclean@eunice.org>, <leaton@dulceschools.com>, <mandy.carpenter@clovis-schools.org>, <mcasaus@cuba.k12.nm.us>, <mchandlerdms@bacavalley.com>, <michelle.korbakes@aps4kids.org>, <mobyne@animask12.net>, <patty.gutierrez@estancia.k12.nm.us>, <ricky.espinoza@carrizozogrizzlies.org>, <tabety@beleneagles.org>, <tdempsey@cmsbears.org>, <Therese.Rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, <todd.torgerson@aps.edu>, <tpargas@bps.k12.nm.us>, <tpompeo@animask12.net>, <travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org>, <wcriswell@elidaschools.net>, <bperry@jvps.org>, <candrews@bobcats.net>, <cordova_k@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, <dwayne.toivanen@gccs.k12.nm.us>, <esther.romero@k12espanola.org>, <greene@aps.edu>, <hawkinsw@hobbsschools.net>, <j.palmer@laschools.net>, <kmclean@eunice.org>, <ldowney@houseschools.net>, <lhale@hatchschools.net>, <luchavez@gisd.k12.nm.us>, <marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org>, <mary.prudencio@hondoeagles.org>, <mgarland@gradyschool.com>, <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, <mplummer@floydbroncos.com>, <nmoyer@stsumnerk12.com>, <patty.gutierrez@estancia.k12.nm.us>, <pcopeland@loganschool.net>, <rdonkers@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, <rosad@lmsed.org>, <sebarham@lcps.net>, <abl@pvs.k12.nm.us>, <asanchez@penasco.k12.nm.us>, <bbyrd@risd.k12.nm.us>, <bdelacruz@lovingtonschools.net>, <bgbaca@llschools.net>, <bmontoya@mora.k12.nm.us>, <Brillantel@ruidososchools.org>, <cindy.sims@mesd.us>, <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, <dzamora@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, <Eking@springerschools.org>, <esther@taossschools.org>, <ftrujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us>, <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, <karen.walton@ratonschools.com>, <kforrestar@maxwellp12.com>, <llucero@silverschools.org>, <lmcalister@portalesschools.com>, <pwhite-lambright@melroseschools.com>, <rhendrix@mpschoos.net>, <rperea@srlions.com>, <rudys@aps.edu>, <safresquez@sfps.k12.nm.us>, <sfluhman@royschools.org>, <spassell@rrps.net>, <swooten@sanjonschools.com>, <vtrujillo@questa.k12.nm.us>, <Blittle@tatumschools.org>, <brenda.vigil@tularosak12.us>, "Cody Diehl" <cdiehl@fms.k12.nm.us>, <cwhitner@texicoschools.com>, <dfmanzanares@dulceschools.com>, <diane.marrujo@tularosak12.us>, <e.newman@tucumcarischools.com>, <eowens@vaughn.k12.nm.us>, <hhopkins@torcschools.net>, <jmontana@bobcat.net>, <jprops@vaughn.k12.nm.us>, <kjames@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, <pmontoya@dulceschools.com>, <slee@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, <sandy.montoya@tularosak12.us>, <Sheryl.Martinez@wm.k12.nm.us>, <tammie.gerrard@zpsd.org>, <veronica_ulibarri@wlvs.k12.nm.us>

Attachments: Attach0.html (56 bytes) 91715_120555_3.jpg (9.23k) Student Protests Advisory.pdf (35.64k) Attach0.html (4.7k)

Colleagues:

FYI

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: Monday, March 5, 2018 9:43 AM
To: Stan Rounds <stan@nmcel.org>
Subject: [state-execs] AASA Student Protests

Good morning ... attached is an advisory from Hogan Lovells - Student Activism after Parkland - Some First Amendment considerations for school district leaders.

This information and more, can also be found on the AASA website:

<http://www.aasa.org/policy-blogs.aspx?id=42161&blogid=84002>

Please let us know if you have any questions. C J

From: "Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 6 Apr 2018 17:36:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Fwd: Stand for the Second OpEd
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

From Will Riley
Student proposing walkout

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Will Riley <willriley999@gmail.com>
Date: April 6, 2018 at 4:22:29 PM MDT
To: adam.amador@carlsbadschools.net
Subject: Stand for the Second OpEd

Parkland Students Don't Speak for Me or My Generation

By Will Riley, Carlsbad High School senior

(word count: 645)

For the past month, Americans have been subjected to wall-to-wall cable news coverage of a well-orchestrated campaign to dismantle the Second Amendment. This campaign, organized and funded by national gun control groups, has exploited a handful of grieving teens from the Parkland, Florida high school shooting tragedy. As a high school senior in Carlsbad who supports gun rights, I am disgusted by how these students and their adult handlers are trying to define my generation. My generation is not anti-Second Amendment. My generation does not agree with retired Justice John Paul Stevens that the Second Amendment should be repealed. In fact, millennials are more pro-gun than our parents are. It's time the media starts hearing from the millions of young Americans who respect the Constitution and recognize that the Second Amendment is fundamental to our protection and safety, as both individuals, and as a nation.

A recent Gallup poll found that 66 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds said they think that concealed carry guns would make the U.S. safer, 10 percentage points higher than the national average of 56 percent. A separate Pew Research Center poll found differences between millennials and the generations before them on two gun control proposals, outlawing "assault-style" weapons and banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. Both Republican and Democratic millennials are more conservative on these proposals and less likely to favor them than Generation Xers, baby boomers, and even members of the so-called "silent generation," those born between the mid-1920s and mid-1940s. These Parkland high school students do not speak for my generation.

I am not a hunter. I am not much of a shooter. But this issue is not only about guns. This is a battle for the very heart and soul of our country. My goal is simple. I want to spread awareness that not all of my generation shares in this shortsighted crusade to strike a grievous blow to our nation. That is why I have decided to start this movement, Stand for the Second, and began planning a student walkout paralleling the National Day of Action and March for our Lives.

Rather than focus on the victims of firearms, as the gun control walkout did, our walkout will recognize all the American lives saved each year by firearms. Every year an estimated 1.5 million Americans use a firearm to defend themselves. During a 16 minute walkout, that breaks down to 91 American lives saved during the walkout. We want Americans to know that firearms are overwhelmingly used for good in our country. More importantly, the Constitution guarantees the right of every law abiding American to Keep and Bear Arms. That is what we want to remind people of – our Constitution is still relevant today and the Second Amendment in particular is still sacred.

Currently, my Stand for the Second walkout is expected to draw several hundred students at Carlsbad High School, with a small residual effect causing smaller walkouts in Artesia, Hobbs, and possibly Roswell. However, this is not the vision I want for our movement. I want a nationwide movement to defend the Constitution. Unfortunately, I don't have the benefit of wealthy organizers and funders like the Parkland students enjoyed. It's pretty much just me and my friends trying to get the word out. I am asking everyone who sees this, to consider a Stand for the Second walk out at your high school. Because my generation is so connected on social media, I think our message should be spread on Twitter and Instagram, and whatever other sites you use. You can link to my website on social media to help promote it: standforthesecond.com

My generation has an obligation to define itself and not let ourselves be defined by national gun control groups. This is our opportunity to stand up for the Second Amendment and have our voices heard in this critical national debate.

From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 5 Apr 2018 05:28:20 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance
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 5, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement

The advertisement shows a purple book cover with the text "ELEVATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT WITH FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE SCHOOL PLANNERS" and "School Planner". A small image of the book is also shown.



REQUEST INFO

GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that "black students continue to be disciplined at school more often and more harshly than their white peers, often for similar infractions, according to a new report by Congress's nonpartisan watchdog agency, which counters claims fueling" the Trump Administration's "efforts to re-examine discipline policies of the Obama administration." The report, issued by the Government Accountability Office on Wednesday, "is the first national governmental analysis of discipline policies since the Obama administration issued guidance in 2014 that urged schools to examine the disproportionate rates at which black students were being punished." The Times adds that critics "of

the Obama-era guidance have questioned whether students of color suffer from unfair treatment under school discipline policies," but the GAO "found that not only have black students across the nation continued to bear the brunt of such policies, but the impact was felt more widely than previously reported – including by black students in affluent schools."

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports the GAO "released a report Wednesday outlining severe disparities between how white students and students of color are disciplined at the same day Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met with groups to discuss possibly rescinding Obama-era guidance designed to reduce these inequities." The report "comes as civil rights leaders are fighting tooth and nail to save this guidance" which "calls on schools to reduce their reliance on harsh disciplinary practices like suspensions and expulsions. It also warns schools they could run afoul of federal law if certain groups of students are disproportionately punished." The report analyzed ED data from 2013-15 and "reveal[ed] deep discipline disparities across student groups at the very problem the guidance is intended to address."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/4) reports the GAO study “found that the disparities were widespread and present regardless of the type of disciplinary action, level of school poverty or type of public school attended.” US News says the report comes “amid a divisive national debate over federal guidance on school discipline issued during the Obama administration in 2014. The guidance sought to stem the school-to-prison pipeline by addressing the disproportionate rate at which students of color and students with disabilities are suspended and expelled.” However, “some educators and education policy researchers now argue the Obama-era guidance did a disservice to schools, creating disruptive classrooms where teachers feel unsafe because they are pressure by school administrators not to report students.”

[NPR](#) (4/4, Turner) reports GAO researcher Jacqueline Nowicki “and her team interviewed administrators, visited schools across the country, and used 2013-2014 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection, which includes disciplinary actions in more than 95,000 schools across the country. Those numbers include suspensions, expulsions and referrals to law enforcement.”

DeVos Meets With Stakeholders On School Discipline Guidance. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met Wednesday with in a closed-door session “with educators who believe that rolling back the Obama rule will further entrench discrimination. Later in the day she heard from opponents who say that softening discipline practices makes schools less safe and prevents effective learning.” The AP reports that while there is little debate on whether disparities are “a serious problem, there’s intense debate over what causes them and how to fix them.”

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports DeVos’ Wednesday meetings came “as she considers whether to rescind the document,” which “put schools on notice that they may be found in violation of federal civil rights laws if they enforce...discriminatory rules or if their policies lead to disproportionately higher rates of discipline for students in one racial group, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” The piece says the debate hinges on “why those differing discipline rates occur and the role of the federal government in addressing them.” Meanwhile, Education Week reports, “DeVos and her team have not committed to a particular time frame for making a final decision on whether to keep, toss, or tweak the guidance. That decision is also on the agenda of a new school safety task force assembled by the White House, which DeVos chairs.”

Noting that the 2014 guidance was a joint document from ED and the Department of Justice, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/4, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports on similarities to meetings held before ED ended controversial Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/4, Emma) reports that a number of organizations, including the National Women’s Law Center, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Indian Education Association, and GLSEN, wrote to DeVos expressing concerns about a lack of transparency and broad representation surrounding the meetings.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports DeVos met with “civil rights leaders, parents and teachers Wednesday morning to discuss the impact of Obama-era guidance that calls on schools to reduce their reliance on suspensions and to consider whether racial bias plays a role in their disciplinary practices,” saying the “examination of this guidance is part of DeVos’ work as leader of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, although she has reportedly been thinking for months about rescinding the guidance.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/4, Richardson) reports DeVos “heard radically different takes” on the issue, saying stakeholders said the guidance, “depending on who was testifying, is either working like a charm in some classrooms or creating hair-raising chaos in others.” The Times reports ED spokesman Nate Bailey “said there is no timetable for a decision on the guidance, which was aimed at addressing concerns about racial disparities in discipline.”

POLITICS & POLICY

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Trump Discusses Cutting Education Funding From Omnibus Bill.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports President Trump “wasn’t totally thrilled about signing a spending bill that included a \$2.6 billion increase for education” and is “still trying to find a way to make cuts. Trump has reportedly discussed with House Republican leaders the idea of effectively cutting some spending out of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill he signed late last month.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

National School Boards Association Honors Maryland District For Focus On Ninth-Graders.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/4) reports the National School Boards Association is recognizing Maryland’s Anne Arundel County Public Schools, which three years ago “started to focus on helping students pass their ninth-grade classes and advance to 10th grade.” The district said in a statement that NSBA gave it “a first-place award given to a system that ‘breaks down barrier for underserved students.’”

Oklahoma House Approves \$20 Million Internet Sales Tax As Teacher Walkout Continues.

[Reuters](#) (4/4) reports, “The Oklahoma House of Representatives approved a \$20 million internet sales tax on Wednesday as part of a revenue package aimed at ending a statewide walkout by teachers seeking higher pay and more education funding.” Reuters notes that teachers on Wednesday “packed the Capitol in Oklahoma City to press for a \$200 million package to raise education spending in Oklahoma, which ranks near the bottom for U.S. states.” Over 100 districts in the state will remain closed on Thursday.

Teachers Plan Tulsa-To-Oklahoma City March. [NBC News](#) (4/4) reports that as the Oklahoma teacher walkout continues, “more than 100 educators embarked Wednesday on a 110-mile march from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the state Capitol building.” The teachers’ trip “is anticipated to take seven days,” and Tulsa Superintendent Deborah Gist “said those walking have already received a lot of support.”

[CNN](#) (4/4, Silverman) reports marchers “plan to walk from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, the state capital, to join thousands of teachers who have been protesting all week for higher pay and more resources, such as new textbooks.” The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Murdock) also covers this story.

Oklahoma Governor Compares Teachers To Teens Asking For “Better Car.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/4, Balingit) reports Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R), whose state is experiencing a days-long walkout by teachers calling for greater education funding, “is under siege after she compared striking teachers converging on the state Capitol to rally for education funding to ‘a teenage kid that wants a better car.’” Speaking to CBS News correspondent Omar Villafranca, Fallin said, “Teachers want more. But it’s kind of like having a teenage kid that wants a better car.” Fallin also said “she was skeptical the teacher walkout was a homegrown movement, saying she suspected outside groups, including Antifa — short for anti-fascist — were involved.”

Analysis: As Walkout Continues, Oklahoma Teachers Risk Overplaying Hand. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports

that teachers in Oklahoma who have marched on the state Capitol “brought pent-up with them frustration after years of budget cuts, swelling class sizes and a decade without a raise. ... Now these teachers face a tough question as the walkout threatens to keep many schools closed for the rest of the week — do they risk losing public support for their efforts, especially after lawmakers handed them much of what they asked for?” The AP reports that while teachers continue to enjoy support from some parents, others in the state “question why teachers are continuing to stay off the job after lawmakers approved new money for schools and raises.”

Oklahoma, Kentucky Teachers Running For State Legislative Seats.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (4/4) reports that 30-year educator Cyndi Ralston of Oklahoma’s Haskell Public Schools announced Tuesday “that she is running as a Democrat to represent the people of District 12.” Her announcement came after state Rep. Kevin McDugle (R), the district’s current representative, “said Tuesday that he didn’t think protesting teachers were setting a good example for students.” Ralston “wrote in a Facebook post that McDugle’s video ‘disrespected and denigrated teachers and administrators’ who went to the Capitol to advocate for increased education funding.”

[The Hill](#) (4/4, Gstalter) reports that McDugle “later apologized” for his video. The piece quotes Ralston saying in a Facebook post, “If Kevin McDugle won’t fight for teachers and students, then I will. If Kevin McDugle won’t back parents over oil companies, I will. If Kevin McDugle won’t treat his constituents with respect and dignity, I will.”

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To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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April 5, 2018

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REQUEST INFO

GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that "black students continue to be disciplined at school more often and more harshly than their white peers, often for similar infractions, according to a new report by Congress's nonpartisan watchdog agency, which counters claims fueling" the Trump Administration's "efforts to re-examine discipline policies of the Obama administration." The report, issued by the Government Accountability Office on Wednesday, "is the first national governmental analysis of discipline policies since the Obama administration issued guidance in 2014 that urged schools to examine the disproportionate rates at which black students were being punished." The Times adds that critics "of

the Obama-era guidance have questioned whether students of color suffer from unfair treatment under school discipline policies," but the GAO "found that not only have black students across the nation continued to bear the brunt of such policies, but the impact was felt more widely than previously reported – including by black students in affluent schools."

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports the GAO "released a report Wednesday outlining severe disparities between how white students and students of color are disciplined at the same day Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met with groups to discuss possibly rescinding Obama-era guidance designed to reduce these inequities." The report "comes as civil rights leaders are fighting tooth and nail to save this guidance" which "calls on schools to reduce their reliance on harsh disciplinary practices like suspensions and expulsions. It also warns schools they could run afoul of federal law if certain groups of students are disproportionately punished." The report analyzed ED data from 2013-15 and "reveal[ed] deep discipline disparities across student groups at the very problem the guidance is intended to address."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/4) reports the GAO study “found that the disparities were widespread and present regardless of the type of disciplinary action, level of school poverty or type of public school attended.” US News says the report comes “amid a divisive national debate over federal guidance on school discipline issued during the Obama administration in 2014. The guidance sought to stem the school-to-prison pipeline by addressing the disproportionate rate at which students of color and students with disabilities are suspended and expelled.” However, “some educators and education policy researchers now argue the Obama-era guidance did a disservice to schools, creating disruptive classrooms where teachers feel unsafe because they are pressure by school administrators not to report students.”

[NPR](#) (4/4, Turner) reports GAO researcher Jacqueline Nowicki “and her team interviewed administrators, visited schools across the country, and used 2013-2014 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection, which includes disciplinary actions in more than 95,000 schools across the country. Those numbers include suspensions, expulsions and referrals to law enforcement.”

DeVos Meets With Stakeholders On School Discipline Guidance. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met Wednesday with in a closed-door session “with educators who believe that rolling back the Obama rule will further entrench discrimination. Later in the day she heard from opponents who say that softening discipline practices makes schools less safe and prevents effective learning.” The AP reports that while there is little debate on whether disparities are “a serious problem, there’s intense debate over what causes them and how to fix them.”

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports DeVos’ Wednesday meetings came “as she considers whether to rescind the document,” which “put schools on notice that they may be found in violation of federal civil rights laws if they enforce...discriminatory rules or if their policies lead to disproportionately higher rates of discipline for students in one racial group, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” The piece says the debate hinges on “why those differing discipline rates occur and the role of the federal government in addressing them.” Meanwhile, Education Week reports, “DeVos and her team have not committed to a particular time frame for making a final decision on whether to keep, toss, or tweak the guidance. That decision is also on the agenda of a new school safety task force assembled by the White House, which DeVos chairs.”

Noting that the 2014 guidance was a joint document from ED and the Department of Justice, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/4, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports on similarities to meetings held before ED ended controversial Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/4, Emma) reports that a number of organizations, including the National Women’s Law Center, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Indian Education Association, and GLSEN, wrote to DeVos expressing concerns about a lack of transparency and broad representation surrounding the meetings.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports DeVos met with “civil rights leaders, parents and teachers Wednesday morning to discuss the impact of Obama-era guidance that calls on schools to reduce their reliance on suspensions and to consider whether racial bias plays a role in their disciplinary practices,” saying the “examination of this guidance is part of DeVos’ work as leader of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, although she has reportedly been thinking for months about rescinding the guidance.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/4, Richardson) reports DeVos “heard radically different takes” on the issue, saying stakeholders said the guidance, “depending on who was testifying, is either working like a charm in some classrooms or creating hair-raising chaos in others.” The Times reports ED spokesman Nate Bailey “said there is no timetable for a decision on the guidance, which was aimed at addressing concerns about racial disparities in discipline.”

POLITICS & POLICY

Advertisement



Trump Discusses Cutting Education Funding From Omnibus Bill.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports President Trump “wasn’t totally thrilled about signing a spending bill that included a \$2.6 billion increase for education” and is “still trying to find a way to make cuts. Trump has reportedly discussed with House Republican leaders the idea of effectively cutting some spending out of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill he signed late last month.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

National School Boards Association Honors Maryland District For Focus On Ninth-Graders.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/4) reports the National School Boards Association is recognizing Maryland’s Anne Arundel County Public Schools, which three years ago “started to focus on helping students pass their ninth-grade classes and advance to 10th grade.” The district said in a statement that NSBA gave it “a first-place award given to a system that ‘breaks down barrier for underserved students.’”

Oklahoma House Approves \$20 Million Internet Sales Tax As Teacher Walkout Continues.

[Reuters](#) (4/4) reports, “The Oklahoma House of Representatives approved a \$20 million internet sales tax on Wednesday as part of a revenue package aimed at ending a statewide walkout by teachers seeking higher pay and more education funding.” Reuters notes that teachers on Wednesday “packed the Capitol in Oklahoma City to press for a \$200 million package to raise education spending in Oklahoma, which ranks near the bottom for U.S. states.” Over 100 districts in the state will remain closed on Thursday.

Teachers Plan Tulsa-To-Oklahoma City March. [NBC News](#) (4/4) reports that as the Oklahoma teacher walkout continues, “more than 100 educators embarked Wednesday on a 110-mile march from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the state Capitol building.” The teachers’ trip “is anticipated to take seven days,” and Tulsa Superintendent Deborah Gist “said those walking have already received a lot of support.”

[CNN](#) (4/4, Silverman) reports marchers “plan to walk from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, the state capital, to join thousands of teachers who have been protesting all week for higher pay and more resources, such as new textbooks.” The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Murdock) also covers this story.

Oklahoma Governor Compares Teachers To Teens Asking For “Better Car.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/4, Balingit) reports Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R), whose state is experiencing a days-long walkout by teachers calling for greater education funding, “is under siege after she compared striking teachers converging on the state Capitol to rally for education funding to ‘a teenage kid that wants a better car.’” Speaking to CBS News correspondent Omar Villafranca, Fallin said, “Teachers want more. But it’s kind of like having a teenage kid that wants a better car.” Fallin also said “she was skeptical the teacher walkout was a homegrown movement, saying she suspected outside groups, including Antifa — short for anti-fascist — were involved.”

Analysis: As Walkout Continues, Oklahoma Teachers Risk Overplaying Hand. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports

that teachers in Oklahoma who have marched on the state Capitol “brought pent-up with them frustration after years of budget cuts, swelling class sizes and a decade without a raise. ... Now these teachers face a tough question as the walkout threatens to keep many schools closed for the rest of the week — do they risk losing public support for their efforts, especially after lawmakers handed them much of what they asked for?” The AP reports that while teachers continue to enjoy support from some parents, others in the state “question why teachers are continuing to stay off the job after lawmakers approved new money for schools and raises.”

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The advertisement shows a purple book cover for "School Planner". The text on the cover reads "ELEVATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT WITH FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE SCHOOL PLANNERS" and "School Planner". There is also a small image of a spiral-bound planner.



REQUEST INFO

GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance.

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Innovative Classroom Designs Used To Increase Student Collaboration, Autonomy.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/4) reports that last year, Shari Camhi, superintendent for Long Island's Baldwin Schools, "invited staff members to apply to redesign their classrooms...as a strategy for bringing more innovative instruction to the district." The article describes how the process has led to "much more student collaboration and autonomy," and describes some of the layouts being used in the classroom.

Analysis: Middle School Common Core Math Instruction Aligns With Standards But Lacks Rigor.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports that according to an analysis from Education Trust, "while middle school teachers have largely embraced the leaner, more-focused Common Core State Standards, many math assignments prioritize procedures and algorithms at the expense of conceptual thinking and argumentation." The report "raises fresh questions about the challenges to upgrading math instruction in the crucial grades 6-8."

Idaho District Robotics Team Heading To World Festival In Houston.

The [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (4/4) reports that a robotics team consisting of middle and high school students in Moscow, Idaho dubbed the Knights of the Rectangular Table "will represent the city and the state of Idaho in two weeks in Houston at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology LEGO League World Festival, part of the FIRST Championship. The team won the FIRST LEGO League North Idaho Championship in January at the University of Idaho's Memorial Gym, punching its ticket to the international competition April 18-21."

OPERATIONS

Puerto Rico Teachers Union Sues To Stop School Choice Law.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports the Asociación de Maestros de Puerto Rico, "which represents nearly 30,000 teachers working in the U.S. territory," has filed a lawsuit "to halt charter schools and vouchers on the island before they even begin." The article says the lawsuit comes "in response to a new education law" which "would allow charter schools and vouchers on the island, although both would be subject to caps—charters (or "alianza") schools can constitute no more than 10 percent of schools in Puerto Rico, while the number of students receiving vouchers under the Free School Selection program would be capped at 3 percent of public school students in the first year, and 5 percent in the second." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and Puerto Rico Secretary of Education Julia Keleher "have both said the law...will provide more educational opportunities" for students.

Some Denver Teachers Vote To Abandon "Innovation Plans."

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/4) reports, "For the first time ever, teachers at two Denver schools voted this year against renewing 'innovation plans' that allowed the schools to set their own calendars, choose their own textbooks, and in the case of one school, waive parts of the teachers union contract." In a third school, teachers "voted to shed the school's unique 'autonomous' status, which allowed similar freedoms." This school's status "paved the way for the state law that permits district-run schools to adopt innovation plans." Supporters of the concept have questioned whether the district "is backing away from its more aggressive school improvement strategies. But Deputy Superintendent Susana Cordova said she doesn't see the votes as a harbinger of change in either district policy or public opinion."

New York Mayor Hints New Chancellor Will Push Existing Agenda.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/4) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, speaking Wednesday, said incoming “Chancellor Richard Carranza will be ‘obsessively focused’ on students reading at grade level and will spread the word about the mayor’s education agenda.” De Blasio said the two will advocate for “his ‘Equity and Excellence’ agenda, referring to a suite of initiatives launched in 2015.” The comments, Chalkbeat reports, “suggested that the new chancellor will be primarily responsible for shepherding the mayor’s existing agenda.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Top Kansas Republicans Drop Effort To Bar Judges From Ruling On School Funding Cases.

The [AP](#) (4/4, John Hanna |, Ap) reports Kansas state Senate President Susan Wagle (R) and Majority Leader Jim Denning (R) “on Wednesday dropped a demand that lawmakers move to curb judges’ power before increasing spending on public schools, allowing work to move forward on satisfying a court mandate on education funding.” The two “had said Tuesday that their chamber would not debate school funding until the GOP-controlled Legislature approved a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the courts’ power to decide education spending issues.” State House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr. (R) said the measure would not see a vote in the state House this week.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/4) reports the “stalemate...finally broke late Wednesday when Republican leaders in the Senate withdrew their demand that lawmakers first pass a constitutional amendment to take away the authority of state courts to review school funding adequacy cases.” The article reports Wagle and Denning announced their withdrawal of their ultimatum “just hours after the House Judiciary Committee voted narrowly to advance a constitutional amendment to the full House, even though House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., R-Olathe, had said he would not bring it to the floor for debate this week.”

The [High Plains Public Radio \(KS\)](#) (4/4) reports that on Tuesday, the state House “voted 71-53 to back a \$500 million school funding plan, passing it on to the Senate.” However, “Wagle fears that plan will again drive Kansas into a budget deficit and won’t guarantee an end to the lawsuits.” The paper explains that the state is “facing an April 30 deadline to pass a school funding increase and defend the solution at the Kansas Supreme Court. Lawmakers agreed last spring to hike school funding by around \$300 million, but failed to win the court over.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Texas Education Officials Seeking Public Feedback On Special Education Overhaul.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/4) reports Texas Education Agency officials are seeking feedback from the public “on the latest proposal to overhaul Texas’ special education services. In March, the Texas Education Agency officials proposed spending \$211.3 million over six years on professional development, engaging special education parents, monitoring special education practices at school districts and identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services.”

Bill To Arm Teachers Dies In Louisiana House Committee.

The [AP](#) (4/4) reports that the Louisiana state House “criminal justice committee” on Wednesday “rejected a proposal” to allow teachers to carry guns at school that was “opposed by law enforcement, educators and the governor.” Sponsor Rep. Raymond Garofalo (R) “said that laws barring guns on school grounds invite attacks. But if teachers who have concealed carry permits and have gone through active shooter training were allowed to bring

guns to school, shooters would stay away.” However, opponents “said the policy is bound to result in unintended shootings and would create confusion in the event of a school shooting.”

School Safety Standards Bill Advances In Maryland Senate.

The [AP](#) (4/4, Witte) reports the Maryland state Senate Budget and Taxation Committee “approved a measure to create consistent standards for school safety statewide.” The measure “requires the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop a policy for school-safety assessment. The policy will include guidance on identifying people whose behavior could pose a threat to a school.”

California Districts Taking Part In School Climate, Safety Study.

[EdSource](#) (4/3) reports that California districts are taking part in a new five-year study by the American Institutes for Research on school safety and climate. The study “promises to be a groundbreaking examination of school safety in California schools. Virginia Tech University’s Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality is partnering with AIR on the research and Public Counsel, the Los Angeles-based public interest law firm, is also involved.”

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.](#)
- [Education Week Package Explores States’ Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.](#)
- [Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.](#)
- [Philadelphia School District To Invest \\$20 Million In Classroom Renovations.](#)
- [Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 5 Apr 2018 05:28:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance
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 5, 2018

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Innovative Classroom Designs Used To Increase Student Collaboration, Autonomy.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/4) reports that last year, Shari Camhi, superintendent for Long Island's Baldwin Schools, "invited staff members to apply to redesign their classrooms...as a strategy for bringing more innovative instruction to the district." The article describes how the process has led to "much more student collaboration and autonomy," and describes some of the layouts being used in the classroom.

Analysis: Middle School Common Core Math Instruction Aligns With Standards But Lacks Rigor.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports that according to an analysis from Education Trust, "while middle school teachers have largely embraced the leaner, more-focused Common Core State Standards, many math assignments prioritize procedures and algorithms at the expense of conceptual thinking and argumentation." The report "raises fresh questions about the challenges to upgrading math instruction in the crucial grades 6-8."

Idaho District Robotics Team Heading To World Festival In Houston.

The [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (4/4) reports that a robotics team consisting of middle and high school students in Moscow, Idaho dubbed the Knights of the Rectangular Table "will represent the city and the state of Idaho in two weeks in Houston at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology LEGO League World Festival, part of the FIRST Championship. The team won the FIRST LEGO League North Idaho Championship in January at the University of Idaho's Memorial Gym, punching its ticket to the international competition April 18-21."

OPERATIONS

Puerto Rico Teachers Union Sues To Stop School Choice Law.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports the Asociación de Maestros de Puerto Rico, "which represents nearly 30,000 teachers working in the U.S. territory," has filed a lawsuit "to halt charter schools and vouchers on the island before they even begin." The article says the lawsuit comes "in response to a new education law" which "would allow charter schools and vouchers on the island, although both would be subject to caps—charters (or "alianza") schools can constitute no more than 10 percent of schools in Puerto Rico, while the number of students receiving vouchers under the Free School Selection program would be capped at 3 percent of public school students in the first year, and 5 percent in the second." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and Puerto Rico Secretary of Education Julia Keleher "have both said the law...will provide more educational opportunities" for students.

Some Denver Teachers Vote To Abandon "Innovation Plans."

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/4) reports, "For the first time ever, teachers at two Denver schools voted this year against renewing 'innovation plans' that allowed the schools to set their own calendars, choose their own textbooks, and in the case of one school, waive parts of the teachers union contract." In a third school, teachers "voted to shed the school's unique 'autonomous' status, which allowed similar freedoms." This school's status "paved the way for the state law that permits district-run schools to adopt innovation plans." Supporters of the concept have questioned whether the district "is backing away from its more aggressive school improvement strategies. But Deputy Superintendent Susana Cordova said she doesn't see the votes as a harbinger of change in either district policy or public opinion."

New York Mayor Hints New Chancellor Will Push Existing Agenda.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/4) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, speaking Wednesday, said incoming “Chancellor Richard Carranza will be ‘obsessively focused’ on students reading at grade level and will spread the word about the mayor’s education agenda.” De Blasio said the two will advocate for “his ‘Equity and Excellence’ agenda, referring to a suite of initiatives launched in 2015.” The comments, Chalkbeat reports, “suggested that the new chancellor will be primarily responsible for shepherding the mayor’s existing agenda.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Top Kansas Republicans Drop Effort To Bar Judges From Ruling On School Funding Cases.

The [AP](#) (4/4, John Hanna |, Ap) reports Kansas state Senate President Susan Wagle (R) and Majority Leader Jim Denning (R) “on Wednesday dropped a demand that lawmakers move to curb judges’ power before increasing spending on public schools, allowing work to move forward on satisfying a court mandate on education funding.” The two “had said Tuesday that their chamber would not debate school funding until the GOP-controlled Legislature approved a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the courts’ power to decide education spending issues.” State House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr. (R) said the measure would not see a vote in the state House this week.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/4) reports the “stalemate...finally broke late Wednesday when Republican leaders in the Senate withdrew their demand that lawmakers first pass a constitutional amendment to take away the authority of state courts to review school funding adequacy cases.” The article reports Wagle and Denning announced their withdrawal of their ultimatum “just hours after the House Judiciary Committee voted narrowly to advance a constitutional amendment to the full House, even though House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., R-Olathe, had said he would not bring it to the floor for debate this week.”

The [High Plains Public Radio \(KS\)](#) (4/4) reports that on Tuesday, the state House “voted 71-53 to back a \$500 million school funding plan, passing it on to the Senate.” However, “Wagle fears that plan will again drive Kansas into a budget deficit and won’t guarantee an end to the lawsuits.” The paper explains that the state is “facing an April 30 deadline to pass a school funding increase and defend the solution at the Kansas Supreme Court. Lawmakers agreed last spring to hike school funding by around \$300 million, but failed to win the court over.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Texas Education Officials Seeking Public Feedback On Special Education Overhaul.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/4) reports Texas Education Agency officials are seeking feedback from the public “on the latest proposal to overhaul Texas’ special education services. In March, the Texas Education Agency officials proposed spending \$211.3 million over six years on professional development, engaging special education parents, monitoring special education practices at school districts and identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services.”

Bill To Arm Teachers Dies In Louisiana House Committee.

The [AP](#) (4/4) reports that the Louisiana state House “criminal justice committee” on Wednesday “rejected a proposal” to allow teachers to carry guns at school that was “opposed by law enforcement, educators and the governor.” Sponsor Rep. Raymond Garofalo (R) “said that laws barring guns on school grounds invite attacks. But if teachers who have concealed carry permits and have gone through active shooter training were allowed to bring

guns to school, shooters would stay away.” However, opponents “said the policy is bound to result in unintended shootings and would create confusion in the event of a school shooting.”

School Safety Standards Bill Advances In Maryland Senate.

The [AP](#) (4/4, Witte) reports the Maryland state Senate Budget and Taxation Committee “approved a measure to create consistent standards for school safety statewide.” The measure “requires the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop a policy for school-safety assessment. The policy will include guidance on identifying people whose behavior could pose a threat to a school.”

California Districts Taking Part In School Climate, Safety Study.

[EdSource](#) (4/3) reports that California districts are taking part in a new five-year study by the American Institutes for Research on school safety and climate. The study “promises to be a groundbreaking examination of school safety in California schools. Virginia Tech University’s Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality is partnering with AIR on the research and Public Counsel, the Los Angeles-based public interest law firm, is also involved.”

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.](#)
- [Education Week Package Explores States’ Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.](#)
- [Arizona Teachers Rally For Pay Raise, Pre-Recession Student Funding.](#)
- [Philadelphia School District To Invest \\$20 Million In Classroom Renovations.](#)
- [Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.](#)

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 20, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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Native Education Director Meets With Havasupai Officials Over Failing Grand Canyon School.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/19, Woods) reports that Bureau of Indian Education director Tony Dearman “made an unannounced visit to the bottom of the Grand Canyon Wednesday after worsening conditions at Havasupai Elementary School exploded into a legal setback, a mass teacher exodus and the first hints of pressure from elected officials.” Dearman and top Bureau of Indian Education officials “met with the tiny Havasupai Tribe’s council and school board.” They also “met with a committee of parents, tribal members and former Havasupai Elementary School teachers, who presented the bureau with a detailed list of demands for school improvement.” According to the article, “it was both a rare public acknowledgement of the school’s widely known problems and an apparent attempt to stem a period of unprecedented chaos.” Bureau of Indian Affairs spokeswoman Nedra Darling “said the director had planned to discuss staffing, summer programs, special education and student safety, but did not know if Dearman had offered any specific solutions.”

Los Angeles Appears To Have Three Finalists For Superintendent Post.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/19, Blume) reports on the search for a new superintendent for the Los Angeles schools and “the underlying power politics.” The Times says there “appear to be three finalists” who are former Baltimore Supt. Andres Alonso, former investment banker Austin Beutner and Los Angeles interim superintendent Vivian Ekchian. Beutner is said to have “the easiest path to a four-vote majority” but, Alonso is thought to be capable of getting to five or six if Beutner cannot get to four, and Ekchian “looks like a fallback choice.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Kansas AG Presents School Funding Bill To State Supreme Court.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/19) reports on Thursday, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt “filed the newest version of the state’s school finance bill with the state Supreme Court, two days after Gov. Jeff Colyer signed the bill.” Because the legislature is planning to make some changes as to the final amounts, “Schmidt asked the court to focus only on the equity of the funding proposed” and to “wait until the May 10 deadline to begin examining the adequacy of the funding amount.”

Kentucky Teachers Focused On State’s Pension Plan.

[Education Week](#) (4/19, Burnette, Will) reports that while elsewhere, pay is the primary reason for teacher action, in Kentucky, the state pension program replaces Social Security, and its “underfunded pension system” is the focus of action, which has included “teacher walkouts, lawsuits, and raucous protests.” Education Week adds that many states are facing problems regarding their pensions due to “investment losses during the Great Recession, a wave of Baby Boomers’ retirements, and years of fiscal mismanagement.” It cites “Connecticut, Illinois, and Michigan” as estimating “they won’t have enough money within the next decade to pay teachers what they’re owed at retirement,” but Standard & Poor’s called Kentucky’s the “worst-funded in the nation.”

Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee Discussing School Funding Proposals.

The [AP](#) (4/18) reports on Wednesday, Senate Appropriations Chairman Dan Brown “proposed giving public K-12 schools \$48 million more next fiscal year,” an amount “about \$50 million less than what House lawmakers

approved.” The committee has been discussing school funding, but has not approved any plan. Some senators objected to the idea, arguing the schools need more funds. Whatever plan the Senate approves will have to be negotiated with the House before going to a final vote in both chambers.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Illinois Legislature Considering Paying Districts To Replace Security Guards With Therapists, Social Workers.

The [AP](#) (4/19, Zimmerman) reports on a plan in the Illinois legislature “to give extra money to schools that replace armed security officers with unarmed social workers and behavior therapists.” The AP reports sponsor state Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch (D) “said he proposed the plan after hearing from advocates who argue that investing in mental health resources is the best way of treating the epidemic of violence.” The article notes that the plan runs counter to many plans across the country to focus on increasing security in schools in the wake of the Parkland massacre.

Police Arrest Administrators Over Student “Fight Club.”

The [AP](#) (4/19) reports police in Montville, Connecticut have arrested a local “superintendent, principal and assistant principal were arrested for not telling authorities about a student ‘fight club’ at their Connecticut high school.” The article explains that police found that “several organized fights took place inside a math classroom at Montville High School during school hours with the encouragement of a substitute teacher” who has also been arrested.

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent.](#)
- [DeVos To Seek Mattis’ Support For Vouchers For Military Families.](#)
- [NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.](#)
- [Los Angeles School Board Continues Discussions On Candidate To Lead Schools.](#)
- [ED-funded Report Suggests Ways Technology Could Benefit Adult Learners.](#)

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Subject: Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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April 20, 2018

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Subject: Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

April 20, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/19) reports teachers in Baltimore say that four years after the implementation of the computerized PARCC test, there are concerns "that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they've spent decades working to close." The Sun explains the scope and use of the test, reporting that "test officials say computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions." However, "some Baltimore educators worry it presents yet another hurdle for students from poor families. Nationally, researchers have found that low-income households continue to lag in technology adoption, and that the majority of teachers in poor schools feel their students are not

prepared to take computerized tests."

The [AP](#) (4/19) reports Linda Taylor, principal of Baltimore's Govans Elementary School, "says low access to computers makes it difficult for students to develop computer skills," and that "some students struggled to use a mouse during standardized tests last year."

POLITICS & POLICY

Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.

In a piece for [The Hill](#) (4/19), Shayna Medley, a Skadden Fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union LGBT & HIV Project, writes that in recent months Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "has been holding meetings to consider

rolling back critical guidance that outlines schools' obligations under federal law to administer school discipline in a racially non-discriminatory manner." Medley says the guidance "serves to create a safer, more inclusive learning environment for LGBTQ students, even without mentioning them specifically. And yet, the DeVos Education Department is considering undoing all of that."

Column: Lack Of Outrage Over DC Schools Scandals Troubling.

In a [Washington Post](#) (4/19) column, Petula Dvorak laments the "apathy" surrounding education issues in the US and says "one of the best places to see this apathy is in the mayor's race in the nation's capital." Dvorak expresses dismay that while voters in DC have ousted mayors who have disappointed them, Mayor Muriel Bowser "is largely...unopposed." Dvorak writes that Bowser "seems to be sailing into a second term under the cloud of a reprehensible, epic scandal" sparking investigations from ED, the FBI, and district officials. The scandals relate to inflated graduation rates and widespread "residency fraud – a good chunk of the kids who come to D.C. schools don't even live in the city."

TEACHING & LEARNING

Newark Working On Upgrading CTE Programs.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/19, Barnum) reports Newark's interim schools Superintendent Robert Gregory is focused on training Newark residents to be qualified for available work because "just 10 percent" of jobs in the city with annual pay over \$40,000 are held by Newark residents. The city also has an 8 percent unemployment rate. Now the school system is planning "to strengthen and expand its vocational programs" or "career and technical education," so that, Gregory said, there can be a "seamless pipeline" between the schools and jobs. The school system faces difficulties in finding "qualified teachers with up-to-date industry skills," and in matching the needs of local employers. The district is working with Rutgers and New Jersey Institute of Technology to develop new programs.

Two Orange County, California Schools Add STEAM Labs.

The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (4/19, Mills) reports Orange Unified School District's Canyon Rim Elementary School and Running Springs Elementary both recently opened STEAM labs. At Canyon Rim, the lab will include "a green screen, three digital screens, robotics, flexible seating and a host of supplies, such as microscopes, scales, beakers and such." At Running Springs there are two STEAM labs; "one is for lower-grade classes, and a second will be used by the older students."

Florida Student Uses 3D Printing To Create Prosthetic Limbs.

The [Miami Herald](#) (4/19, Mayo) reports on Rishab Jain, a junior at American Heritage School in Plantation, Florida, who for three years has been working on "a community service project that uses 3D printing technology to create prosthetic limbs for people around the world." In January, he wrote, "I helped my first patient and now friend. He was so ecstatic to use his first prosthetic hand and right away you could see him smiling and drinking water, playing with a baseball bat, and learning how to use the hand." Jain is also "chapter president of the global NGO called E-nable the Future." He has worked with classmates to provide "3D printed prosthetic hands for people in Peru and India."

Tennessee Commissioner Apologizes For Online Testing Problems, But Will Not Resign.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/19, Aldrich) reports that in the wake of problems with online testing for the first two days of TNReady, Tennessee's school testing system, Education Commissioner Candice McQueen began "a two-hour legislative

hearing with an apology to students, parents, and educators,” but told Rep. Mike Stewart (D-Nashville), in response to the first question of the hearing, that she will not resign. Brad Baumgartner, COO of Questar, which has the contract for the online testing, was also at the hearing. He said, “We own the last couple of days.”

English Teachers Oppose Use Of Computers To Grade Writing.

Valerie Strauss writes in her blog for the [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Strauss) on standardized testing, the results of which “may be used to decide” on the future of students and in teachers’ evaluations. Strauss adds that one Ohio district is having its writing tests “graded by computer” adding that “there remain big questions about just how well computers can do the job.” Strauss cites a 2013 statement from the National Council of Teachers of English opposing computer grading of writing, and posts an essay by English teacher Julie Rine of Minerva High School in Ohio also opposing computer grading, because it appears not to be rewarding what students are taught to do, neither does it reward creativity.

Jackson, Mississippi Tries To Fill Teacher Shortage With Retired Teachers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/19, Thomas) reports in Jackson, Mississippi last summer the interim school superintendent issued a public “plea to retired teachers to come back.” In response, there are now 48 retired teachers teaching “science, math and English,” in the Jackson schools. Pay is regarded as a major reason Jackson has trouble staffing the schools. The school system is also “increasing starting pay and offering curriculum support and professional development opportunities.” It also “offered a signing bonus of \$2,500 for teachers who were hired this school year.” Some of the retired teachers work full-time for a salary instead of their retirement pay, while others work for a limited time in order to retain their retirement.

Teachers Used Facebook To Organize “Public Education Uprisings.”

The [AP](#) (4/19, Daniels) reports that “public education uprisings” in Arizona, Kentucky, Oklahoma and West Virginia “share similar origin stories.” Mostly, the teachers began “talking to each other online” about their grievances, chiefly pay. In West Virginia, “two teachers set up a private Facebook page last fall that grew to 24,000 members.” In Arizona, a similar Facebook page “now has more than 40,000 members.” Oklahoma teachers also set up a Facebook page that now has about 80,000 members.

OPERATIONS

Georgia District Fires Bus Drivers After Walkout.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (4/19) reports Georgia’s DeKalb County School District “fired several bus drivers Thursday, apparently reacting to a sickout where about 400 drivers called off to protest what they say is unfair treatment.” Drivers say they were given no reason for their termination. The drivers “called in sick amid worries their concerns about pay, retirement benefits and overall treatment were not being heard.”

[WXIA-TV](#) Atlanta (4/19) reports Superintendent R. Stephen Green “said more terminations could be on the way, after more than 350 of the system’s 908 drivers did not show up for work Thursday morning.” [WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (4/19) and [Neighbor Newspapers Atlanta](#) (4/19) also cover this story.

Hillary Clinton To Take Part In DC Education Fundraiser.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/19, Stein) reports Hillary Clinton is scheduled to “headline a fundraiser in the District next month” to benefit “Maya Angelou Schools, a group of alternative charter schools for disadvantaged teenagers, many

of whom have juvenile records.” The event “will raise money to expand job training, residential facilities and social service offerings at the schools.”

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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>

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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: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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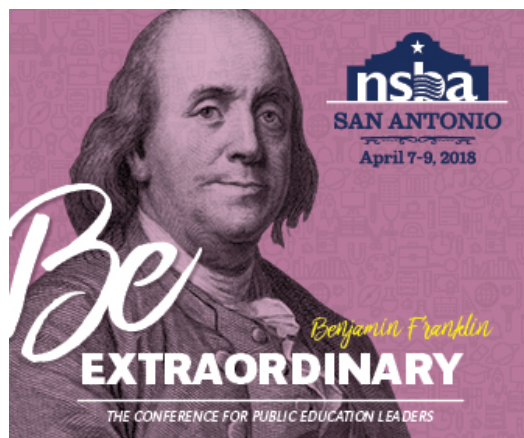


Good morning Cindy Romero

March 26, 2018

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

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 Airlina 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

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 Airlina 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 school and said he “fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant.” Wheeler added that he “believes it’s 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

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.

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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.”

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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

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

- [Spending Bill Omits Administration Education Proposals.](#)
- [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: "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: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)

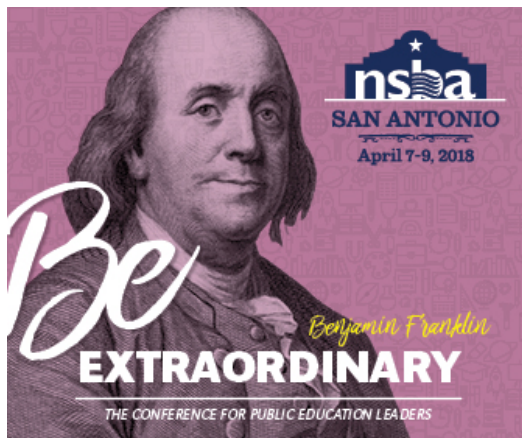


Good morning Ron Singleton

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

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 Airlina 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

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 Airlina 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 school and said he “fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant.” Wheeler added that he “believes it’s 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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Massachusetts Bill Seeks To Expand Civics, History Requirements.

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- [Kansas Senate Advances First Part Of School Funding Fix.](#)
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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: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)

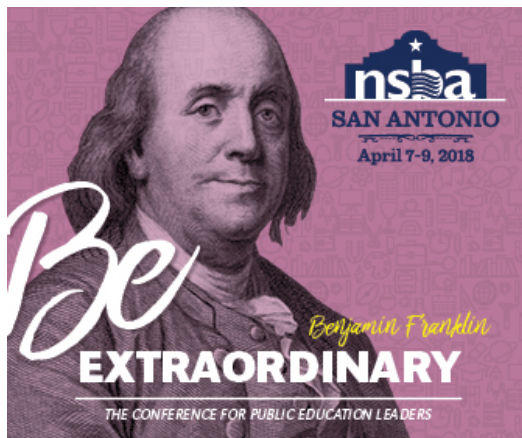


Good morning David Shoup

March 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

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 Airlina 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

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 Airlina 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 school and said he “fault[s] the school system for not making math interesting and relevant.” Wheeler added that he “believes it’s 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

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 them "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.

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.”

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.

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From: "Eric Spencer" <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 08:15:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Information RE: place for gathering and possible walkout
To: "ECHS STAFF" <ECHSSTAFF@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Good morning,

The auditorium has been reserved for today at 8:30 AM and at 11:40 AM for students to who wish to the have a moment of silence for the victims of the Florida school shooting. I will cover duty in the auditorium, faculty are also welcome.

There have been mixed messages among faculty and students alike regarding whether a walkout at 10:00 AM will occur. The school has not organized a 10:00 AM walkout. As such, faculty and staff should not be leading such an event. Should students decided to leave your room at 10:00 AM, please direct them to the lunchtime courtyard so they can be accounted for and supervised of the 17 minute activity. Additional NMSU-C supervision will be provided in that area. Please be reminded that you are not to leave your students unsupervised in your classrooms and no student(s) should be forced to participate in the possible event. Should you be in a classroom where all of your students leave, please report to the area where students are joining and assist with ensuring their safety. No student is permitted leave campus for the event.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Eric

From: "Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 10:28:48 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Information
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Hello all,

I am being contact by the Associated Press in addition to other news outlets and sources in regard to the walkout tomorrow that one of our students has called for.

The student in question has made flyers and handing them out for distribution.

Obviously, I did not sanction or give permission for the event, the student was notified of his rights and of the designated area in which students were to gather. Any violation of this would be dealt with according to the

Discipline hand book.

The student was notified that they were not to take the demonstration off campus and that once the 16 minutes was up and the bell rang, they were to disperse.

The Carlsbad Police Department was present at the meeting and they will have presence on campus. CPT Florez is CC'd on this email.

If you have any further questions or need clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Adam Garcia Amador
Principal
Carlsbad High School
3000 W. Church
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575.234.3319

From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 05:27:44 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Inspector General's Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup

February 22, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors.

As coverage of the nation's response to the Florida school shooting continues, several major outlets are covering a White House listening session held by President Trump for survivors of school shootings and loved ones of victims. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, lead story, 3:55, Glor) reported on the "outpouring of grief and anger at the White House" where "President Trump invited Americans touched by gun violence to a listening session." Trump "said he would listen and then do something, and he heard new ideas, including gun control measures he and Congress, mostly on the Republican side, have long resisted." The segment shows impassioned comments from Andrew Pollack, the father of a girl killed in last week's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and from Sam Zeif, the friend of another victim.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, lead story, 7:50, Muir) reported Trump mostly listened during the meeting, during which he spoke about the idea of having school personnel carry weapons. ABC reported Trump "vowed to improve the background check system, and then he said that he is, quote, looking very strongly at raising the age of purchase. As you know, right now, you just need to be 18 to buy an AR-15 assault weapon. He is considering raising that age to 21. That is something that may put him right up against the NRA, the NRA is already out with a statement opposing that." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:50, Guthrie) reported Parkland survivors and "other victims of gun violence did not waste their moment. One by one, they delivered powerful statements to the President while outside the White House, protesters gathered."

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports Pollack "made an impassioned plea to President Trump on Wednesday at the White House to act quickly to protect children in the country's schools." The Times quotes Trump saying at the beginning of the session, "We're going to do something about this horrible situation," adding that he said "his administration would be 'very strong on background checks' of those wishing to purchase guns, and put 'a very strong emphasis on the mental health of somebody.'" The Times reports the meeting "began with a recitation of somber statements and vows to act quickly" but "became emotional when Mr. Pollack took the microphone, venting raw anger and grief." The [AP](#) (2/20) reports those attending the meeting "appealed to President Donald Trump on Wednesday to set politics aside and protect America's school children from the scourge of gun violence. Trump listened intently to the raw emotion and pledged action, including the possibility of

arming teachers.” The AP reports that Trump “suggested he supported allowing some teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons to be ready for intruders. But largely he listened.” The AP notes that in addition to students and parents from Parkland, “also present were parents of students killed in massacres at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.”

Trump Focuses On Arming Educators, Sparking Debate. [McClatchy](#) (2/21, Kumar) reports that during the meeting, Trump “embraced arming educators to stop mass shootings,” saying this suggestion and “others calling for a ban on assault-type weapons and instituting airport-like security perimeters at schools, dominated” the session.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit) reports that Trump said “that arming teachers and posting gun-toting veterans in schools could deter or stop school shooters...during an emotional meeting that included Vice President Pence, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and school-shooting survivors and families who had lost children to gun violence.” Trump’s “most pointed and specific remarks came when he spoke about adding security to schools by arming teachers and posting gun-equipped veterans.” The Post reports the idea “got a warm reception among some parents, but was met with swift backlash from teachers’ groups nationwide.” The piece quotes National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia saying, “Bringing more guns into our schools does nothing to protect our students and educators from gun violence. Our students need more books, art and music programs, nurses and school counselors; they do not need more guns in their classrooms.”

Students Take Action To Demand Gun Control Measures. Kerry Sanders reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, story 2, 2:20, Guthrie) reported that 100 survivors of the Stoneman Douglas shooting were joined by “thousands of other students today marching on the Florida capitol, demanding lawmakers restrict the sale of assault weapons.” Dan Harris reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, story 2, 3:15, Muir) that the students’ “initial optimism curdled into frustration as they complained about what they viewed as a lack of straight answers from lawmakers.” Under the headline, “Florida Students Began With Optimism. Then They Spoke To Lawmakers,” the [New York Times](#) (2/21, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication) reports on the students’ efforts to lobby Florida lawmakers. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) says the students “got a real-life lesson in the perils of high expectations” as they “met with state legislators to discuss their promise of stricter gun laws and left disappointed that the progress that appeared likely would only be incremental.”

Adriana Diaz said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 2, 1:15, Glor) that the students “end[ed] the day by meeting with Republican Governor Rick Scott. Now, bipartisan legislation is in the works that would raise the minimum age for buying an assault weapon to 21 and provide more funding for mental health in schools. That could be introduced as early as tomorrow.” The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) also reports on the students’ efforts in Tallahassee, as does the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (2/21).

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit, Larimer) reports students “walked out of their schools Wednesday” in districts around the country “amid a mounting call for action.” The wave of walkouts “came in the wake of last week’s massacre in Parkland, Fla., in which 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day. Following the mass shooting, grieving students have garnered national attention as they organized and spoke out about stronger gun control laws.”

Texas District Superintendent Faces Backlash After Threatening To Punish Students For Walkouts. The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Rosenberg) reports Curtis Rhodes, superintendent of the school district in Needville, Texas, “is drawing harsh criticism after issuing a written threat Tuesday to suspend any students who take part in demonstrations about gun violence after the school shooting in Florida last week.” Rhodes’ warning “touched off an outcry,” while “constitutional scholars described Rhodes’s threats as a blatant violation of free-speech rights.” [USA Today](#) (2/21, Cummings) reports Rhodes “threatened that students who participate in ‘any type of protest or awareness’ will be suspended for three days.” Rhodes’ position “contrasts with other schools that have encouraged student action.”

Conspiracy Theory Claims Shooting Survivor Is A “Crisis Actor.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, story 3, 1:45, Guthrie) reported on a “disturbing conspiracy theory” about the Stoneman Douglas students who are speaking out, which is “gaining some traction online.” NBC (Kent) added that on social media, “right-wing conspiracy theories” hold that David Hogg, a 17-year-old shooting survivor is “a crisis actor, trained actor that takes advantage of tragedies for political gain.” The conspiracy “went viral on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube” and the President’s son Donald Trump Jr. “liked two tweets.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 3, 2:25, Bojorquez) reported, “YouTube said in a statement that it had removed one of the conspiracy videos from its ‘trending’ section. Facebook also said it will remove any content attacking the victims.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Herrman, Subscription Publication) reports that the video featuring Hogg was briefly the No. 1 trending video on YouTube Wednesday. The video, which was “originally posted last August, was a brief local news segment” in which “Hogg was interviewed by the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles after witnessing a dispute between a lifeguard and a swimmer at Redondo Beach.” A YouTube user “copied and re-uploaded the video with a new caption: ‘DAVID HOGG THE ACTOR....’”



POLITICS & POLICY

ED Gives 17 States More Time To Resubmit ESSA Plans.

[Education Week](#) (2/21) reports that ED has given 17 states more time “to address federal concerns with their applications for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.” The states are Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia, and Education Week reports this is “every state that hasn’t yet gotten a thumbs-up from the department on its plan.”

Indiana House Proposes Bill Requiring More Data Sharing On Foster Students.

[Chalkbeat](#) (2/21, Cavazos) reports that lawmakers and advocates in Indiana “are proposing a bill that that would require the education department and the Department of Child Services to share data on foster students” in the state. The Indiana Department of Education currently “has very little data on how the 30,000 children in foster care perform in school.” The proposed House bill has so far “seen broad bipartisan support.”

Mississippi Judge Rules Charter Schools Do Not Violate Constitution.

The [Jackson \(MS\) Free Press](#) (2/21, Dreher) reports that a Mississippi judge said the state’s charter school law “does not violate the state’s constitution,” rejecting an argument brought forth by parents in the Jackson Public School district that the law “violates the constitutionally mandated provision requiring public schools to use local funds to maintain and operate their facilities.” The Southern Poverty Law Center, arguing on behalf of the parents, also claimed “that charters are not ‘free schools’ under Mississippi law because they do not report to the statewide or a local superintendent,” but the judge “essentially affirmed supporters’ belief that charter schools are considered ‘free schools’ under state law because they do not charge tuition.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Virginia Lawmakers Consider Recess Bill.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Mattingly) reports the Virginia Senate has passed a bill authorizing “state school boards to include unstructured recess time for elementary schools aimed at developing teamwork, social skills and overall fitness.” Local school boards are currently required to allot a set amount of classroom time each year. This bill would allow school boards to count recess as instructional time.

More States Are Looking To Physical Education To Boost Academic Performance.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mongeau) reports that a growing number of politicians and educators have started to heed “research and decided that to improve academic performance, they must do something about their students’ physical fitness as well.” The Hechinger Report says that “at least 14 state legislatures considered new laws in 2016 that would increase the amount of physical education or recess schools were required to offer or raise the bar for qualifications for physical education teachers.” Florida and Rhode Island now require 20 minutes of recess time each day for elementary school students. Additionally, some school districts “that have added more physical activity to their daily schedules in the hope of improving academic performance have also seen measurable changes.”

Maryland Lawmakers Consider Bill Requiring Schools To Teach Sexual Consent.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Chandler) reports that a Maryland education subcommittee approved a bill that would require public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of sexual “consent” and respect for personal boundaries. If the law is passed, schools would be required to introduce the concept of consent at least once in middle school and once in high school. Local school boards could decide how new curriculum requirements would be implemented in age-appropriate ways, according to the article.

Commentary Explores Why School Systems Become Engulfed In Cheating Scandals.

Stephanie Jones, assistant professor of education, Grinnell College, writes in [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (2/21) that the cheating scandals, like the one involving Atlanta Public Schools, continue to happen because a “number of forces create environments where cheating seems a viable option to some.” Jones, a former APS teacher, says that no school wants to be labeled as “deficient or underperforming,” nor do parents want to send their children to schools with poor test scores. Teacher and administrative evaluations and financial compensation are tied to test scores, “even though the research states that incentive-based compensations have no impact on student achievement.” Jones also criticizes rapid turnover in school personnel, which causes teachers to be under constant threat of “restructuring.”

Oregon House Approves Bill Making Class Sizes Part Of Teacher Contracts.

The [Oregonian](#) (2/21) reports the Oregon House advanced a measure Tuesday requiring school boards and teachers unions to agree on their district’s class size when negotiating teacher contracts. The measure now heads to the Senate for debate.

Oklahoma Educators Consider Walkout To Demand Pay Raise.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Murphy) says Oklahoma educators “are mulling an organized walkout” after the State House on Monday passed a bill “to further cut public schools after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise.” Residents of Bartlesville, a town about 45 miles north of Tulsa, “packed a

school board meeting,” after which Bartlesville Superintendent Chuck McCauley “said initial reaction” for the walkout “has been ‘overwhelmingly positive.’” Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest “said talks about a work stoppage are ongoing among representatives from various groups representing rural districts, school boards, administrators, and teachers.”

OPERATIONS

Inspector General’s Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, Perez) reports that a district audit analyzed by Chicago Public Schools Inspector General’s office found “that thousands of students were improperly enrolled in hundreds of elementary schools last year because of loopholes, confusion over policies, or intentional disregard of rules.” The report also found that “some schools used ‘cherry-picking’ to favor certain students,” including some that “specifically weeded out kids with histories of poor attendance.” Chicago Public Schools “said it would continue to review enrollment data to identify potential concerns.”

[WTTW-TV](#) Chicago (2/21) says the issues typically “reflected students who were admitted to schools outside their neighborhood option without going through” the district’s Office of Access and Enrollment or “improperly leapfrogged other students on school waiting lists.” The report “made nearly a dozen recommendations to the Board of Education to resolve these issues” but “did not recommend any specific discipline against principals or schools.”

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/21, FitzPatrick) provides further details and examples from the analysis.

Omaha Metro School Districts Push Bond Measures For New Schools.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (2/21) reports several Omaha-area school districts plan to ask voters for permission this spring “to borrow more funds to fix up and build new schools.” For example, the Omaha Public Schools board will vote Wednesday “to place a \$409.9 million bond issue on the May 15 ballot.” According to the World-Herald, the “common denominator fueling the bond referendums is student growth.”

DC Names Interim Chancellor For Public Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Stein) reports on Amanda Alexander, who late Tuesday afternoon became interim chancellor of Washington, DC’s public school system. Alexander, who most recently served as the District’s chief of elementary schools, is a “veteran of its school systems and a leader whose career has focused on instructional and curriculum development.” She replaces Antwan Wilson, who was forced to resign this week after revelations that he “skirted the city’s competitive lottery system so his daughter could transfer to a high-performing school.” Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor for Education Jenifer Niles, “who helped Wilson circumvent the lottery rules, resigned last week.”

Baltimore County Schools Clarify Search Process For Superintendent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (2/21) reports a Baltimore County schools spokeswoman retracted a statement she said that the school board plans to begin a nationwide search for the district’s next superintendent. School Board Chairman Edward J. Giles has since clarified that the board has three options: conducting a national search, extending the interim superintendent for another year and delaying the search, and hiring the current superintendent, Verletta White. Giles said the school board has just started the process for selecting a search firm.

North Carolina Committee To Study If Large School Districts Can Secede Into Smaller Systems.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/21, Camera) reports a North Carolina legislative study committee met Wednesday to

“study whether large county school districts should be allowed to break apart into smaller school systems.” North Carolina has been “steadily consolidating its school districts since the 1960s from 167 then to 115 today, largely in an attempt to ensure it is distributing money and resources fairly and to better integrate schools.” The committee is “tasked with providing by May 1 a recommendation for whether to allow districts to disband, and if so, how.” Supporters contend the effort is “nothing more than a long-overdue return of local control.” Opponents argue “it could propel the resegregation of schools.”

Evaluation Rates Michigan District Superintendent “Minimally Effective.”

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/21, Solis) reports that a performance evaluation rated Superintendent Justin Jennings of Muskegon, Michigan “minimally effective.” The article says that “despite growing opposition, Jennings will not be fired.” Instead, he “will be given a ‘plan of assistance’ to increase his effectiveness as the leader of Muskegon public schools.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Nonprofit To Explore Why Makes Ed Tech Products Successful.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mathewson) reports on the Jefferson Education Exchange, a nonprofit that is “embarking on an ambitious project to” find out what contributes to the success and failure of educational technology initiatives. CEO Bart Epstein and his team have “identified more than a dozen variables that contribute to the success or failure of educational technology initiatives.” Among these are teacher agency; student access to technology outside of the classroom; the amount of ed tech products being implemented simultaneously at a school; the track record of previous ed tech initiatives; and more. Epstein believes the organization should have strong data to show which variables stand out as having the greatest impact within two years.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

College Board: Sharp Increases In Number Of High School Students Passing AP Exams.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Anderson) says rates of high school graduates passing at least one Advanced Placement exam during their years in school “have risen sharply across the country over the past decade,” according to new figures reported by the College Board. The report showed that more than 30 percent of students in Maryland, Connecticut, Florida, and California “earned a passing score of 3 or higher.” The Post says these figures “reflect how deeply AP testing has become embedded in American high schools.”

Achievement Gap Persists In Missouri APs.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Taketa) reports new data released by the College Board shows the number of Missouri students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams rose last year, and was “more than double the number of a decade before.” However, “in the midst of this expansion, Missouri is leaving behind black students,” who had lower passing and mean scores than white or Asian students.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Wyoming Senate Committee Approves Resolution To Amend School Finance Provisions In State Constitution.

The [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (2/21, Galloway) says the Wyoming Senate Revenue Committee voted 4-1 to pass a resolution that “would amend the constitution to specify that the Legislature has the right to determine how much money it gives to school finance based on state revenue.” The proposed amendment also would “remove the power of the courts to task the Legislature with raising taxes or finding another source of revenue to fund education.” If the legislature “ultimately approve[s] the amendment, it will go on a ballot during the election in November for the public’s approval.”

Vermont House Hears Testimony On Education Finance Reform Proposal.

[VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (2/21, Hewitt) reports on a Vermont House Ways and Means Committee public hearing on Wednesday in which “more than a dozen school board members, advocates, and citizens testified” on a proposed education finance model “that would slash homestead property taxes in half and would implement a new school income tax.” The witnesses “aired concerns” that the model “would hike state income taxes, disproportionately hit low-income people, and sow confusion if rushed.” The committee chair said the committee “will decide by the end of this week whether” it will move forward with the proposal this year.

Indianapolis District Scales Back Request For Funding.

The [AP](#) (2/21) says that, according to reports from the Indianapolis Star, Indiana’s largest school district is considering “slimming down its request for additional tax dollars from voters.” The new plan, which requests money to “help pay for teacher raises, school building improvements, and special education services,” was developed “after concerns about the tax impact of the proposal,” and “was approved Tuesday night by the Board of School Commissioners.”

Mississippi Senate Discusses New Education Funding Formula.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Amy) reports the Mississippi Senate Education Committee discussed a House-passed education funding formula bill on Wednesday which “won’t immediately increase proposed funding levels for schools, but might adjust funding upward sooner than the eight years the House proposes.” Senate Education Committee Chairman Gray Tollison “said his committee is likely to vote on changes next week” and that “Senate leaders are still discussing how to write what could be a once-in-a-generation change to Mississippi’s largest budget item.”

Arizona Judge Rejects Requests To Postpone Lawsuit Against State.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/21, Fischer) reports that an Arizona judge on Wednesday “rejected a bid by attorneys for both the state and legislative leaders to postpone any action” on a lawsuit “filed last year by various school districts and other groups” that the state is violating constitutional amendments to adequately fund school capital needs. Despite rejecting the delay, the judge “is still weighing arguments by defendants that there is no legal basis for the lawsuit and he should toss it out.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Texas Governor Directs TEA To Publish List Of Districts That Haven’t Passed Safety Audits.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/21, McGaughy) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) “says he wants to publish the names of Texas school districts that haven’t completed state-mandated safety checks.” The paper adds that Commissioner Mike Morath “issued a statement saying he’s directed Texas Education Agency staff to begin full implementation of Abbott’s directives. ... Any school that has not completed its

safety audit within 45 days should be listed online and in a news release from the TEA, Abbott said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Zelinski) reports Abbott “directed the Texas Education Agency on Wednesday to ensure that schools and districts throughout the state are up to date on the latest strategies to protect students from attacks like the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. And the governor is threatening to essentially publicly shame those that aren’t.” The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/21) also covers this story.

Security Officer Overhears Threat, Thwarts High School Attack In California.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Horton) reports that authorities say “an alert security officer at a Southern California high school helped thwart a potential shooting Friday.” El Camino High School security officer Marino Chavez told a news conference that he “overheard a 17-year-old student say he was going to launch an attack within three weeks.” He said he “stopped and questioned the student, who claimed it was a joke,” but Los Angeles County Sheriff’s investigators “detained the student and issued a search warrant of his home,” seizing “two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with about 90 rifle magazines each capable of holding 30 rounds, though they could not say how many were loaded at the time.” An AR-15 was used by the gunman in Parkland, Fla.

Threats Disrupt Classes At Two Florida Schools.

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (2/21) reports that threats at two Manatee County, Florida schools “disrupted classes Wednesday.” Manatee High School was in “shelter in place” status following a Snapchat post made outside campus that the Bradenton Police Department deemed to be threatening in nature. Earlier in the day, a lockdown at Southeast High School was lifted just after noon. The campus was put on lockdown after a “message was found written on a restroom wall Wednesday morning. The school was put on lockdown while deputies investigated.”

Armed Principal Who Detained Campus Gunman Opposes Arming Teachers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Saul, Subscription Publication) reports that Joel Myrick, the former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi, who “survived a school shooting – after loading his Colt .45 pistol, then chasing and detaining the suspect at gunpoint – says the idea is misguided.” Said Myrick, “Teachers have to teach, and that’s what they should be doing. ... 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.”

Social Media Threat Prompts School Lockdown In Minnesota.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Pheifer) reports that social media posts threatening a school shooting prompted students and staff in Orono public schools in Minnesota “to barricade doors with chairs, metal cabinets and desks Wednesday,” while “outside the four-school campus, snowplows and police cars blocked access to roads leading to the schools.” According to Police Chief Correy Farinok, police “were notified at 10:57 a.m. of threats on Twitter and Facebook that a shooting would happen at noon.” Farinok said that “a male student was arrested about 4:15 p.m. pending felony charges of terroristic threats,” and a second male student is a “person of interest,” but has not been arrested.

Colorado Democrats Defeat Columbine Survivor’s Bill To Allow Concealed Carry In Schools.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Richardson) reports that Colorado Democrats on Wednesday defeated a measure “to remove restrictions on concealed-carry in K-12 public schools.” The bill, which was introduced by House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a sophomore at Columbine High School during the 1999 massacre, was defeated “on a 6-3 party-line vote after six hours of testimony before the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.”

Plaintiffs Appeals Philadelphia School District Discrimination Case Decision.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (2/21, Murphy) reports that plaintiffs are appealing a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas decision to reject their case against the Philadelphia School District for violating the state's Human Relations Act. The case considers whether the Act "protects students from peer discrimination that results from District negligence." If the appeal is granted, it "may set a precedent that makes it easier for families seeking recompense for discriminatory abuse in school."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DC Schools Chancellor Forced Out Over Admittance Lottery Scandal.](#)
- [ESSA Gives States Opportunity To Promote School Climate Improvements.](#)
- [Idaho Junior High Team Competes In State FIRST Competition.](#)
- [Idaho Charter School Leaders Write In Support Of More Charter Schools.](#)
- [Louisiana Task Force Recommends \\$40 Million Increase For School Funding.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 05:27:44 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Inspector General's Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

February 22, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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POLITICS & POLICY

ED Gives 17 States More Time To Resubmit ESSA Plans.

[Education Week](#) (2/21) reports that ED has given 17 states more time “to address federal concerns with their applications for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.” The states are Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia, and Education Week reports this is “every state that hasn’t yet gotten a thumbs-up from the department on its plan.”

Indiana House Proposes Bill Requiring More Data Sharing On Foster Students.

[Chalkbeat](#) (2/21, Cavazos) reports that lawmakers and advocates in Indiana “are proposing a bill that that would require the education department and the Department of Child Services to share data on foster students” in the state. The Indiana Department of Education currently “has very little data on how the 30,000 children in foster care perform in school.” The proposed House bill has so far “seen broad bipartisan support.”

Mississippi Judge Rules Charter Schools Do Not Violate Constitution.

The [Jackson \(MS\) Free Press](#) (2/21, Dreher) reports that a Mississippi judge said the state’s charter school law “does not violate the state’s constitution,” rejecting an argument brought forth by parents in the Jackson Public School district that the law “violates the constitutionally mandated provision requiring public schools to use local funds to maintain and operate their facilities.” The Southern Poverty Law Center, arguing on behalf of the parents, also claimed “that charters are not ‘free schools’ under Mississippi law because they do not report to the statewide or a local superintendent,” but the judge “essentially affirmed supporters’ belief that charter schools are considered ‘free schools’ under state law because they do not charge tuition.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Virginia Lawmakers Consider Recess Bill.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Mattingly) reports the Virginia Senate has passed a bill authorizing “state school boards to include unstructured recess time for elementary schools aimed at developing teamwork, social skills and overall fitness.” Local school boards are currently required to allot a set amount of classroom time each year. This bill would allow school boards to count recess as instructional time.

More States Are Looking To Physical Education To Boost Academic Performance.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mongeau) reports that a growing number of politicians and educators have started to heed “research and decided that to improve academic performance, they must do something about their students’ physical fitness as well.” The Hechinger Report says that “at least 14 state legislatures considered new laws in 2016 that would increase the amount of physical education or recess schools were required to offer or raise the bar for qualifications for physical education teachers.” Florida and Rhode Island now require 20 minutes of recess time each day for elementary school students. Additionally, some school districts “that have added more physical activity to their daily schedules in the hope of improving academic performance have also seen measurable changes.”

Maryland Lawmakers Consider Bill Requiring Schools To Teach Sexual Consent.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Chandler) reports that a Maryland education subcommittee approved a bill that would require public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of sexual “consent” and respect for personal boundaries. If the law is passed, schools would be required to introduce the concept of consent at least once in middle school and once in high school. Local school boards could decide how new curriculum requirements would be implemented in age-appropriate ways, according to the article.

Commentary Explores Why School Systems Become Engulfed In Cheating Scandals.

Stephanie Jones, assistant professor of education, Grinnell College, writes in [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (2/21) that the cheating scandals, like the one involving Atlanta Public Schools, continue to happen because a “number of forces create environments where cheating seems a viable option to some.” Jones, a former APS teacher, says that no school wants to be labeled as “deficient or underperforming,” nor do parents want to send their children to schools with poor test scores. Teacher and administrative evaluations and financial compensation are tied to test scores, “even though the research states that incentive-based compensations have no impact on student achievement.” Jones also criticizes rapid turnover in school personnel, which causes teachers to be under constant threat of “restructuring.”

Oregon House Approves Bill Making Class Sizes Part Of Teacher Contracts.

The [Oregonian](#) (2/21) reports the Oregon House advanced a measure Tuesday requiring school boards and teachers unions to agree on their district’s class size when negotiating teacher contracts. The measure now heads to the Senate for debate.

Oklahoma Educators Consider Walkout To Demand Pay Raise.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Murphy) says Oklahoma educators “are mulling an organized walkout” after the State House on Monday passed a bill “to further cut public schools after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise.” Residents of Bartlesville, a town about 45 miles north of Tulsa, “packed a

school board meeting,” after which Bartlesville Superintendent Chuck McCauley “said initial reaction” for the walkout “has been ‘overwhelmingly positive.’” Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest “said talks about a work stoppage are ongoing among representatives from various groups representing rural districts, school boards, administrators, and teachers.”

OPERATIONS

Inspector General’s Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, Perez) reports that a district audit analyzed by Chicago Public Schools Inspector General’s office found “that thousands of students were improperly enrolled in hundreds of elementary schools last year because of loopholes, confusion over policies, or intentional disregard of rules.” The report also found that “some schools used ‘cherry-picking’ to favor certain students,” including some that “specifically weeded out kids with histories of poor attendance.” Chicago Public Schools “said it would continue to review enrollment data to identify potential concerns.”

[WTTW-TV](#) Chicago (2/21) says the issues typically “reflected students who were admitted to schools outside their neighborhood option without going through” the district’s Office of Access and Enrollment or “improperly leapfrogged other students on school waiting lists.” The report “made nearly a dozen recommendations to the Board of Education to resolve these issues” but “did not recommend any specific discipline against principals or schools.”

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/21, FitzPatrick) provides further details and examples from the analysis.

Omaha Metro School Districts Push Bond Measures For New Schools.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (2/21) reports several Ohama-area school districts plan to ask voters for permission this spring “to borrow more funds to fix up and build new schools.” For example, the Omaha Public Schools board will vote Wednesday “to place a \$409.9 million bond issue on the May 15 ballot.” According to the World-Herald, the “common denominator fueling the bond referendums is student growth.”

DC Names Interim Chancellor For Public Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Stein) reports on Amanda Alexander, who late Tuesday afternoon became interim chancellor of Washington, DC’s public school system. Alexander, who most recently served as the District’s chief of elementary schools, is a “veteran of its school systems and a leader whose career has focused on instructional and curriculum development.” She replaces Antwan Wilson, who was forced to resign this week after revelations that he “skirted the city’s competitive lottery system so his daughter could transfer to a high-performing school.” Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor for Education Jenifer Niles, “who helped Wilson circumvent the lottery rules, resigned last week.”

Baltimore County Schools Clarify Search Process For Superintendent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (2/21) reports a Baltimore County schools spokeswoman retracted a statement she said that the school board plans to begin a nationwide search for the district’s next superintendent. School Board Chairman Edward J. Giles has since clarified that the board has three options: conducting a national search, extending the interim superintendent for another year and delaying the search, and hiring the current superintendent, Verletta White. Giles said the school board has just started the process for selecting a search firm.

North Carolina Committee To Study If Large School Districts Can Secede Into Smaller Systems.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/21, Camera) reports a North Carolina legislative study committee met Wednesday to

“study whether large county school districts should be allowed to break apart into smaller school systems.” North Carolina has been “steadily consolidating its school districts since the 1960s from 167 then to 115 today, largely in an attempt to ensure it is distributing money and resources fairly and to better integrate schools.” The committee is “tasked with providing by May 1 a recommendation for whether to allow districts to disband, and if so, how.” Supporters contend the effort is “nothing more than a long-overdue return of local control.” Opponents argue “it could propel the resegregation of schools.”

Evaluation Rates Michigan District Superintendent “Minimally Effective.”

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/21, Solis) reports that a performance evaluation rated Superintendent Justin Jennings of Muskegon, Michigan “minimally effective.” The article says that “despite growing opposition, Jennings will not be fired.” Instead, he “will be given a ‘plan of assistance’ to increase his effectiveness as the leader of Muskegon public schools.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Nonprofit To Explore Why Makes Ed Tech Products Successful.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mathewson) reports on the Jefferson Education Exchange, a nonprofit that is “embarking on an ambitious project to” find out what contributes to the success and failure of educational technology initiatives. CEO Bart Epstein and his team have “identified more than a dozen variables that contribute to the success or failure of educational technology initiatives.” Among these are teacher agency; student access to technology outside of the classroom; the amount of ed tech products being implemented simultaneously at a school; the track record of previous ed tech initiatives; and more. Epstein believes the organization should have strong data to show which variables stand out as having the greatest impact within two years.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

College Board: Sharp Increases In Number Of High School Students Passing AP Exams.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Anderson) says rates of high school graduates passing at least one Advanced Placement exam during their years in school “have risen sharply across the country over the past decade,” according to new figures reported by the College Board. The report showed that more than 30 percent of students in Maryland, Connecticut, Florida, and California “earned a passing score of 3 or higher.” The Post says these figures “reflect how deeply AP testing has become embedded in American high schools.”

Achievement Gap Persists In Missouri APs.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Taketa) reports new data released by the College Board shows the number of Missouri students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams rose last year, and was “more than double the number of a decade before.” However, “in the midst of this expansion, Missouri is leaving behind black students,” who had lower passing and mean scores than white or Asian students.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Wyoming Senate Committee Approves Resolution To Amend School Finance Provisions In State Constitution.

The [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (2/21, Galloway) says the Wyoming Senate Revenue Committee voted 4-1 to pass a resolution that “would amend the constitution to specify that the Legislature has the right to determine how much money it gives to school finance based on state revenue.” The proposed amendment also would “remove the power of the courts to task the Legislature with raising taxes or finding another source of revenue to fund education.” If the legislature “ultimately approve[s] the amendment, it will go on a ballot during the election in November for the public’s approval.”

Vermont House Hears Testimony On Education Finance Reform Proposal.

[VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (2/21, Hewitt) reports on a Vermont House Ways and Means Committee public hearing on Wednesday in which “more than a dozen school board members, advocates, and citizens testified” on a proposed education finance model “that would slash homestead property taxes in half and would implement a new school income tax.” The witnesses “aired concerns” that the model “would hike state income taxes, disproportionately hit low-income people, and sow confusion if rushed.” The committee chair said the committee “will decide by the end of this week whether” it will move forward with the proposal this year.

Indianapolis District Scales Back Request For Funding.

The [AP](#) (2/21) says that, according to reports from the Indianapolis Star, Indiana’s largest school district is considering “slimming down its request for additional tax dollars from voters.” The new plan, which requests money to “help pay for teacher raises, school building improvements, and special education services,” was developed “after concerns about the tax impact of the proposal,” and “was approved Tuesday night by the Board of School Commissioners.”

Mississippi Senate Discusses New Education Funding Formula.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Amy) reports the Mississippi Senate Education Committee discussed a House-passed education funding formula bill on Wednesday which “won’t immediately increase proposed funding levels for schools, but might adjust funding upward sooner than the eight years the House proposes.” Senate Education Committee Chairman Gray Tollison “said his committee is likely to vote on changes next week” and that “Senate leaders are still discussing how to write what could be a once-in-a-generation change to Mississippi’s largest budget item.”

Arizona Judge Rejects Requests To Postpone Lawsuit Against State.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/21, Fischer) reports that an Arizona judge on Wednesday “rejected a bid by attorneys for both the state and legislative leaders to postpone any action” on a lawsuit “filed last year by various school districts and other groups” that the state is violating constitutional amendments to adequately fund school capital needs. Despite rejecting the delay, the judge “is still weighing arguments by defendants that there is no legal basis for the lawsuit and he should toss it out.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Texas Governor Directs TEA To Publish List Of Districts That Haven’t Passed Safety Audits.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/21, McGaughy) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) “says he wants to publish the names of Texas school districts that haven’t completed state-mandated safety checks.” The paper adds that Commissioner Mike Morath “issued a statement saying he’s directed Texas Education Agency staff to begin full implementation of Abbott’s directives. ... Any school that has not completed its

safety audit within 45 days should be listed online and in a news release from the TEA, Abbott said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Zelinski) reports Abbott “directed the Texas Education Agency on Wednesday to ensure that schools and districts throughout the state are up to date on the latest strategies to protect students from attacks like the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. And the governor is threatening to essentially publicly shame those that aren’t.” The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/21) also covers this story.

Security Officer Overhears Threat, Thwarts High School Attack In California.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Horton) reports that authorities say “an alert security officer at a Southern California high school helped thwart a potential shooting Friday.” El Camino High School security officer Marino Chavez told a news conference that he “overheard a 17-year-old student say he was going to launch an attack within three weeks.” He said he “stopped and questioned the student, who claimed it was a joke,” but Los Angeles County Sheriff’s investigators “detained the student and issued a search warrant of his home,” seizing “two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with about 90 rifle magazines each capable of holding 30 rounds, though they could not say how many were loaded at the time.” An AR-15 was used by the gunman in Parkland, Fla.

Threats Disrupt Classes At Two Florida Schools.

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (2/21) reports that threats at two Manatee County, Florida schools “disrupted classes Wednesday.” Manatee High School was in “shelter in place” status following a Snapchat post made outside campus that the Bradenton Police Department deemed to be threatening in nature. Earlier in the day, a lockdown at Southeast High School was lifted just after noon. The campus was put on lockdown after a “message was found written on a restroom wall Wednesday morning. The school was put on lockdown while deputies investigated.”

Armed Principal Who Detained Campus Gunman Opposes Arming Teachers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Saul, Subscription Publication) reports that Joel Myrick, the former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi, who “survived a school shooting – after loading his Colt .45 pistol, then chasing and detaining the suspect at gunpoint – says the idea is misguided.” Said Myrick, “Teachers have to teach, and that’s what they should be doing. ... 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.”

Social Media Threat Prompts School Lockdown In Minnesota.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Pheifer) reports that social media posts threatening a school shooting prompted students and staff in Orono public schools in Minnesota “to barricade doors with chairs, metal cabinets and desks Wednesday,” while “outside the four-school campus, snowplows and police cars blocked access to roads leading to the schools.” According to Police Chief Correy Farinok, police “were notified at 10:57 a.m. of threats on Twitter and Facebook that a shooting would happen at noon.” Farinok said that “a male student was arrested about 4:15 p.m. pending felony charges of terroristic threats,” and a second male student is a “person of interest,” but has not been arrested.

Colorado Democrats Defeat Columbine Survivor’s Bill To Allow Concealed Carry In Schools.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Richardson) reports that Colorado Democrats on Wednesday defeated a measure “to remove restrictions on concealed-carry in K-12 public schools.” The bill, which was introduced by House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a sophomore at Columbine High School during the 1999 massacre, was defeated “on a 6-3 party-line vote after six hours of testimony before the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.”

Plaintiffs Appeals Philadelphia School District Discrimination Case Decision.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (2/21, Murphy) reports that plaintiffs are appealing a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas decision to reject their case against the Philadelphia School District for violating the state's Human Relations Act. The case considers whether the Act "protects students from peer discrimination that results from District negligence." If the appeal is granted, it "may set a precedent that makes it easier for families seeking recompense for discriminatory abuse in school."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DC Schools Chancellor Forced Out Over Admittance Lottery Scandal.](#)
- [ESSA Gives States Opportunity To Promote School Climate Improvements.](#)
- [Idaho Junior High Team Competes In State FIRST Competition.](#)
- [Idaho Charter School Leaders Write In Support Of More Charter Schools.](#)
- [Louisiana Task Force Recommends \\$40 Million Increase For School Funding.](#)

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Subject: Inspector General's Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

February 22, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors.

As coverage of the nation's response to the Florida school shooting continues, several major outlets are covering a White House listening session held by President Trump for survivors of school shootings and loved ones of victims. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, lead story, 3:55, Glor) reported on the "outpouring of grief and anger at the White House" where "President Trump invited Americans touched by gun violence to a listening session." Trump "said he would listen and then do something, and he heard new ideas, including gun control measures he and Congress, mostly on the Republican side, have long resisted." The segment shows impassioned comments from Andrew Pollack, the father of a girl killed in last week's school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and from Sam Zeif, the friend of another victim.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, lead story, 7:50, Muir) reported Trump mostly listened during the meeting, during which he spoke about the idea of having school personnel carry weapons. ABC reported Trump "vowed to improve the background check system, and then he said that he is, quote, looking very strongly at raising the age of purchase. As you know, right now, you just need to be 18 to buy an AR-15 assault weapon. He is considering raising that age to 21. That is something that may put him right up against the NRA, the NRA is already out with a statement opposing that." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:50, Guthrie) reported Parkland survivors and "other victims of gun violence did not waste their moment. One by one, they delivered powerful statements to the President while outside the White House, protesters gathered."

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports Pollack "made an impassioned plea to President Trump on Wednesday at the White House to act quickly to protect children in the country's schools." The Times quotes Trump saying at the beginning of the session, "We're going to do something about this horrible situation," adding that he said "his administration would be 'very strong on background checks' of those wishing to purchase guns, and put 'a very strong emphasis on the mental health of somebody.'" The Times reports the meeting "began with a recitation of somber statements and vows to act quickly" but "became emotional when Mr. Pollack took the microphone, venting raw anger and grief." The [AP](#) (2/20) reports those attending the meeting "appealed to President Donald Trump on Wednesday to set politics aside and protect America's school children from the scourge of gun violence. Trump listened intently to the raw emotion and pledged action, including the possibility of

arming teachers.” The AP reports that Trump “suggested he supported allowing some teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons to be ready for intruders. But largely he listened.” The AP notes that in addition to students and parents from Parkland, “also present were parents of students killed in massacres at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.”

Trump Focuses On Arming Educators, Sparking Debate. [McClatchy](#) (2/21, Kumar) reports that during the meeting, Trump “embraced arming educators to stop mass shootings,” saying this suggestion and “others calling for a ban on assault-type weapons and instituting airport-like security perimeters at schools, dominated” the session.

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POLITICS & POLICY

ED Gives 17 States More Time To Resubmit ESSA Plans.

[Education Week](#) (2/21) reports that ED has given 17 states more time “to address federal concerns with their applications for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act.” The states are Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia, and Education Week reports this is “every state that hasn’t yet gotten a thumbs-up from the department on its plan.”

Indiana House Proposes Bill Requiring More Data Sharing On Foster Students.

[Chalkbeat](#) (2/21, Cavazos) reports that lawmakers and advocates in Indiana “are proposing a bill that that would require the education department and the Department of Child Services to share data on foster students” in the state. The Indiana Department of Education currently “has very little data on how the 30,000 children in foster care perform in school.” The proposed House bill has so far “seen broad bipartisan support.”

Mississippi Judge Rules Charter Schools Do Not Violate Constitution.

The [Jackson \(MS\) Free Press](#) (2/21, Dreher) reports that a Mississippi judge said the state’s charter school law “does not violate the state’s constitution,” rejecting an argument brought forth by parents in the Jackson Public School district that the law “violates the constitutionally mandated provision requiring public schools to use local funds to maintain and operate their facilities.” The Southern Poverty Law Center, arguing on behalf of the parents, also claimed “that charters are not ‘free schools’ under Mississippi law because they do not report to the statewide or a local superintendent,” but the judge “essentially affirmed supporters’ belief that charter schools are considered ‘free schools’ under state law because they do not charge tuition.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Virginia Lawmakers Consider Recess Bill.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Mattingly) reports the Virginia Senate has passed a bill authorizing “state school boards to include unstructured recess time for elementary schools aimed at developing teamwork, social skills and overall fitness.” Local school boards are currently required to allot a set amount of classroom time each year. This bill would allow school boards to count recess as instructional time.

More States Are Looking To Physical Education To Boost Academic Performance.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mongeau) reports that a growing number of politicians and educators have started to heed “research and decided that to improve academic performance, they must do something about their students’ physical fitness as well.” The Hechinger Report says that “at least 14 state legislatures considered new laws in 2016 that would increase the amount of physical education or recess schools were required to offer or raise the bar for qualifications for physical education teachers.” Florida and Rhode Island now require 20 minutes of recess time each day for elementary school students. Additionally, some school districts “that have added more physical activity to their daily schedules in the hope of improving academic performance have also seen measurable changes.”

Maryland Lawmakers Consider Bill Requiring Schools To Teach Sexual Consent.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Chandler) reports that a Maryland education subcommittee approved a bill that would require public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of sexual “consent” and respect for personal boundaries. If the law is passed, schools would be required to introduce the concept of consent at least once in middle school and once in high school. Local school boards could decide how new curriculum requirements would be implemented in age-appropriate ways, according to the article.

Commentary Explores Why School Systems Become Engulfed In Cheating Scandals.

Stephanie Jones, assistant professor of education, Grinnell College, writes in [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (2/21) that the cheating scandals, like the one involving Atlanta Public Schools, continue to happen because a “number of forces create environments where cheating seems a viable option to some.” Jones, a former APS teacher, says that no school wants to be labeled as “deficient or underperforming,” nor do parents want to send their children to schools with poor test scores. Teacher and administrative evaluations and financial compensation are tied to test scores, “even though the research states that incentive-based compensations have no impact on student achievement.” Jones also criticizes rapid turnover in school personnel, which causes teachers to be under constant threat of “restructuring.”

Oregon House Approves Bill Making Class Sizes Part Of Teacher Contracts.

The [Oregonian](#) (2/21) reports the Oregon House advanced a measure Tuesday requiring school boards and teachers unions to agree on their district’s class size when negotiating teacher contracts. The measure now heads to the Senate for debate.

Oklahoma Educators Consider Walkout To Demand Pay Raise.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Murphy) says Oklahoma educators “are mulling an organized walkout” after the State House on Monday passed a bill “to further cut public schools after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise.” Residents of Bartlesville, a town about 45 miles north of Tulsa, “packed a

school board meeting,” after which Bartlesville Superintendent Chuck McCauley “said initial reaction” for the walkout “has been ‘overwhelmingly positive.’” Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest “said talks about a work stoppage are ongoing among representatives from various groups representing rural districts, school boards, administrators, and teachers.”

OPERATIONS

Inspector General’s Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, Perez) reports that a district audit analyzed by Chicago Public Schools Inspector General’s office found “that thousands of students were improperly enrolled in hundreds of elementary schools last year because of loopholes, confusion over policies, or intentional disregard of rules.” The report also found that “some schools used ‘cherry-picking’ to favor certain students,” including some that “specifically weeded out kids with histories of poor attendance.” Chicago Public Schools “said it would continue to review enrollment data to identify potential concerns.”

[WTTW-TV](#) Chicago (2/21) says the issues typically “reflected students who were admitted to schools outside their neighborhood option without going through” the district’s Office of Access and Enrollment or “improperly leapfrogged other students on school waiting lists.” The report “made nearly a dozen recommendations to the Board of Education to resolve these issues” but “did not recommend any specific discipline against principals or schools.”

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/21, FitzPatrick) provides further details and examples from the analysis.

Omaha Metro School Districts Push Bond Measures For New Schools.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (2/21) reports several Omaha-area school districts plan to ask voters for permission this spring “to borrow more funds to fix up and build new schools.” For example, the Omaha Public Schools board will vote Wednesday “to place a \$409.9 million bond issue on the May 15 ballot.” According to the World-Herald, the “common denominator fueling the bond referendums is student growth.”

DC Names Interim Chancellor For Public Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Stein) reports on Amanda Alexander, who late Tuesday afternoon became interim chancellor of Washington, DC’s public school system. Alexander, who most recently served as the District’s chief of elementary schools, is a “veteran of its school systems and a leader whose career has focused on instructional and curriculum development.” She replaces Antwan Wilson, who was forced to resign this week after revelations that he “skirted the city’s competitive lottery system so his daughter could transfer to a high-performing school.” Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor for Education Jenifer Niles, “who helped Wilson circumvent the lottery rules, resigned last week.”

Baltimore County Schools Clarify Search Process For Superintendent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (2/21) reports a Baltimore County schools spokeswoman retracted a statement she said that the school board plans to begin a nationwide search for the district’s next superintendent. School Board Chairman Edward J. Giles has since clarified that the board has three options: conducting a national search, extending the interim superintendent for another year and delaying the search, and hiring the current superintendent, Verletta White. Giles said the school board has just started the process for selecting a search firm.

North Carolina Committee To Study If Large School Districts Can Secede Into Smaller Systems.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (2/21, Camera) reports a North Carolina legislative study committee met Wednesday to

“study whether large county school districts should be allowed to break apart into smaller school systems.” North Carolina has been “steadily consolidating its school districts since the 1960s from 167 then to 115 today, largely in an attempt to ensure it is distributing money and resources fairly and to better integrate schools.” The committee is “tasked with providing by May 1 a recommendation for whether to allow districts to disband, and if so, how.” Supporters contend the effort is “nothing more than a long-overdue return of local control.” Opponents argue “it could propel the resegregation of schools.”

Evaluation Rates Michigan District Superintendent “Minimally Effective.”

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/21, Solis) reports that a performance evaluation rated Superintendent Justin Jennings of Muskegon, Michigan “minimally effective.” The article says that “despite growing opposition, Jennings will not be fired.” Instead, he “will be given a ‘plan of assistance’ to increase his effectiveness as the leader of Muskegon public schools.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Nonprofit To Explore Why Makes Ed Tech Products Successful.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mathewson) reports on the Jefferson Education Exchange, a nonprofit that is “embarking on an ambitious project to” find out what contributes to the success and failure of educational technology initiatives. CEO Bart Epstein and his team have “identified more than a dozen variables that contribute to the success or failure of educational technology initiatives.” Among these are teacher agency; student access to technology outside of the classroom; the amount of ed tech products being implemented simultaneously at a school; the track record of previous ed tech initiatives; and more. Epstein believes the organization should have strong data to show which variables stand out as having the greatest impact within two years.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

College Board: Sharp Increases In Number Of High School Students Passing AP Exams.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Anderson) says rates of high school graduates passing at least one Advanced Placement exam during their years in school “have risen sharply across the country over the past decade,” according to new figures reported by the College Board. The report showed that more than 30 percent of students in Maryland, Connecticut, Florida, and California “earned a passing score of 3 or higher.” The Post says these figures “reflect how deeply AP testing has become embedded in American high schools.”

Achievement Gap Persists In Missouri APs.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Taketa) reports new data released by the College Board shows the number of Missouri students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams rose last year, and was “more than double the number of a decade before.” However, “in the midst of this expansion, Missouri is leaving behind black students,” who had lower passing and mean scores than white or Asian students.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Wyoming Senate Committee Approves Resolution To Amend School Finance Provisions In State Constitution.

The [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (2/21, Galloway) says the Wyoming Senate Revenue Committee voted 4-1 to pass a resolution that “would amend the constitution to specify that the Legislature has the right to determine how much money it gives to school finance based on state revenue.” The proposed amendment also would “remove the power of the courts to task the Legislature with raising taxes or finding another source of revenue to fund education.” If the legislature “ultimately approve[s] the amendment, it will go on a ballot during the election in November for the public’s approval.”

Vermont House Hears Testimony On Education Finance Reform Proposal.

[VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (2/21, Hewitt) reports on a Vermont House Ways and Means Committee public hearing on Wednesday in which “more than a dozen school board members, advocates, and citizens testified” on a proposed education finance model “that would slash homestead property taxes in half and would implement a new school income tax.” The witnesses “aired concerns” that the model “would hike state income taxes, disproportionately hit low-income people, and sow confusion if rushed.” The committee chair said the committee “will decide by the end of this week whether” it will move forward with the proposal this year.

Indianapolis District Scales Back Request For Funding.

The [AP](#) (2/21) says that, according to reports from the Indianapolis Star, Indiana’s largest school district is considering “slimming down its request for additional tax dollars from voters.” The new plan, which requests money to “help pay for teacher raises, school building improvements, and special education services,” was developed “after concerns about the tax impact of the proposal,” and “was approved Tuesday night by the Board of School Commissioners.”

Mississippi Senate Discusses New Education Funding Formula.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Amy) reports the Mississippi Senate Education Committee discussed a House-passed education funding formula bill on Wednesday which “won’t immediately increase proposed funding levels for schools, but might adjust funding upward sooner than the eight years the House proposes.” Senate Education Committee Chairman Gray Tollison “said his committee is likely to vote on changes next week” and that “Senate leaders are still discussing how to write what could be a once-in-a-generation change to Mississippi’s largest budget item.”

Arizona Judge Rejects Requests To Postpone Lawsuit Against State.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/21, Fischer) reports that an Arizona judge on Wednesday “rejected a bid by attorneys for both the state and legislative leaders to postpone any action” on a lawsuit “filed last year by various school districts and other groups” that the state is violating constitutional amendments to adequately fund school capital needs. Despite rejecting the delay, the judge “is still weighing arguments by defendants that there is no legal basis for the lawsuit and he should toss it out.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Texas Governor Directs TEA To Publish List Of Districts That Haven’t Passed Safety Audits.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/21, McGaughy) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) “says he wants to publish the names of Texas school districts that haven’t completed state-mandated safety checks.” The paper adds that Commissioner Mike Morath “issued a statement saying he’s directed Texas Education Agency staff to begin full implementation of Abbott’s directives. ... Any school that has not completed its

safety audit within 45 days should be listed online and in a news release from the TEA, Abbott said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Zelinski) reports Abbott “directed the Texas Education Agency on Wednesday to ensure that schools and districts throughout the state are up to date on the latest strategies to protect students from attacks like the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. And the governor is threatening to essentially publicly shame those that aren’t.” The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/21) also covers this story.

Security Officer Overhears Threat, Thwarts High School Attack In California.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Horton) reports that authorities say “an alert security officer at a Southern California high school helped thwart a potential shooting Friday.” El Camino High School security officer Marino Chavez told a news conference that he “overheard a 17-year-old student say he was going to launch an attack within three weeks.” He said he “stopped and questioned the student, who claimed it was a joke,” but Los Angeles County Sheriff’s investigators “detained the student and issued a search warrant of his home,” seizing “two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with about 90 rifle magazines each capable of holding 30 rounds, though they could not say how many were loaded at the time.” An AR-15 was used by the gunman in Parkland, Fla.

Threats Disrupt Classes At Two Florida Schools.

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (2/21) reports that threats at two Manatee County, Florida schools “disrupted classes Wednesday.” Manatee High School was in “shelter in place” status following a Snapchat post made outside campus that the Bradenton Police Department deemed to be threatening in nature. Earlier in the day, a lockdown at Southeast High School was lifted just after noon. The campus was put on lockdown after a “message was found written on a restroom wall Wednesday morning. The school was put on lockdown while deputies investigated.”

Armed Principal Who Detained Campus Gunman Opposes Arming Teachers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Saul, Subscription Publication) reports that Joel Myrick, the former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi, who “survived a school shooting – after loading his Colt .45 pistol, then chasing and detaining the suspect at gunpoint – says the idea is misguided.” Said Myrick, “Teachers have to teach, and that’s what they should be doing. ... 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.”

Social Media Threat Prompts School Lockdown In Minnesota.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Pheifer) reports that social media posts threatening a school shooting prompted students and staff in Orono public schools in Minnesota “to barricade doors with chairs, metal cabinets and desks Wednesday,” while “outside the four-school campus, snowplows and police cars blocked access to roads leading to the schools.” According to Police Chief Correy Farinok, police “were notified at 10:57 a.m. of threats on Twitter and Facebook that a shooting would happen at noon.” Farinok said that “a male student was arrested about 4:15 p.m. pending felony charges of terroristic threats,” and a second male student is a “person of interest,” but has not been arrested.

Colorado Democrats Defeat Columbine Survivor’s Bill To Allow Concealed Carry In Schools.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Richardson) reports that Colorado Democrats on Wednesday defeated a measure “to remove restrictions on concealed-carry in K-12 public schools.” The bill, which was introduced by House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a sophomore at Columbine High School during the 1999 massacre, was defeated “on a 6-3 party-line vote after six hours of testimony before the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.”

Plaintiffs Appeals Philadelphia School District Discrimination Case Decision.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (2/21, Murphy) reports that plaintiffs are appealing a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas decision to reject their case against the Philadelphia School District for violating the state's Human Relations Act. The case considers whether the Act "protects students from peer discrimination that results from District negligence." If the appeal is granted, it "may set a precedent that makes it easier for families seeking recompense for discriminatory abuse in school."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DC Schools Chancellor Forced Out Over Admittance Lottery Scandal.](#)
- [ESSA Gives States Opportunity To Promote School Climate Improvements.](#)
- [Idaho Junior High Team Competes In State FIRST Competition.](#)
- [Idaho Charter School Leaders Write In Support Of More Charter Schools.](#)
- [Louisiana Task Force Recommends \\$40 Million Increase For School Funding.](#)

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Instruct

Edtech insights for decision makers

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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.**

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.**

Sponsored by eSpark Learning

HELP FOR HATERS: What does a school leader 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.

SIX ENCOUNTERS WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT: From classrooms to boardrooms, startups to conferences, the education industry is no stranger to sexual harassment. EdSurge columnist Mary Jo Madda interviewed **six women who share what those encounters look like** and asks: When these issues are routinely ignored, what does our silence communicate to children?

IN-SCHOOL DEBATES

TWEENAGE DREAMS: As a middle schooler, Angie Kalthoff loved two things: Hanson and building websites. Now a middle school tech integrationist, she's devoted to helping today's tweens nurture their interests. Here's how a student-driven conference she helped organize is helping students **make broader connections between their passions and their future.**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Personalized learning isn't new; good educators have been doing it for years. After starting a passion-based science research program 20 years ago, one educator checks back in with her old students and discovers they were learning much more than science—**namely life skills that have carried into their careers.**

Follow your EdSurgents [@tonywan](#), [@JennyAbamu](#), [@jryoung](#), [@sydneyfjohnson](#), [@journoinred](#) and [@stephenoonoo](#) for the latest news and scoops as they hit the wire.

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ALL SCHOOL

REAL APPS FOR VIRTUAL REALITY: Following a dramatic price drop, Merge Cubes are some of the hottest low-cost VR tools around. Compatible with nearly all tablets and smartphones, the stress ball-like cubes layer virtual images on top of the screen and can help teach astronomy, anatomy, creative making and even storytelling. **Check out these 10 essential apps for classrooms**, including many freebies.

WHAT EDUCATION INVESTORS GET WRONG: An Ivy League-

educated technologist decides to champion education as his next cause. No, we're not talking about Bill G or Zuck. Rather, meet Ted Dintersmith, the producer behind the film "Most Likely to Succeed" who recently visited schools across all 50 states. On this week's EdSurge podcast, he shares what he's learned—along with **contrarian views about coding, college and education investing**.

WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU: Creating pathways for students to be successful after high schools is not a linear journey. The road gets bumpier when resources are limited and success has not been part of the narrative. Away from all the fanfare at SXSW EDU, students in Austin are struggling with poverty and gentrification. **But they have dreams of being successful in a system they say was not designed for them.**

MAKING THE GRADE: The jury's still out as to whether any education technology materials really "work"—and whether educators actually **care**. Still, EdReports wants to help school leaders make more informed choices around the curriculum they use. Last week, it awarded **high grades to two programs from Carnegie Learning and Open Up Resources**.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT: One Oregon district realized its online communication strategy wasn't reaching a big part of its community: Latino parents. The reason? Many families only checked email occasionally, and some didn't have email at all. In response, **the district began hosting regular tech nights** that have galvanized the community and strengthened parent-teacher ties.

ADVICE FOR AN IT CRISIS: Educators curious about how IT leaders manage crises gathered at CoSN in Washington, D.C. to discuss technical challenges and ways to promote internet access, stability and security. From massive **data breaches to natural disasters, school leaders acknowledged they have their work cut out for them.**

BUZZ ABOUT TOWN

Are robotics moms **the new soccer moms?** (Naples Daily News)

Inside the data breach at Florida Learning School, which **exposed**

information for more than 30,000 students for up to two years.
(Education Week)

The Learning Accelerator and Yet Analytics have launched the **Learning Commons**, a free site where educators can search for resources to find professional support for implementing blended and personalized learning.

S'COOL TOOLS

Parent-teacher communication apps have become an essential part of the modern classroom as both parties take advantage of the ever-present smartphone to keep tabs. This week, Jude Miqueli, an elementary teacher at West Seattle Montessori School in Washington shares her experience with **Bloomz**, a two-way communication app that includes behavior management and assessment updates.

The Claim: Like most communication apps, Bloomz is focused on keeping parents in the loop. Teachers share what's happening in their classroom and parents get notified by text or mobile alerts. Additional features like a digital portfolio for student work round out its functionality.

The Consensus: "Sometimes parents aren't sure what to talk about with their children when it comes to school," Miqueli says. So she uses the app to schedule parent-teacher conferences and to post flyers for upcoming events, curriculum updates, or photos of student artwork. "These are all great conversation starters," she says. "When parents are inquisitive it motivates children to take their education seriously because they know it is important to their family."

The Cons: Miqueli has been using the app's digital portfolio tools to make parents aware of specific learning targets, but she'd love to see them better organized by subject area. "Math could be one subcategory," she suggests. "I would upload all math work samples in the math portfolio so that users can scroll down and see just the math progress."

The Cost: Free

Have a favorite tech tool you'd like to share? **Fill out our short Google form** and let the world know.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Personalized learning doesn't start or end with technology. It needs to fit into a holistic picture of the whole learner. That is why this October at the **EdSurge Fusion Conference** we will focus on the Whole Learner—bringing together speakers and practitioners focused on school models, learning sciences and social emotional learning as they relate to personalized learning. **Apply today!**

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Edtech insights for decision makers

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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.**

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.**

Sponsored by eSpark Learning

HELP FOR HATERS: What does a school leader 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.

SIX ENCOUNTERS WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT: From classrooms to boardrooms, startups to conferences, the education industry is no stranger to sexual harassment. EdSurge columnist Mary Jo Madda interviewed **six women who share what those encounters look like** and asks: When these issues are routinely ignored, what does our silence communicate to children?

IN-SCHOOL DEBATES

TWEENAGE DREAMS: As a middle schooler, Angie Kalthoff loved two things: Hanson and building websites. Now a middle school tech integrationist, she's devoted to helping today's tweens nurture their interests. Here's how a student-driven conference she helped organize is helping students **make broader connections between their passions and their future.**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Personalized learning isn't new; good educators have been doing it for years. After starting a passion-based science research program 20 years ago, one educator checks back in with her old students and discovers they were learning much more than science—**namely life skills that have carried into their careers.**

Follow your EdSurgents [@tonywan](#), [@JennyAbamu](#), [@jryoung](#), [@sydneyfjohnson](#), [@journoinred](#) and [@stephenoonoo](#) for the latest news and scoops as they hit the wire.

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Use the code EDSURGENL after sign-up to get 3 months of Peergrade Pro for free!

ALL SCHOOL

REAL APPS FOR VIRTUAL REALITY: Following a dramatic price drop, Merge Cubes are some of the hottest low-cost VR tools around. Compatible with nearly all tablets and smartphones, the stress ball-like cubes layer virtual images on top of the screen and can help teach astronomy, anatomy, creative making and even storytelling. **Check out these 10 essential apps for classrooms**, including many freebies.

WHAT EDUCATION INVESTORS GET WRONG: An Ivy League-

educated technologist decides to champion education as his next cause. No, we're not talking about Bill G or Zuck. Rather, meet Ted Dintersmith, the producer behind the film "Most Likely to Succeed" who recently visited schools across all 50 states. On this week's EdSurge podcast, he shares what he's learned—along with **contrarian views about coding, college and education investing**.

WHEN THE ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU: Creating pathways for students to be successful after high schools is not a linear journey. The road gets bumpier when resources are limited and success has not been part of the narrative. Away from all the fanfare at SXSW EDU, students in Austin are struggling with poverty and gentrification. **But they have dreams of being successful in a system they say was not designed for them.**

MAKING THE GRADE: The jury's still out as to whether any education technology materials really "work"—and whether educators actually **care**. Still, EdReports wants to help school leaders make more informed choices around the curriculum they use. Last week, it awarded **high grades to two programs from Carnegie Learning and Open Up Resources**.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT: One Oregon district realized its online communication strategy wasn't reaching a big part of its community: Latino parents. The reason? Many families only checked email occasionally, and some didn't have email at all. In response, **the district began hosting regular tech nights** that have galvanized the community and strengthened parent-teacher ties.

ADVICE FOR AN IT CRISIS: Educators curious about how IT leaders manage crises gathered at CoSN in Washington, D.C. to discuss technical challenges and ways to promote internet access, stability and security. From massive **data breaches to natural disasters, school leaders acknowledged they have their work cut out for them.**

BUZZ ABOUT TOWN

Are robotics moms **the new soccer moms?** (Naples Daily News)

Inside the data breach at Florida Learning School, which **exposed**

information for more than 30,000 students for up to two years.
(Education Week)

The Learning Accelerator and Yet Analytics have launched the **Learning Commons**, a free site where educators can search for resources to find professional support for implementing blended and personalized learning.

S'COOL TOOLS

Parent-teacher communication apps have become an essential part of the modern classroom as both parties take advantage of the ever-present smartphone to keep tabs. This week, Jude Miqueli, an elementary teacher at West Seattle Montessori School in Washington shares her experience with **Bloomz**, a two-way communication app that includes behavior management and assessment updates.

The Claim: Like most communication apps, Bloomz is focused on keeping parents in the loop. Teachers share what's happening in their classroom and parents get notified by text or mobile alerts. Additional features like a digital portfolio for student work round out its functionality.

The Consensus: "Sometimes parents aren't sure what to talk about with their children when it comes to school," Miqueli says. So she uses the app to schedule parent-teacher conferences and to post flyers for upcoming events, curriculum updates, or photos of student artwork. "These are all great conversation starters," she says. "When parents are inquisitive it motivates children to take their education seriously because they know it is important to their family."

The Cons: Miqueli has been using the app's digital portfolio tools to make parents aware of specific learning targets, but she'd love to see them better organized by subject area. "Math could be one subcategory," she suggests. "I would upload all math work samples in the math portfolio so that users can scroll down and see just the math progress."

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Amplify is looking for passionate Professional Development specialists to instruct and coach teachers on how to use Amplify Science products in their classrooms.

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SLACS is committed to building talented and committed cadres of teachers charged with the skills to develop leaders by empowering scholars to change the factors that define their reality.

Teaching • School • Philadelphia, PA

Instructional Design and Content Manager, Corwin SAGE Publications

The Corwin Instructional Designer & Content Manager is responsible for producing and developing exceptional quality online courses that help educators strengthen classroom practice and grow as professionals.

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, March 12, 2018

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

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.’”

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.

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.

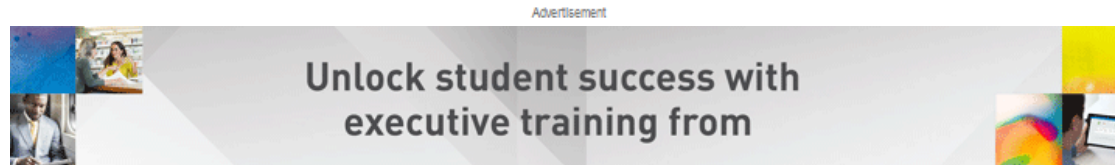
DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.

[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.”



DIGITAL LEARNING

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.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

New Education Department Guidance Tells State Regulators To “Back Off” Student Loan Servicers.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Douglas-Gabriel) says the Education Department “issued guidance Friday informing state regulators to back off the companies managing its \$1.3 trillion portfolio of student loans, arguing that only the federal government has the authority to oversee its contractors.” The Post says that “the notice arrives as states have stepped in to fill what many see as a void in the federal oversight of student loan servicers” and “has created consternation within the industry, which has lobbied Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Congress to prevent states from imposing additional rules and regulations.”

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.”

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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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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.’”

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.

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.

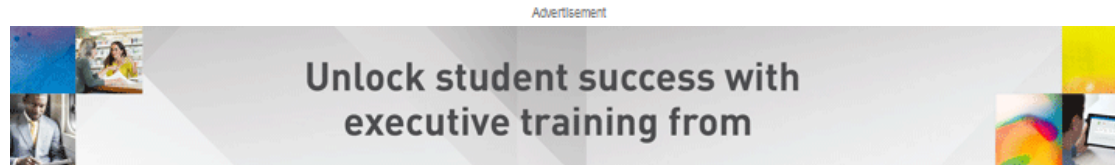
DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.

[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.”



DIGITAL LEARNING

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.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

New Education Department Guidance Tells State Regulators To “Back Off” Student Loan Servicers.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Douglas-Gabriel) says the Education Department “issued guidance Friday informing state regulators to back off the companies managing its \$1.3 trillion portfolio of student loans, arguing that only the federal government has the authority to oversee its contractors.” The Post says that “the notice arrives as states have stepped in to fill what many see as a void in the federal oversight of student loan servicers” and “has created consternation within the industry, which has lobbied Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Congress to prevent states from imposing additional rules and regulations.”

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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From: "Tiffany McCree" <tmccree@aclu-nm.org>
Sent Date: Fri, 9 Mar 2018 13:32:04 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Ltr from ACLU-NM re 3/14/18 Nationwide Walkout

"adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org" <adrianne.salas@aps4kids.org>, "cdcaton@bulldogs.org" <cdcaton@bulldogs.org>, "adcarpki@aztec.k12.nm.us" <adcarpki@aztec.k12.nm.us>, "reedy@aps.edu" <reedy@aps.edu>, "lrcushman@animask12.net" <lrcushman@animask12.net>, "perez@beleneagles.org" <perez@beleneagles.org>, "kcowan@bps.k12.nm.us" <kcowan@bps.k12.nm.us>, "kmizell@bsin.k12.nm.us" <kmizell@bsin.k12.nm.us>, "sean.wootton@capitantigers.org" <sean.wootton@capitantigers.org>, "gregory.rodriquez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us" <gregory.rodriquez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>, "ricky.espinoza@carrizogrizzlies.org" <ricky.espinoza@carrizogrizzlies.org>, "bowmc@centralschools.org" <bowmc@centralschools.org>, "acasados@chamaschools.org" <acasados@chamaschools.org>, "aestrada@cimarronschools.org" <aestrada@cimarronschools.org>, "stacy.diller@claytonschools.us" <stacy.diller@claytonschools.us>, "sergio.castanon@cmsbears.org" <sergio.castanon@cmsbears.org>, "jody.balch@clovis-schools.org" <jody.balch@clovis-schools.org>, "rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us" <rmendoza@cobre.k12.nm.us>, "travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org" <travis.lightfoot@cpscardinals.org>, "adelgado@cuba.k12.nm.us" <adelgado@cuba.k12.nm.us>, "arsenio.romero@demingps.org" <arsenio.romero@demingps.org>, "ksumterdms@bacavalley.com" <ksumterdms@bacavalley.com>, "doddl@dexterdemons.org" <doddl@dexterdemons.org>, "bhays@doraschools.com" <bhays@doraschools.com>, "pmontoya@dulceschools.com" <pmontoya@dulceschools.com>, "tdelk@elidaschools.net" <tdelk@elidaschools.net>, "Bobbie.Gutierrez@k12espanola.org" <Bobbie.Gutierrez@k12espanola.org>, "joel.shirley@estancia.k12.nm.us" <joel.shirley@estancia.k12.nm.us>, "dhaynes@eunice.org" <dhaynes@eunice.org>, "eschmidt@fms.k12.nm.us" <eschmidt@fms.k12.nm.us>, "dterry@floydbroncos.com" <dterry@floydbroncos.com>, "mmoyer@ftsumnerk12.com" <mmoyer@ftsumnerk12.com>, "tldempsey@gisd.k12.nm.us" <tldempsey@gisd.k12.nm.us>, "mhyatt@gmcs.k12.nm.us" <mhyatt@gmcs.k12.nm.us>, "egrau@gradyschool.com" <egrau@gradyschool.com>, "marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us" <marc.space@gccs.k12.nm.us>, "rwilliams@bobcat.net" <rwilliams@bobcat.net>, "lhale@hatchschools.net" <lhale@hatchschools.net>, "parkstj@hobbsschools.net" <parkstj@hobbsschools.net>, "marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org" <marvin.martin@hondoeagles.org>, "blightfoot@houseschools.net" <blightfoot@houseschools.net>, "Brian.Snider@jalnm.org" <Brian.Snider@jalnm.org>, "Cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us" <Cavazos_n@jmsd.k12.nm.us>, "swdavis@jvps.org" <swdavis@jvps.org>, "michael.grossman@la-panthers.org" <michael.grossman@la-panthers.org>, "gewing@lcps.net" <gewing@lcps.net>, "keltcooper@cybercardinal.com" <keltcooper@cybercardinal.com>, "droch@loganschool.net" <droch@loganschool.net>, "rpiper@lmsd.org" <rpiper@lmsd.org>, "k.steinhaus@laschools.net" <k.steinhaus@laschools.net>, "dsanders@llschools.net" <dsanders@llschools.net>, "amcilroy@lovingschools.org" <amcilroy@lovingschools.org>, "leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net" <leannegandy@lovingtonschools.net>, "ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us" <ghaven@magdalena.k12.nm.us>, "kforrester@maxwellp12.com" <kforrester@maxwellp12.com>, "jwidner@melroseschools.org" <jwidner@melroseschools.org>, "Ernesto.Valdez@mesavista.org" <Ernesto.Valdez@mesavista.org>, "earellano@mora.k12.nm.us" <earellano@mora.k12.nm.us>, "tom.sullivan@mesd.us" <tom.sullivan@mesd.us>, "suptturner@mosquero.net" <suptturner@mosquero.net>, "dapodaca@mpschoools.net" <dapodaca@mpschoools.net>, "FTrujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us" <FTrujillo@pecos.k12.nm.us>, "mmacauley@penasco.k12.nm.us" <mmacauley@penasco.k12.nm.us>, "mlm@pvs.k12.nm.us" <mlm@pvs.k12.nm.us>, "jcain@portalesschools.com" <jcain@portalesschools.com>, "dlackey@quemadoschools.org" <dlackey@quemadoschools.org>, "dalbert@questa.k12.nm.us" <dalbert@questa.k12.nm.us>, "andy.ortiz@ratonschools.com" <andy.ortiz@ratonschools.com>, "billgreen@quemadoschools.org" <billgreen@quemadoschools.org>, "scleveland@rrps.net" <scleveland@rrps.net>, "ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us" <ssanchez@risd.k12.nm.us>, "jholloway@royschools.org" <jholloway@royschools.org>, "bickertg@ruidososchools.org" <bickertg@ruidososchools.org>, "ctaylor@sanjonschools.com" <ctaylor@sanjonschools.com>, "vgarcia@sfps.info" <vgarcia@sfps.info>, "rperea@srilions.com" <rperea@srilions.com>, "abrown@silver.k12.nm.us" <abrown@silver.k12.nm.us>, "rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us" <rhendrix@socorro.k12.nm.us>, "eking@springerschools.org" <eking@springerschools.org>, "superintendent@taosschools.org" <superintendent@taosschools.org>, "blittle@tatumschools.org" <blittle@tatumschools.org>, "rbrown@texicoschools.com" <rbrown@texicoschools.com>, "ccummins@torcschools.net" <ccummins@torcschools.net>, "a.mckinney@tucumcarischools.com" <a.mckinney@tucumcarischools.com>, "brenda.vigil@tularosk12.us" <brenda.vigil@tularosk12.us>, "jprops@vaughn.k12.nm.us" <jprops@vaughn.k12.nm.us>, "Anita.Romero@wm.k12.nm.us" <Anita.Romero@wm.k12.nm.us>, "christopher_gutierrez@wlvs.k12.nm.us" <christopher_gutierrez@wlvs.k12.nm.us>, "daniel.benavidez@zpsd.org" <daniel.benavidez@zpsd.org>

Attachments:image002.png (7.83k) Ltr to NM Superintendents re 3.14.18 Walkout.pdf (1.13 MB)

Good Afternoon New Mexico School District Superintendents,

Please see attached letter from ACLU-NM Legal Director, Leon Howard, addressing the Nationwide School Walkout scheduled for March 14, 2018. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tiffany McCree
Paralegal
American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico
PO Box 566
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 266-5915 ext. 1014 (office)



From: "Joanna Suarez" <automailer@edlio.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2018 15:22:34 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools
To: <Cindy.Romero@carlsbadschools.net>

From: Joanna Suarez <joanna.suarez@fusion.net>

Hello, My name is Joanna Suarez and I'm a producer at FUSION TV. We're a digital and cable channel based in South Florida. Our team is working on a documentary speaking to students across the country on their views regarding the second amendment and the current gun control debate. I understand that Will Riley, a student at Carlsbad HS, has organized a Stand for the Second walkout on May 2. My understanding is that the students participating will not be walking off school grounds (which we have seen happen in other schools and is understandable). Would media outlets -- like our own -- interested in covering this short event be granted permission to be on campus for the duration of the walkout to get footage of it? I can be reached at Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net Many thanks for your time. Best, Joanna Suarez Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net

This email was automatically sent at by IP address 2600:1006:b06e:8d41:2456:d4a5:6254:b390 (computer id: 0.9281865956329509) on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 03:22 PM US/Mountain timezone.

This user has been authenticated with the following credentials from google: display name: Joanna Suarez; email: joanna.suarez@fusion.net; ID: 116520402056194283427.

From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2018 05:29:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are "Mostly Harmful" For Students' Mental Health, Poll Says
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, April 9, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.

[Reuters](#) (4/6, Krehbiel-Burton) reports that teachers in Oklahoma will enter their second week of strikes, having "walked out in protest of a decade of education budget cuts and low salaries," calling for "\$200 million in increased annual education funding." The strike, which has affected over 500,000 students, has "garnered strong public backing."

The [AP](#) (4/6, Murphy) reports that the teacher's union said the strike would continue, despite lawmakers approval of "an additional \$40 million for public schools Friday," to be funded through taxes on Internet sales and gambling. Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest called for additional funding through the elimination of "a capital gains tax exemption"

and of "a repeal of a proposed lodging tax" to end the protests.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/8, story 8, 1:45, Snow) reported, "There is no sign" of an end to the teacher walkout in Oklahoma, which has been "extended into a second week in the state's biggest districts as the teachers keep up their pressure on lawmakers to find more money for the schools." NBC (McCoy) added the teachers "are finding unexpected allies" in nearly 200 attorneys who "will visit the capital Monday to mediate a resolution, or they say they'll run for the legislators' seats come November."

Column: Teachers Are Competing With The Elderly For Scarce State Funds.

Robert J. Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/8) that the recent teacher strikes for higher pay in West Virginia and Oklahoma are "a harbinger of things to come" because teachers and schools are "competing with the elderly for scarce" public funds. Samuelson says, "Spending on the elderly is squeezing K-12 schools, police, parks,

libraries, roads and other infrastructure (water projects, sewers), mainly through two programs: (a) Medicaid, a joint state-federal program of health insurance for the poor, which pays about half of nursing-home and long-term-care costs for the aged and disabled (on average, states pay about 37 percent of Medicaid's costs); and (b) contributions to underfunded pensions for state and local workers.” He proposes that coverage for long-term care should “be moved into Medicare, which is fully paid by the federal government.”

Analysis: Teacher Walkouts Repeat Cycle From Decades Ago.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/7, Jamieson, Waldron) reports that the current wave of teacher walkouts in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kentucky can be attributed in part to austerity measures since the recession, “but the longer explanation stretches back a full generation, to when teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky last walked off the job.” The piece describes such actions in the late 80s and early 90s, calling them “seminal revolts that today’s striking teachers still remember, either as students or young educators early in their careers. The work stoppages led to meaningful raises and investment at the time. But the promise they held eventually lost out to the anti-tax ideology of both legislators and voters.”

Teacher Shortage, Walkouts Impact Hiring Scene.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/8) reports on the prospects that teachers entering the workforce face, noting that “a nationwide shortage of teachers means new teachers have the freedom to choose the job that fits them best.” However, “given teacher walkouts in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona because of low wages and a lack of resources, the profession may be less valued than ever.” The article describes a teacher employment fair at the University of Northern Colorado, which “attracted 161 school districts from 18 states and about 500 UNC teaching students. ... The teacher shortage allows these students to be more selective in the offers they accept, but it may also drive prospective teachers away from the areas of greatest need.”

California Districts Introduce Alternative Course On Big Data.

[EdSource](#) (4/8, Burdman) reports Los Angeles Unified is offering a new course, called “Introduction to Data Science,” at 21 of its “roughly 100 comprehensive high schools.” The approximately 1,000 juniors and seniors enrolled in the course “are collecting, analyzing and interpreting sets of data from their own lives,” while “learning basic statistics and computer programming, not to mention gaining insights into things like their stress levels and snacking habits.” Since Los Angeles Unified piloted the course “four years ago with funding from the National Science Foundation,” six other southern California districts have piloted it, “with eight more lining up.” EdSource says the “course rests at the vanguard of a quiet revolt against the dominance of algebra in the high school curriculum, a revolt that could reshape the pathway to college for years to come.” EdSource adds that the new approaches to teaching offered by alternative courses “have the potential to improve equity and ensure that quantitative literacy is a right, not a privilege.”

New Mexico District To Launch Dual-Language Spanish, Navajo Programs.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Farmington Municipal School District, located “in New Mexico’s Four Corners region,” is launching two new dual-language programs next year aimed at having “some students fluent in Spanish or Navajo by time they graduate from high school.” In the first year, the district will offer “a 20-student kindergarten class learning Diné at Apache Elementary School, and another 20-student class learning Spanish at McCormick Elementary School.” Superintendent Gene Schmidt said FMSD hopes to expand the two programs to other schools as well.

Following Parkland Shooting, Dick’s Sporting Goods CEO Becomes Gun Control Advocate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Germano, Subscription Publication) profiles Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack, who became an advocate for stricter gun controls following the Parkland, Florida school shooting. The Journal says Stack now supports an outright ban on assault weapons and a minimum purchase age of 21 for all firearms.

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Pilot Mental Health Program For Students.

The [AP](#) (4/8, Willetts) reports Kansas state lawmakers approved a \$10 million "pilot program to team up schools and community mental health centers" and "treat and track two pre-selected groups of children in six school districts." The state "House approved the plan as part of a larger education funding bill aimed at satisfying a state Supreme Court mandate to boost spending on public schools," and state lawmakers kept the "initiative intact in the final version of the education funding bill, which passed early Sunday and went to Gov. Jeff Colyer." To National Alliance on Mental Illness of Kansas executive director Richard Cagan, however, "the \$10 million is inadequate." State Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Kathy Busch, meanwhile, "said that when it comes to addressing students' mental and emotional needs, schools are being asked to do more with less."

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Maryland State House Advances Bill To Increase School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/7, Witte, Press) reported that on Saturday, the Maryland state House of Delegates advanced a bill with bipartisan support that "aims to create a variety of standards and guidelines for school safety statewide." The bill addressed issues "involving the training of school resource officers, safety drills for staff and students, and identifying mental health concerns that could threaten student safety." Gov. Larry Hogan and state lawmakers proposed the legislation "after the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida," but the "issue of school safety" garnered "even greater interest in Maryland after the March 20 shooting in southern Maryland at Great Mills High School, where a student shot and killed a former girlfriend before killing himself."

University Of Michigan Initiative Helps Robotics Students Prepare For World Competition.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported a University of Michigan initiative dubbed the "Michigan Engineering Zone" has "helped more than 2,800 Detroit high school students build robotics, train for competitions and expand their science, technology, engineering and math education." Involved students "will be able to put their practice to the test as Detroit gears up to host the FIRST Championship, a global robotics competition," from April 25-29. Many students in the Detroit area lack the tools, resources, or staff to sustain a robotics team, and so MEZ is offering "workstations, equipment, storage and a cadre of mentors, including professional engineers and graduate students." It also "gives high school students a hands-on learning environment to practice real job skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking," as well as "assistance on college applications" and financial aid.

Washington District's Natural Resource Program Profiled.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Kalama Middle-High School in Kalama, Washington launched a natural resources program this year to expose students to hands-on instruction and "real-life applications of science." Superintendent Eric Nerison said more importantly, the course "makes students aware of career opportunities in forestry in particular." Last

week, 10 students in science teacher Chris Stone's class planted roughly 300 Douglas fir seedlings "in the school district's 38-acre forest." Stone also "leads lessons on invasive species, ecology, tree identification and other topics" inside the classroom. The program is both a science course and career and technical education course, with students "learn[ing] forestry management first-hand from industry partners, ranging from government agencies such as DNR and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to private companies." Students interested in a career in forest management can also pursue "internships, jobs and course credit with Grays Harbor College."

Nebraska Girls Outscore Boys On Statewide ACT Exam.

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Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are "Mostly Harmful" For Students' Mental

Health, Poll Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Joyce) reports that according to new research by Gallup, “teachers and parents are at odds when it comes to how much they think digital devices are affecting children’s mental and physical health,” with 69 percent of teachers saying they think such devices have been “mostly harmful” for mental health, and 55 percent saying they are “mostly harmful” for students’ physical health as well. In contrast 69 percent of parents surveyed said such devices are “more helpful” for mental health, and 59 percent saying they are “more helpful” for physical health. Teachers are claiming that they are seeing “more anxiety,” that students have “trouble...thinking through problems,” and that the devices are affecting “their ability to think, to reason, to have a higher order of thinking.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

WSJournal: New Jersey Governor’s Plan To Fund Community College With New Taxes Is Misguided.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Subscription Publication) editorializes in opposition to a plan by New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy to provide free community college funded by higher taxes, including a bump from 8.97% to 10.75% for incomes above \$1 million, restructured business taxes, and an increase in sales tax to 7%. The Journal criticizes the plan, implying that such tax increases would discourage start-up companies and entrepreneurs from setting up business in the state.

Education Experts Stress Necessity Of Economically Diverse College Campuses.

Former New York City schools chancellor and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation director Harold O. Levy and education author Peg Tyre write in a [New York Times](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication) op-ed that the pipeline between “some academically talented children from poor and working-poor families to selective colleges” remains “frustratingly narrow.” The authors concede the problem has “no easy fix,” as creating “economically diverse campuses is complicated and costly,” but they outline “some fundamental steps that people of good conscience might take to make sure higher education is aligned with the democratic values we share.” Levy and Tyre conclude in stressing that college campuses “overwhelmingly populated by wealthy students amplify the voices that jeer at our higher education system and energize those who seek to destroy it. It would be a tragedy if they succeeded.”

University Of Wyoming Introduces Campus Safety Smartphone App.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/8) reports the University of Wyoming introduced “a new smartphone safety app as part of a push to increase campus security.” While the “debate about campus safety has raged nationally for years,” it “hit UW especially hard in late fall” when a “man tackled and sexually assaulted a female victim near the school’s football stadium.” After the incident, “students held a walkout and delivered a petition to President Laurie Nichols’ office, calling for better lighting and faster notifications of assaults, among other things.” In January, Associated Students of the University of Wyoming president Ben Wetzel “formed an ad hoc committee to study campus safety” that “included members of the government, the university’s police chief, the dean of students and representatives from UW’s Title IX office.” At the committee’s recommendation, UW entered into a three-year contract with Rave Guardian for a security app featuring real-time security, emergency 911 service, and the ability to send anonymous tips to university police.

WPost Profiles Howard University Student Embroiled In Financial Aid Misappropriation Scandal.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/8, Hesse, Contrera) profiles Tyrone Hankerson, Jr., a 2015 Howard University graduate and “All-Star for historically black colleges and universities – a White House-bestowed recognition given to only 75 students at HBCUs.” Howard was pressured last week “to reveal that, over nine years, workers in the financial aid office had misappropriated money, double-dipping by accepting tuition benefits and simultaneously awarding themselves university grants.” A now-deleted Medium post alleged Hankerson awarded himself more than \$400,000. Hankerson denies the allegations, but he has nonetheless “gone from symbolizing Howard’s success to being a scapegoat of the university’s struggles, and one of the most vilified students in America.” For example, the activist group HU Resist, which was formed around the time of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ spring 2017 visit, used the case against Hankerson to bolster their cause during a sit-in to demand “guaranteed housing for students under 21, no tuition hikes, the disarming of campus police and changes in university leadership.”

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Teachers Rally In Support Of Education Funding Measures.](#)
- [Maryland Legislature Overrides Veto Of Bill Overhauling School Constructing Funding.](#)
- [“Trauma Informed” Approach To Sexual Assault Changing Campuses Investigations.](#)

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Sent Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2018 05:29:30 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are "Mostly Harmful" For Students' Mental Health, Poll Says
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, April 9, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement

Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.

[Reuters](#) (4/6, Krehbiel-Burton) reports that teachers in Oklahoma will enter their second week of strikes, having "walked out in protest of a decade of education budget cuts and low salaries," calling for "\$200 million in increased annual education funding." The strike, which has affected over 500,000 students, has "garnered strong public backing."

The [AP](#) (4/6, Murphy) reports that the teacher's union said the strike would continue, despite lawmakers approval of "an additional \$40 million for public schools Friday," to be funded through taxes on Internet sales and gambling. Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest called for additional funding through the elimination of "a capital gains tax exemption"

and of "a repeal of a proposed lodging tax" to end the protests.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/8, story 8, 1:45, Snow) reported, "There is no sign" of an end to the teacher walkout in Oklahoma, which has been "extended into a second week in the state's biggest districts as the teachers keep up their pressure on lawmakers to find more money for the schools." NBC (McCoy) added the teachers "are finding unexpected allies" in nearly 200 attorneys who "will visit the capital Monday to mediate a resolution, or they say they'll run for the legislators' seats come November."

Column: Teachers Are Competing With The Elderly For Scarce State Funds.

Robert J. Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/8) that the recent teacher strikes for higher pay in West Virginia and Oklahoma are "a harbinger of things to come" because teachers and schools are "competing with the elderly for scarce" public funds. Samuelson says, "Spending on the elderly is squeezing K-12 schools, police, parks,

libraries, roads and other infrastructure (water projects, sewers), mainly through two programs: (a) Medicaid, a joint state-federal program of health insurance for the poor, which pays about half of nursing-home and long-term-care costs for the aged and disabled (on average, states pay about 37 percent of Medicaid's costs); and (b) contributions to underfunded pensions for state and local workers.” He proposes that coverage for long-term care should “be moved into Medicare, which is fully paid by the federal government.”

Analysis: Teacher Walkouts Repeat Cycle From Decades Ago.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/7, Jamieson, Waldron) reports that the current wave of teacher walkouts in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kentucky can be attributed in part to austerity measures since the recession, “but the longer explanation stretches back a full generation, to when teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky last walked off the job.” The piece describes such actions in the late 80s and early 90s, calling them “seminal revolts that today’s striking teachers still remember, either as students or young educators early in their careers. The work stoppages led to meaningful raises and investment at the time. But the promise they held eventually lost out to the anti-tax ideology of both legislators and voters.”

Teacher Shortage, Walkouts Impact Hiring Scene.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/8) reports on the prospects that teachers entering the workforce face, noting that “a nationwide shortage of teachers means new teachers have the freedom to choose the job that fits them best.” However, “given teacher walkouts in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona because of low wages and a lack of resources, the profession may be less valued than ever.” The article describes a teacher employment fair at the University of Northern Colorado, which “attracted 161 school districts from 18 states and about 500 UNC teaching students. ... The teacher shortage allows these students to be more selective in the offers they accept, but it may also drive prospective teachers away from the areas of greatest need.”

California Districts Introduce Alternative Course On Big Data.

[EdSource](#) (4/8, Burdman) reports Los Angeles Unified is offering a new course, called “Introduction to Data Science,” at 21 of its “roughly 100 comprehensive high schools.” The approximately 1,000 juniors and seniors enrolled in the course “are collecting, analyzing and interpreting sets of data from their own lives,” while “learning basic statistics and computer programming, not to mention gaining insights into things like their stress levels and snacking habits.” Since Los Angeles Unified piloted the course “four years ago with funding from the National Science Foundation,” six other southern California districts have piloted it, “with eight more lining up.” EdSource says the “course rests at the vanguard of a quiet revolt against the dominance of algebra in the high school curriculum, a revolt that could reshape the pathway to college for years to come.” EdSource adds that the new approaches to teaching offered by alternative courses “have the potential to improve equity and ensure that quantitative literacy is a right, not a privilege.”

New Mexico District To Launch Dual-Language Spanish, Navajo Programs.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Farmington Municipal School District, located “in New Mexico’s Four Corners region,” is launching two new dual-language programs next year aimed at having “some students fluent in Spanish or Navajo by time they graduate from high school.” In the first year, the district will offer “a 20-student kindergarten class learning Diné at Apache Elementary School, and another 20-student class learning Spanish at McCormick Elementary School.” Superintendent Gene Schmidt said FMSD hopes to expand the two programs to other schools as well.

Following Parkland Shooting, Dick’s Sporting Goods CEO Becomes Gun Control Advocate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Germano, Subscription Publication) profiles Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack, who became an advocate for stricter gun controls following the Parkland, Florida school shooting. The Journal says Stack now supports an outright ban on assault weapons and a minimum purchase age of 21 for all firearms.

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Pilot Mental Health Program For Students.

The [AP](#) (4/8, Willetts) reports Kansas state lawmakers approved a \$10 million "pilot program to team up schools and community mental health centers" and "treat and track two pre-selected groups of children in six school districts." The state "House approved the plan as part of a larger education funding bill aimed at satisfying a state Supreme Court mandate to boost spending on public schools," and state lawmakers kept the "initiative intact in the final version of the education funding bill, which passed early Sunday and went to Gov. Jeff Colyer." To National Alliance on Mental Illness of Kansas executive director Richard Cagan, however, "the \$10 million is inadequate." State Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Kathy Busch, meanwhile, "said that when it comes to addressing students' mental and emotional needs, schools are being asked to do more with less."

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Maryland State House Advances Bill To Increase School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/7, Witte, Press) reported that on Saturday, the Maryland state House of Delegates advanced a bill with bipartisan support that "aims to create a variety of standards and guidelines for school safety statewide." The bill addressed issues "involving the training of school resource officers, safety drills for staff and students, and identifying mental health concerns that could threaten student safety." Gov. Larry Hogan and state lawmakers proposed the legislation "after the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida," but the "issue of school safety" garnered "even greater interest in Maryland after the March 20 shooting in southern Maryland at Great Mills High School, where a student shot and killed a former girlfriend before killing himself."

University Of Michigan Initiative Helps Robotics Students Prepare For World Competition.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported a University of Michigan initiative dubbed the "Michigan Engineering Zone" has "helped more than 2,800 Detroit high school students build robotics, train for competitions and expand their science, technology, engineering and math education." Involved students "will be able to put their practice to the test as Detroit gears up to host the FIRST Championship, a global robotics competition," from April 25-29. Many students in the Detroit area lack the tools, resources, or staff to sustain a robotics team, and so MEZ is offering "workstations, equipment, storage and a cadre of mentors, including professional engineers and graduate students." It also "gives high school students a hands-on learning environment to practice real job skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking," as well as "assistance on college applications" and financial aid.

Washington District's Natural Resource Program Profiled.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Kalama Middle-High School in Kalama, Washington launched a natural resources program this year to expose students to hands-on instruction and "real-life applications of science." Superintendent Eric Nerison said more importantly, the course "makes students aware of career opportunities in forestry in particular." Last

week, 10 students in science teacher Chris Stone's class planted roughly 300 Douglas fir seedlings "in the school district's 38-acre forest." Stone also "leads lessons on invasive species, ecology, tree identification and other topics" inside the classroom. The program is both a science course and career and technical education course, with students "learn[ing] forestry management first-hand from industry partners, ranging from government agencies such as DNR and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to private companies." Students interested in a career in forest management can also pursue "internships, jobs and course credit with Grays Harbor College."

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Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are "Mostly Harmful" For Students' Mental

Health, Poll Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Joyce) reports that according to new research by Gallup, “teachers and parents are at odds when it comes to how much they think digital devices are affecting children’s mental and physical health,” with 69 percent of teachers saying they think such devices have been “mostly harmful” for mental health, and 55 percent saying they are “mostly harmful” for students’ physical health as well. In contrast 69 percent of parents surveyed said such devices are “more helpful” for mental health, and 59 percent saying they are “more helpful” for physical health. Teachers are claiming that they are seeing “more anxiety,” that students have “trouble...thinking through problems,” and that the devices are affecting “their ability to think, to reason, to have a higher order of thinking.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

WSJournal: New Jersey Governor’s Plan To Fund Community College With New Taxes Is Misguided.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Subscription Publication) editorializes in opposition to a plan by New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy to provide free community college funded by higher taxes, including a bump from 8.97% to 10.75% for incomes above \$1 million, restructured business taxes, and an increase in sales tax to 7%. The Journal criticizes the plan, implying that such tax increases would discourage start-up companies and entrepreneurs from setting up business in the state.

Education Experts Stress Necessity Of Economically Diverse College Campuses.

Former New York City schools chancellor and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation director Harold O. Levy and education author Peg Tyre write in a [New York Times](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication) op-ed that the pipeline between “some academically talented children from poor and working-poor families to selective colleges” remains “frustratingly narrow.” The authors concede the problem has “no easy fix,” as creating “economically diverse campuses is complicated and costly,” but they outline “some fundamental steps that people of good conscience might take to make sure higher education is aligned with the democratic values we share.” Levy and Tyre conclude in stressing that college campuses “overwhelmingly populated by wealthy students amplify the voices that jeer at our higher education system and energize those who seek to destroy it. It would be a tragedy if they succeeded.”

University Of Wyoming Introduces Campus Safety Smartphone App.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/8) reports the University of Wyoming introduced “a new smartphone safety app as part of a push to increase campus security.” While the “debate about campus safety has raged nationally for years,” it “hit UW especially hard in late fall” when a “man tackled and sexually assaulted a female victim near the school’s football stadium.” After the incident, “students held a walkout and delivered a petition to President Laurie Nichols’ office, calling for better lighting and faster notifications of assaults, among other things.” In January, Associated Students of the University of Wyoming president Ben Wetzel “formed an ad hoc committee to study campus safety” that “included members of the government, the university’s police chief, the dean of students and representatives from UW’s Title IX office.” At the committee’s recommendation, UW entered into a three-year contract with Rave Guardian for a security app featuring real-time security, emergency 911 service, and the ability to send anonymous tips to university police.

WPost Profiles Howard University Student Embroiled In Financial Aid Misappropriation Scandal.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/8, Hesse, Contrera) profiles Tyrone Hankerson, Jr., a 2015 Howard University graduate and “All-Star for historically black colleges and universities – a White House-bestowed recognition given to only 75 students at HBCUs.” Howard was pressured last week “to reveal that, over nine years, workers in the financial aid office had misappropriated money, double-dipping by accepting tuition benefits and simultaneously awarding themselves university grants.” A now-deleted Medium post alleged Hankerson awarded himself more than \$400,000. Hankerson denies the allegations, but he has nonetheless “gone from symbolizing Howard’s success to being a scapegoat of the university’s struggles, and one of the most vilified students in America.” For example, the activist group HU Resist, which was formed around the time of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ spring 2017 visit, used the case against Hankerson to bolster their cause during a sit-in to demand “guaranteed housing for students under 21, no tuition hikes, the disarming of campus police and changes in university leadership.”

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Teachers Rally In Support Of Education Funding Measures.](#)
- [Maryland Legislature Overrides Veto Of Bill Overhauling School Constructing Funding.](#)
- [“Trauma Informed” Approach To Sexual Assault Changing Campuses Investigations.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:32:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

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Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues.

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Colorado Lawmaker Withdraws Bill To Punish Teachers For Walkouts.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/30) reports Colorado state Sen. Bob Gardner (R) has said he will withdraw his bill "seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking by threatening firings, fines or even jail time" due to "concerns over lawmakers' already large workload in the waning days of this legislative session." The measure, "which came as

thousands of teachers were gearing up to protest education funding and educator pay at the state Capitol, drew swift outrage from teachers across Colorado and statehouse Democrats after it was introduced earlier this month.”

White Paper: Disadvantaged Students Have Less Access To High-Quality Teachers.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30) reports that according to a working paper presented by the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, “differences in the quality of elementary and middle school teachers can explain much of why disadvantaged students perform worse in math than their whiter, more affluent schoolmates.” However, the report’s authors say “that our understanding of teachers’ effects on students depends on how we measure teacher quality.”

Research: Teaching Aides More Effective As Tutors Than Volunteers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/30) reports recent research shows that teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals, are “at least as good as teachers when it comes to one-to-one and small group tutoring. And both sets of paid professionals—aides and teachers—were far more effective than volunteer tutors.” The article describes research by Robert Slavin, director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, who “recently set out to find the most effective programs to teach elementary and middle school students. In the course of analyzing almost 200 studies on particular methods...he confirmed that students tended to make more progress with tutors than with a teacher in front of an entire classroom.”

Indiana Teacher Resurrects NASA Young Astronauts Program.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Julie Muffler, an elementary school teacher in Borden, Indiana, has launched “a charter location for ‘Young Astronauts,’ once a nationwide program that had 25,000 chapters across every state and 41 countries.” Students take part in “activities that teach them more about the universe, giving them a chance to hone their science skills, dabble in art and delve into ethical questions while they’re at it.” The program draws on an online NASA database “of space-related activities teachers can do with their students.”

California Video Game Design Charter To Host Third Annual STEAM Day Expo.

The [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (4/30) reports Manteca Unified School District’s be.next Video Game Design Academy in California is hosting its third annual STEAM Day Expo on Wednesday and Thursday. The event will feature “science experiments, art projects, computer programming lessons, and physics demonstrations, led by students from the be.next Video Game Design Academy and the Lathrop High School Science and CTE Careers with Children departments.” The expo “has grown from a small group of 50 students to hosting 300 students in five different classroom sessions.” The Bulletin adds that “be.next is a charter school designed for student’s looking to become video game designers,” and its curriculum is “focused on the art, design, programming of video games, and college preparatory courses.”

Pennsylvania State House Approves Legislative Package To Boost CTE.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania state House approved a “bi-partisan package of eight bills that aims to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the mis-perception attached to career and technical education,” the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/30) reports. The lawmakers “who introduced the pieces of legislation said career and technical education can lead to a career path with lower or no debt and a family-sustaining wage.” The measure “grows out of two years of work by a House select committee that traveled the state and gathered information about career and technical education and employers’ needs for skilled labor.” One bill “creates an online career resource center that provides information to students and public about on educational and career

options, available career and technical education resources, and data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation.” Another would “seek to alter the qualifications that career and technical educators need to be able to teach to remove barriers that hindered their ability to teach.”

Maryland Teachers Fear Computer-Based PARCC Format Will Widen Achievement Gap.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Richman) reports that as Maryland students sit for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests this year, “it will be the first time that all schools are required to administer the computerized version.” Advocates argue “online testing is an important way to prepare students for a workplace reliant on technological skills,” and test officials maintain “computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions.” Some teachers, however, “remain concerned that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they’ve spent decades working to close.” In fact, a Pew Research Center study found low-income households “with children are four times less likely to have a broadband Internet connection than their middle- or upper-class counterparts,” and that the “gap is wider for children from black and Hispanic households.”

Analysis: Louisiana State Superintendent Exaggerates Computer Illiteracy’s Impact On NAEP Scores.

A [Louisiana Weekly](#) (4/30, Harden) analysis says Louisiana students’ 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are “dismal.” After state Education Superintendent John White previewed “the less-than-impressive scores,” he “wrote a letter to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)” to request “a more detailed breakdown of the data” and to express “concerns the 2017 scores might have more to do with computer literacy.” White has been “considered a darling of the ‘reform’ movement and ideology, of which the wholesale privatization of public education in New Orleans is a central tenet, as well as the statewide voucher program which funnels public money into private schools.” To Louisiana Weekly, however, “even if the 2015 to 2017 scores were impacted by the switch to online testing, the historical NAEP data still makes it a stretch to conclude that White’s tenure and reform in Louisiana is working.”

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Tennessee Leaders Divided On How To Mitigate Problematic Testing Season.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30, Stringer) reports “cyberattacks and technical glitches over the past two weeks prevented some students” in Tennessee “from taking state tests and caused chaos for teachers and state leaders alike.” The various testing problems led “state legislators to pass a law last month preventing this year’s test results from negatively impacting students’ grades, teacher compensation, or employment status for educators.” Whether the state would be granted a federal waiver to be excused from testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act remains unclear, “as the federal government has shown flexibility in the past but is trying to shift away from waivers.” Meanwhile, some state legislators are calling for

state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen’s resignation, and others are demanding “a return to pencil-and-paper tests.” Tennessee Tech University’s Eric Brown “called the cybersecurity and technological glitches part of

the growing process for schools as they transition not just to online testing but to an online world.”

Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Fix.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas legislature passed “a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they’ve been promised to meet a court mandate.” The new law makes “sure that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended. The House had approved the measure Saturday, and it now goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it.” The state Supreme Court “ruled in October that the state’s current education funding of more than \$4 billion a year isn’t sufficient to provide a suitable education for every child as required by the Kansas Constitution.”

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/30) reports the bill passed “overwhelmingly” and corrects “a mistake embedded in a state law that short-circuited expenditure of a chunk of the \$525 million that is part of a five-year plan boosting aid to public schools.” Legislators “were keen for the Kansas Supreme Court to consider that piece of financing when evaluating constitutionality of the Legislature’s five-year expansion of state aid to K-12 education.” [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/30, Ryan) also covers this story.

Vermont State Lawmakers Consider Rapid Criminal Law Overhaul.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (4/30) reports the “alleged school shooting plot in Fair Haven has sent shock waves through Vermont politics, giving unprecedented momentum to gun restrictions and motivating new changes to criminal law.” Vermont “Gov. Phil Scott has called for quick action” in the wake of the incident, and “leading lawmakers have made the bills a priority.” Any resulting changes to the state’s criminal laws “could not apply to the Fair Haven case, but could make it easier to intervene and prosecute potential mass shooters in the future.” Meanwhile, “some observers have questioned the wisdom of quick changes to criminal laws,” especially with “less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session” to consider such measures. Meanwhile, Scott and “Rutland County State’s Attorney Rose Kennedy have been frustrated by the state’s inability to prosecute [Fair Haven suspect Jack] Sawyer for felony crimes.”

Kentucky Schools Chief Calls For State Takeover Of Jefferson County Schools.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30) reports Kentucky interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis recommended Monday a state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools to address “long-standing problems in the state’s largest school district.” Lewis “cited a flawed system to investigate and account for physical restraints of students, poor achievement test scores and a student assignment plan that ‘has a distinct, negative impact on the most vulnerable populations of JCPS students.’” The state BOE would have to approve the plan.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Lewis pointed to “the serial abuse of students and an abundance of low-performing schools” in announcing that he “would attempt to seize control of one of the country’s largest school districts in a decision sure to inflame tensions between teachers and the state’s Republican administration.” Lewis’ decision came “after a more than yearlong audit of the governance and administration of Jefferson County Public Schools, which includes Louisville.” Such a takeover “would strip all authority from the elected school board and give it to Lewis.”

Columnist: Give New Superintendent Chance To Improve District. In a column for the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30), Joseph Gerth writes that Lewis shouldn’t take over the district yet, arguing for Superintendent Marty Pollio to have more time to make improvements. Gerth writes that Pollio has been on the job for only two months, and is “a principal with a track record of turning around a failing school. He should be given a chance to do his job.”

Philanthropist Beutner Likely To Be Named LAUSD Superintendent.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/30, Blume) reports that according to anonymous sources, “the Los Angeles Board of Education is poised to select philanthropist and former investment banker Austin Beutner to be the next superintendent.” The sources say the board already has discussed the terms of Beutner’s contract. As Beutner has no education experience, his selection “would be a signal that the board majority that took control nearly a year ago wants to rely on business management skills instead of insider educational expertise.” The district is facing “serious financial problems,” and addressing those problems “would be a central duty suited to Beutner’s skill set.”

LAUSD Interim Superintendent Wants To Give Principals Teacher Hiring Flexibility.

The [Los Angeles School Report](#) (4/30) reports that under current policies, principals in Los Angeles must fill teaching vacancies by hiring first from “what’s known as the ‘must place’ list. These are teachers who have lost or stepped away from their positions at one school but have not been hired at another.” However, interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchain wants to give principals at 227 struggling LAUSD schools waivers to allow them to skip this process.

New York Schools Chancellor Apologizes For Tweeting “Wealthy White Manhattan Parents Angrily Rant.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Strauss) reports that New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, who has been on the job for around a month, apologized for a Friday tweet “that includes the words ‘WATCH: Wealthy white Manhattan parents angrily rant.’” Carranza was tweeting about a report “that detailed how some white parents in a wealthy Upper West Side neighborhood in Manhattan were vocally upset at a meeting about a plan to diversify neighborhood schools.” Carranza “apologized to anyone who was offended – while noting that the words in the tweet weren’t actually his. And he said he would push forward with school desegregation.”

Austin ISD Board Approves T-STEM Coalition As Partner For Struggling School.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports Austin Independent School District “trustees Monday night approved a partner to help turn around Mendez Middle School, which is at risk of closure by the state for failing to meet academic standards for four consecutive years.” The partner – the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (T-STEM Coalition) – will “operate as an in-district charter over the school and will partner with the district, the University of Texas at Tyler, UT Austin’s UTeach Institute, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, and Austin Interfaith.” Teachers and parents said “they were excited” about the potential performance agreement, which Austin ISD “submitted...to the state after the vote.” The Texas Education Agency is expected to “determine whether it approves” of the partnership “within 15 days of the district’s submission.” If TEA approves, “Mendez could get a two-year reprieve from state sanctions and more money per student.”

DC Mayor Open To Independent Review Of School System Plagued By Controversies.

On its website, [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/30, Austermuhle) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson are planning to establish a commission tasked with reviewing the “troubled” DC Public Schools system. In a Monday email, “Bowser spokeswoman LaToya Foster confirmed that the mayor had discussed a ‘top to bottom review by an outside party’ with Mendelson, and that she was on board with the idea.” DCPS is “struggling after months of difficult revelations and persistent scandals, including inflated graduation rates, a failure to properly report school suspensions and allegations of misspending of funds meant to help at-risk students.” Earlier this month, “a super-majority of the Council’s 13 members backed a bill to create a separate body that would review school data and engage in independent research on how the schools could improve,” but the idea evoked

“reservations from Bowser officials, who say they would want any such body to work with the school system – not against it.”

Virginia District To Conduct Transcript Audit Over Incorrectly Weighed GPAs.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/30) reports Richmond Public Schools officials and school board members apologized Monday for inaccurately weighing “dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses in students’ grade point averages” over the last four years, “an issue that could lower class rank and affect merit-based scholarships.” RPS “Interim Chief Academic Officer Victoria Oakley said students’ transcripts, along with their adjusted GPA and class rank, were updated and new transcripts will be sent Tuesday – what’s known as National College Decision Day because it’s the common deadline for students to make deposits to attend their desired college.” According to Oakley’s presentation, roughly two in four “seniors at the affected schools had their class rankings increased.” It is “unclear how many students were affected over the past four years, but Oakley said 104 students were affected this year.” RPS will also conduct “a transcript audit for students in grades 9-11.”

Idaho State Superintendent Eyes Second Term.

The [AP](#) (4/30, Kruesi, Press) reports Idaho state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra “is hoping to secure another four-year term as Idaho’s schools chief, but she first must succeed against her opponent Jeff Dillon” in the May 15 Republican primary election. She “narrowly won the open state superintendent of public instruction seat in 2014,” but the “focus on the statewide superintendent spot has softened” this year “due in comparison to high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races also up for grabs.” Ybarra “surprised Idaho’s political experts” in 2014 “by winning the education seat by raising less than \$3,000 in campaign funds and barely traveling outside the small town she lives in,” and she “hasn’t shown signs she plans on breaking any fundraising records this year either.” If Ybarra is victorious in May, she will face one of two Democratic candidates “also running for the position: Boise teacher Cindy Wilson and Boise resident Allen Humble.”

FROM NASSP

May Webinar Lineup: Building Ranks and School Safety

NASSP’s upcoming webinar schedule includes a May 9 session that will help viewers understand the forthcoming *Building Ranks* and its assessment tools. “**Building Culture and Leading Learning: Sizing Yourself Up**” will focus on how leaders can use *Building Ranks*’ prescribed survey instruments to discover their strengths and learn how others perceive their leadership and school culture. On May 23, “**Bullying, Mental Health, and Student Safety: Understanding Links, Legal Requirements, and Best Practices**” will help participants understand key differences between bullying and protected student speech. Listeners will also learn how the links among mental health, bullying, and student safety can inform school policy. [Register for one or both today!](#)

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EDUCATION POLICY

ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “announced Monday that two states and Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$700 million in federal money to help their schools recover from natural disaster.” DeVos said that Puerto Rico “will receive \$589 million of this Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program money, while the Texas education department will receive \$89.4 million and California’s department will get \$14.4 million.”

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports ED has announced that the Texas Education Agency will disburse \$89.4 million to “public and private schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey.” The funding comes from “Congress’ \$2.5 billion appropriation to help students affected by various natural disasters last year, including the California wildfires and hurricanes Irma and Maria.” The piece quotes DeVos saying in a statement, “As communities get back on their feet in disaster affected regions, we continue to support them in every way we can. This additional funding will ensure students, teachers and staff have ongoing access to the services they need to fully recover and rebuild.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/30, Matos) reports the storm “inundated schools across Houston and the state’s coastal region, forcing districts to close down some schools and transfer students to other campuses.” Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in October “that it will cost Texas taxpayers \$1.64 billion over the next two years to help schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and avoid financial losses.”

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (4/30) reports DeVos “announced about \$693 million in new federal assistance for education institutions affected by this year’s hurricanes and wildfires. The awards announced Monday are the first in a multi-phased process to provide initial funding.”

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (4/28) reports ED announced Monday that “Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$600 million in emergency federal assistance to help the island’s schools recover from Hurricane Maria.” The funding is from ED’s Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, “also known as the K-12 Restart program, which allows the agency to award emergency assistance to schools affected by last year’s natural disasters, including three hurricanes and wildfires.”

Pennsylvania ESSA Plan Broadens School Assessment Criteria.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (4/30) runs an article on the impact ESSA will have on school assessments. The piece says Pennsylvania’s plan “broadens the criteria by which schools are judged to include statistics on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. While the annual testing is still mandatory, Pennsylvania has reduced its amount and length.”

Few States Pushing School Choice Under ESSA.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports that while school choice advocates in Congress were unable to “persuade their colleagues to include Title I portability in” ESSA, “the law...has some limited avenues for states to champion various types of school choice options. But only a handful of states are taking advantage of those opportunities, according to reviews of the plans by Education Week and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Idaho BOE Trying To Find Cause Of College No-Shows.

The [Idaho State Journal](#) (4/30) reports that a number of Idaho high school graduates who are thought to be “college-bound” never show up for fall classes in their freshman year. “It is a yearly phenomenon that educators call

'summer melt' and researchers at Idaho State Board of Education are working to find out how many Idaho students melt away and why it occurs." The piece quotes state BOE Chief Research Officer Carson Howell saying, "We want to understand how to better serve those kids and help them achieve the goals they have set to go to college, that is what this research project is really about."

HIGHER EDUCATION

College Of The Desert's New Donated Observatory Profiled.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (4/30, Behan) says College of the Desert (COD) held a ceremonial opening of the new Mary Reagan Observatory on April 9. Palm Desert resident Ivoj Kudrnac donated "the one-meter telescope and observatory," and it was named "in honor of Kudrnac's late partner of 30 years." The observatory features a "telescope with a 17-inch optical diameter; FLI camera; software and hardware;" and "the funds to create the observatory, totaling \$850,000 in value." The telescope "has already captured pictures of the Spindle Galaxy (NGC 3115), 50 million light-years away, and Crab Nebula, 6,523 light years away." The gift was "decades in the making, beginning when the donor Kudrnac was just a child." Kudrnac said he hopes "the COD observatory will spawn future astrophysicists" and "inspire others who are simply fascinated with the same night sky that drew my own lifelong interest."

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Education Funding Fix, Reverse Higher Education Cuts.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas state legislature "approved a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they've been promised to meet a court mandate." The follow-up finance bill, which would ensure "that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended," now "goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it." Earlier Monday, the state Senate approved in a 28-12 vote "budget legislation that would restore \$18 million in past spending cuts for the state's universities." The measure would add "\$47 million in new spending overall; the state's annual budget is more than \$16 billion." The state House had "approved its own spending bill Saturday and negotiators for the two chambers began meeting Monday to draft the final version of budget legislation."

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos Attends Robotics Competition In Detroit.](#)
- [Congressman Calls On DeVos To Investigate Charlotte Schools Over Anti-Gun "Indoctrination."](#)
- [Students Accuse GWU, Fordham Of Covering Up Sexual Assault Allegations.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 1 May 2018 05:32:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Many Arizona Schools Remain Closed As Teacher Strike Continues
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

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remained closed, while the Legislature prepared to introduce a budget package that gives them raises but falls short of other demands." The budget package "provides the first 10 percent of what will be a 20 percent increase by 2020" and "restores \$100 million out of the nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts to a fund that helps schools pay for books, school buses and other capital expenses." However, teachers say "that doesn't go far enough after years of low funding that not only left them among the lowest paid in the nation but also has many schools operating with broken equipment and outdated books."

Colorado Lawmaker Withdraws Bill To Punish Teachers For Walkouts.

The Denver Post (4/30) reports Colorado state Sen. Bob Gardner (R) has said he will withdraw his bill "seeking to prohibit Colorado teachers from striking by threatening firings, fines or even jail time" due to "concerns over lawmakers' already large workload in the waning days of this legislative session." The measure, "which came as

thousands of teachers were gearing up to protest education funding and educator pay at the state Capitol, drew swift outrage from teachers across Colorado and statehouse Democrats after it was introduced earlier this month.”

White Paper: Disadvantaged Students Have Less Access To High-Quality Teachers.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30) reports that according to a working paper presented by the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, “differences in the quality of elementary and middle school teachers can explain much of why disadvantaged students perform worse in math than their whiter, more affluent schoolmates.” However, the report’s authors say “that our understanding of teachers’ effects on students depends on how we measure teacher quality.”

Research: Teaching Aides More Effective As Tutors Than Volunteers.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (4/30) reports recent research shows that teaching assistants, or paraprofessionals, are “at least as good as teachers when it comes to one-to-one and small group tutoring. And both sets of paid professionals—aides and teachers—were far more effective than volunteer tutors.” The article describes research by Robert Slavin, director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education at Johns Hopkins University, who “recently set out to find the most effective programs to teach elementary and middle school students. In the course of analyzing almost 200 studies on particular methods...he confirmed that students tended to make more progress with tutors than with a teacher in front of an entire classroom.”

Indiana Teacher Resurrects NASA Young Astronauts Program.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Julie Muffler, an elementary school teacher in Borden, Indiana, has launched “a charter location for ‘Young Astronauts,’ once a nationwide program that had 25,000 chapters across every state and 41 countries.” Students take part in “activities that teach them more about the universe, giving them a chance to hone their science skills, dabble in art and delve into ethical questions while they’re at it.” The program draws on an online NASA database “of space-related activities teachers can do with their students.”

California Video Game Design Charter To Host Third Annual STEAM Day Expo.

The [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (4/30) reports Manteca Unified School District’s be.next Video Game Design Academy in California is hosting its third annual STEAM Day Expo on Wednesday and Thursday. The event will feature “science experiments, art projects, computer programming lessons, and physics demonstrations, led by students from the be.next Video Game Design Academy and the Lathrop High School Science and CTE Careers with Children departments.” The expo “has grown from a small group of 50 students to hosting 300 students in five different classroom sessions.” The Bulletin adds that “be.next is a charter school designed for student’s looking to become video game designers,” and its curriculum is “focused on the art, design, programming of video games, and college preparatory courses.”

Pennsylvania State House Approves Legislative Package To Boost CTE.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania state House approved a “bi-partisan package of eight bills that aims to address business and industry workforce shortages and alleviate the mis-perception attached to career and technical education,” the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/30) reports. The lawmakers “who introduced the pieces of legislation said career and technical education can lead to a career path with lower or no debt and a family-sustaining wage.” The measure “grows out of two years of work by a House select committee that traveled the state and gathered information about career and technical education and employers’ needs for skilled labor.” One bill “creates an online career resource center that provides information to students and public about on educational and career

options, available career and technical education resources, and data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation.” Another would “seek to alter the qualifications that career and technical educators need to be able to teach to remove barriers that hindered their ability to teach.”

Maryland Teachers Fear Computer-Based PARCC Format Will Widen Achievement Gap.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Richman) reports that as Maryland students sit for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests this year, “it will be the first time that all schools are required to administer the computerized version.” Advocates argue “online testing is an important way to prepare students for a workplace reliant on technological skills,” and test officials maintain “computers are a more secure way to administer a test, allow for faster scoring and enable more innovative questions.” Some teachers, however, “remain concerned that the online version is helping to widen an achievement gap they’ve spent decades working to close.” In fact, a Pew Research Center study found low-income households “with children are four times less likely to have a broadband Internet connection than their middle- or upper-class counterparts,” and that the “gap is wider for children from black and Hispanic households.”

Analysis: Louisiana State Superintendent Exaggerates Computer Illiteracy’s Impact On NAEP Scores.

A [Louisiana Weekly](#) (4/30, Harden) analysis says Louisiana students’ 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are “dismal.” After state Education Superintendent John White previewed “the less-than-impressive scores,” he “wrote a letter to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)” to request “a more detailed breakdown of the data” and to express “concerns the 2017 scores might have more to do with computer literacy.” White has been “considered a darling of the ‘reform’ movement and ideology, of which the wholesale privatization of public education in New Orleans is a central tenet, as well as the statewide voucher program which funnels public money into private schools.” To Louisiana Weekly, however, “even if the 2015 to 2017 scores were impacted by the switch to online testing, the historical NAEP data still makes it a stretch to conclude that White’s tenure and reform in Louisiana is working.”

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Tennessee Leaders Divided On How To Mitigate Problematic Testing Season.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/30, Stringer) reports “cyberattacks and technical glitches over the past two weeks prevented some students” in Tennessee “from taking state tests and caused chaos for teachers and state leaders alike.” The various testing problems led “state legislators to pass a law last month preventing this year’s test results from negatively impacting students’ grades, teacher compensation, or employment status for educators.” Whether the state would be granted a federal waiver to be excused from testing under the Every Student Succeeds Act remains unclear, “as the federal government has shown flexibility in the past but is trying to shift away from waivers.” Meanwhile, some state legislators are calling for

state Education Commissioner Candice McQueen’s resignation, and others are demanding “a return to pencil-and-paper tests.” Tennessee Tech University’s Eric Brown “called the cybersecurity and technological glitches part of

the growing process for schools as they transition not just to online testing but to an online world.”

Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Fix.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas legislature passed “a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they’ve been promised to meet a court mandate.” The new law makes “sure that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended. The House had approved the measure Saturday, and it now goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it.” The state Supreme Court “ruled in October that the state’s current education funding of more than \$4 billion a year isn’t sufficient to provide a suitable education for every child as required by the Kansas Constitution.”

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/30) reports the bill passed “overwhelmingly” and corrects “a mistake embedded in a state law that short-circuited expenditure of a chunk of the \$525 million that is part of a five-year plan boosting aid to public schools.” Legislators “were keen for the Kansas Supreme Court to consider that piece of financing when evaluating constitutionality of the Legislature’s five-year expansion of state aid to K-12 education.” [KSNT-TV](#) Topeka, KS (4/30, Ryan) also covers this story.

Vermont State Lawmakers Consider Rapid Criminal Law Overhaul.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (4/30) reports the “alleged school shooting plot in Fair Haven has sent shock waves through Vermont politics, giving unprecedented momentum to gun restrictions and motivating new changes to criminal law.” Vermont “Gov. Phil Scott has called for quick action” in the wake of the incident, and “leading lawmakers have made the bills a priority.” Any resulting changes to the state’s criminal laws “could not apply to the Fair Haven case, but could make it easier to intervene and prosecute potential mass shooters in the future.” Meanwhile, “some observers have questioned the wisdom of quick changes to criminal laws,” especially with “less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session” to consider such measures. Meanwhile, Scott and “Rutland County State’s Attorney Rose Kennedy have been frustrated by the state’s inability to prosecute [Fair Haven suspect Jack] Sawyer for felony crimes.”

Kentucky Schools Chief Calls For State Takeover Of Jefferson County Schools.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30) reports Kentucky interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis recommended Monday a state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools to address “long-standing problems in the state’s largest school district.” Lewis “cited a flawed system to investigate and account for physical restraints of students, poor achievement test scores and a student assignment plan that ‘has a distinct, negative impact on the most vulnerable populations of JCPS students.’” The state BOE would have to approve the plan.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports Lewis pointed to “the serial abuse of students and an abundance of low-performing schools” in announcing that he “would attempt to seize control of one of the country’s largest school districts in a decision sure to inflame tensions between teachers and the state’s Republican administration.” Lewis’ decision came “after a more than yearlong audit of the governance and administration of Jefferson County Public Schools, which includes Louisville.” Such a takeover “would strip all authority from the elected school board and give it to Lewis.”

Columnist: Give New Superintendent Chance To Improve District. In a column for the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/30), Joseph Gerth writes that Lewis shouldn’t take over the district yet, arguing for Superintendent Marty Pollio to have more time to make improvements. Gerth writes that Pollio has been on the job for only two months, and is “a principal with a track record of turning around a failing school. He should be given a chance to do his job.”

Philanthropist Beutner Likely To Be Named LAUSD Superintendent.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/30, Blume) reports that according to anonymous sources, “the Los Angeles Board of Education is poised to select philanthropist and former investment banker Austin Beutner to be the next superintendent.” The sources say the board already has discussed the terms of Beutner’s contract. As Beutner has no education experience, his selection “would be a signal that the board majority that took control nearly a year ago wants to rely on business management skills instead of insider educational expertise.” The district is facing “serious financial problems,” and addressing those problems “would be a central duty suited to Beutner’s skill set.”

LAUSD Interim Superintendent Wants To Give Principals Teacher Hiring Flexibility.

The [Los Angeles School Report](#) (4/30) reports that under current policies, principals in Los Angeles must fill teaching vacancies by hiring first from “what’s known as the ‘must place’ list. These are teachers who have lost or stepped away from their positions at one school but have not been hired at another.” However, interim Superintendent Vivian Ekchain wants to give principals at 227 struggling LAUSD schools waivers to allow them to skip this process.

New York Schools Chancellor Apologizes For Tweeting “Wealthy White Manhattan Parents Angriily Rant.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/30, Strauss) reports that New York City Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza, who has been on the job for around a month, apologized for a Friday tweet “that includes the words ‘WATCH: Wealthy white Manhattan parents angrily rant.’” Carranza was tweeting about a report “that detailed how some white parents in a wealthy Upper West Side neighborhood in Manhattan were vocally upset at a meeting about a plan to diversify neighborhood schools.” Carranza “apologized to anyone who was offended – while noting that the words in the tweet weren’t actually his. And he said he would push forward with school desegregation.”

Austin ISD Board Approves T-STEM Coalition As Partner For Struggling School.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports Austin Independent School District “trustees Monday night approved a partner to help turn around Mendez Middle School, which is at risk of closure by the state for failing to meet academic standards for four consecutive years.” The partner – the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Coalition (T-STEM Coalition) – will “operate as an in-district charter over the school and will partner with the district, the University of Texas at Tyler, UT Austin’s UTeach Institute, Communities in Schools of Central Texas, and Austin Interfaith.” Teachers and parents said “they were excited” about the potential performance agreement, which Austin ISD “submitted...to the state after the vote.” The Texas Education Agency is expected to “determine whether it approves” of the partnership “within 15 days of the district’s submission.” If TEA approves, “Mendez could get a two-year reprieve from state sanctions and more money per student.”

DC Mayor Open To Independent Review Of School System Plagued By Controversies.

On its website, [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/30, Austermuhle) reports DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson are planning to establish a commission tasked with reviewing the “troubled” DC Public Schools system. In a Monday email, “Bowser spokeswoman LaToya Foster confirmed that the mayor had discussed a ‘top to bottom review by an outside party’ with Mendelson, and that she was on board with the idea.” DCPS is “struggling after months of difficult revelations and persistent scandals, including inflated graduation rates, a failure to properly report school suspensions and allegations of misspending of funds meant to help at-risk students.” Earlier this month, “a super-majority of the Council’s 13 members backed a bill to create a separate body that would review school data and engage in independent research on how the schools could improve,” but the idea evoked

“reservations from Bowser officials, who say they would want any such body to work with the school system – not against it.”

Virginia District To Conduct Transcript Audit Over Incorrectly Weighed GPAs.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/30) reports Richmond Public Schools officials and school board members apologized Monday for inaccurately weighing “dual enrollment and International Baccalaureate courses in students’ grade point averages” over the last four years, “an issue that could lower class rank and affect merit-based scholarships.” RPS “Interim Chief Academic Officer Victoria Oakley said students’ transcripts, along with their adjusted GPA and class rank, were updated and new transcripts will be sent Tuesday – what’s known as National College Decision Day because it’s the common deadline for students to make deposits to attend their desired college.” According to Oakley’s presentation, roughly two in four “seniors at the affected schools had their class rankings increased.” It is “unclear how many students were affected over the past four years, but Oakley said 104 students were affected this year.” RPS will also conduct “a transcript audit for students in grades 9-11.”

Idaho State Superintendent Eyes Second Term.

The [AP](#) (4/30, Kruesi, Press) reports Idaho state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra “is hoping to secure another four-year term as Idaho’s schools chief, but she first must succeed against her opponent Jeff Dillon” in the May 15 Republican primary election. She “narrowly won the open state superintendent of public instruction seat in 2014,” but the “focus on the statewide superintendent spot has softened” this year “due in comparison to high-profile gubernatorial and congressional races also up for grabs.” Ybarra “surprised Idaho’s political experts” in 2014 “by winning the education seat by raising less than \$3,000 in campaign funds and barely traveling outside the small town she lives in,” and she “hasn’t shown signs she plans on breaking any fundraising records this year either.” If Ybarra is victorious in May, she will face one of two Democratic candidates “also running for the position: Boise teacher Cindy Wilson and Boise resident Allen Humble.”

FROM NASSP

May Webinar Lineup: Building Ranks and School Safety

NASSP’s upcoming webinar schedule includes a May 9 session that will help viewers understand the forthcoming *Building Ranks* and its assessment tools. “**Building Culture and Leading Learning: Sizing Yourself Up**” will focus on how leaders can use *Building Ranks*’ prescribed survey instruments to discover their strengths and learn how others perceive their leadership and school culture. On May 23, “**Bullying, Mental Health, and Student Safety: Understanding Links, Legal Requirements, and Best Practices**” will help participants understand key differences between bullying and protected student speech. Listeners will also learn how the links among mental health, bullying, and student safety can inform school policy. [Register for one or both today!](#)

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EDUCATION POLICY

ED Announces \$693 Million For Schools Damaged By Hurricanes, Wildfires.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “announced Monday that two states and Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$700 million in federal money to help their schools recover from natural disaster.” DeVos said that Puerto Rico “will receive \$589 million of this Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program money, while the Texas education department will receive \$89.4 million and California’s department will get \$14.4 million.”

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/30, Subscription Publication) reports ED has announced that the Texas Education Agency will disburse \$89.4 million to “public and private schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey.” The funding comes from “Congress’ \$2.5 billion appropriation to help students affected by various natural disasters last year, including the California wildfires and hurricanes Irma and Maria.” The piece quotes DeVos saying in a statement, “As communities get back on their feet in disaster affected regions, we continue to support them in every way we can. This additional funding will ensure students, teachers and staff have ongoing access to the services they need to fully recover and rebuild.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/30, Matos) reports the storm “inundated schools across Houston and the state’s coastal region, forcing districts to close down some schools and transfer students to other campuses.” Education Commissioner Mike Morath said in October “that it will cost Texas taxpayers \$1.64 billion over the next two years to help schools ravaged by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and avoid financial losses.”

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (4/30) reports DeVos “announced about \$693 million in new federal assistance for education institutions affected by this year’s hurricanes and wildfires. The awards announced Monday are the first in a multi-phased process to provide initial funding.”

The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (4/28) reports ED announced Monday that “Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$600 million in emergency federal assistance to help the island’s schools recover from Hurricane Maria.” The funding is from ED’s Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program, “also known as the K-12 Restart program, which allows the agency to award emergency assistance to schools affected by last year’s natural disasters, including three hurricanes and wildfires.”

Pennsylvania ESSA Plan Broadens School Assessment Criteria.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (4/30) runs an article on the impact ESSA will have on school assessments. The piece says Pennsylvania’s plan “broadens the criteria by which schools are judged to include statistics on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness. While the annual testing is still mandatory, Pennsylvania has reduced its amount and length.”

Few States Pushing School Choice Under ESSA.

[Education Week](#) (4/30) reports that while school choice advocates in Congress were unable to “persuade their colleagues to include Title I portability in” ESSA, “the law...has some limited avenues for states to champion various types of school choice options. But only a handful of states are taking advantage of those opportunities, according to reviews of the plans by Education Week and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Idaho BOE Trying To Find Cause Of College No-Shows.

The [Idaho State Journal](#) (4/30) reports that a number of Idaho high school graduates who are thought to be “college-bound” never show up for fall classes in their freshman year. “It is a yearly phenomenon that educators call

'summer melt' and researchers at Idaho State Board of Education are working to find out how many Idaho students melt away and why it occurs." The piece quotes state BOE Chief Research Officer Carson Howell saying, "We want to understand how to better serve those kids and help them achieve the goals they have set to go to college, that is what this research project is really about."

HIGHER EDUCATION

College Of The Desert's New Donated Observatory Profiled.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (4/30, Behan) says College of the Desert (COD) held a ceremonial opening of the new Mary Reagan Observatory on April 9. Palm Desert resident Ivoj Kudrnac donated "the one-meter telescope and observatory," and it was named "in honor of Kudrnac's late partner of 30 years." The observatory features a "telescope with a 17-inch optical diameter; FLI camera; software and hardware;" and "the funds to create the observatory, totaling \$850,000 in value." The telescope "has already captured pictures of the Spindle Galaxy (NGC 3115), 50 million light-years away, and Crab Nebula, 6,523 light years away." The gift was "decades in the making, beginning when the donor Kudrnac was just a child." Kudrnac said he hopes "the COD observatory will spawn future astrophysicists" and "inspire others who are simply fascinated with the same night sky that drew my own lifelong interest."

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Education Funding Fix, Reverse Higher Education Cuts.

The [AP](#) (4/30) reports the Kansas state legislature "approved a fix for a new education funding law Monday that would prevent public schools from losing \$80 million in new funds they've been promised to meet a court mandate." The follow-up finance bill, which would ensure "that the law enacted in early April phases in a \$534 million increase in education funding as intended," now "goes to Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer, who promised to sign it." Earlier Monday, the state Senate approved in a 28-12 vote "budget legislation that would restore \$18 million in past spending cuts for the state's universities." The measure would add "\$47 million in new spending overall; the state's annual budget is more than \$16 billion." The state House had "approved its own spending bill Saturday and negotiators for the two chambers began meeting Monday to draft the final version of budget legislation."

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos Attends Robotics Competition In Detroit.](#)
- [Congressman Calls On DeVos To Investigate Charlotte Schools Over Anti-Gun "Indoctrination."](#)
- [Students Accuse GWU, Fordham Of Covering Up Sexual Assault Allegations.](#)

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From: "Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 09:32:24 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: National Day of Action - Walkout
To: "CHS Staff" <CHSStaff@CarlsbadSchools.net>

New Mexico's Finest,

Students have been inquiring about the National Day of Action – Walkout.
It is scheduled nationally for 10:00 am.

In the event students should walk out, be advised by the following:

If a student walks out during testing SBA testing, they will invalidate their test.

If/when you learn about student-led efforts, here are some tips for support:

- Meet with student leaders to assess needs and any plans.
- Remind students that counseling and guidance support are available to any student and that Carlsbad Municipal Schools encourages students to reach out
- Remind students that Carlsbad Municipal Schools supports their rights to peaceful assembly and free expression, but that school is about teaching and learning as priority, and that the Carlsbad Municipal Schools Student Code of Conduct remains in place and will be enforced.
- With student input, provide space on campus for students to assemble peacefully, but also ask students not to move off of campus for their own safety and security.
- Help ensure that any efforts to invite participation are open and that the events be inclusive of ALL students.
- Ask students to be respectful of students on campus who may not wish to participate, and/or students who may hold opposing views to those being shared during the event.
- Tell students that there may be increased staff, Carlsbad PD and/or security presence and that this presence is for student and staff protection and safety, not to quell their expression.
- Assess if there are teachable moments that could be relevant to class instruction or lessons.
- Invite student ideas for improving campus safety, security and culture.

If your students decide to walk out, the staging area will be in on the west side of the main building on the lawn. Please direct students that way.

After the allotted time for the walk out, students need to report back to class.

The Carlsbad Municipal School District supports students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression. Our goal in responding to walk-out plans and other forms of peaceful assembly is to try and keep focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance and planning to support student and staff safety.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Adam Garcia Amador
Principal
Carlsbad High School
3000 W. Church
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575.234.3319

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Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to edit
To: <jesse.fuentes@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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National Day of Action Walkout Response

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Thanks. GR

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <tammy.healey@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <yolanda.pirtle@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <adam.amador@carlsbadschools.net>

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Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <deborah.beard@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <lynn.strickland@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <joyce.lindauer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <don.owen@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <kelli.barta@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <mark.barela@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <gabriel.lopez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbadschools.net>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <allison.hervol@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <tamara.faulk@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:56:59 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: <fran.mccarthy@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Yolanda Pirtle (via Google Docs)" <yolanda.pirtle55@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:20:11 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Request for access
To: <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>

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Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 08:58:13 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Request for access
To: <gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>

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From: "La Vern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2018 11:50:31 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:National Day of Action Walkout Response.docx (23.07k)

Dr. Rodríguez,
You may have already seen this. . .but I liked the format and the messaging.
Something along this format in a couple of areas would be excellent guidance to school leaders.
LaVern

From: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 09:16:26 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response
To: "Abel Montoya" <Abel.Montoya@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "David Shoup" <David.Shoup@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Simon Rubio" <Simon.Rubio@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Andrew Harris" <Andrew.Harris@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Ron Singleton" <Ron.Singleton@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Board,

Mr. Harris brought up the National Day of Action Walkouts and asked what administration was going to do about it. I have prepared the following information, and I will be requiring grade 6-12 principals to record a message for students and families for a call-out a couple of days before the April 20th date.

I am open to feedback, and suggestions for messaging and information.

As always, I appreciate your partnership. Please click the link below to view what we are working on. I ask that you **not** email this information to anyone, but instead use it for your information to respond to any inquiries you may receive regarding the walkouts.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing>

Thanks,

—

Greg Rodríguez, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
(575) 234-3300
greg.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net

From: "La Vern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Fri, 23 Feb 2018 22:37:53 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response.docx
To: "La Vern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:ATT00001.txt (32 bytes) National Day of Action Walkout Response.docx (24.5k)

http://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Policy_and_Advocacy/files/National%20Day%20of%20Action%20Walkout%20Response.docx

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Cindy Romero" <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 28 Feb 2018 09:40:38 -0700 (MST)
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout
To: "Andrew Harris" <Andrew.Harris@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments: National Day of Action Walkout Response.pdf (82.79k)

Dr. Rodríguez asked me to forward this to you.

Thanks,

Cindy

From: "Lorie Mitchell" <Lorie.Mitchell@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 14:18:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: National walk-out
"Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Truth LaClair" <Truth.LaClair@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Colleen Skelton"
To: <Colleen.Skelton@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Donna Gonzalez" <Donna.Gonzalez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Jaime Berdoza"
<Jaime.Berdoza@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Jana Smith" <Jana.Smith@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Gabriela Alaniz" <Gabriela.Alaniz@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Have there been any rumblings about this happening here?

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/11/us/national-school-walkout-march-14/index.html?ofs=fbia>

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Rick Shaw" <rickshaw@awareity.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 20 Apr 2018 09:49:47 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: National Walkout Day and the Most Honorable Response.
To: <Undisclosed recipients:;>

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Dear School Leader,

To truly honor the victims of school tragedies across the United States, we need to take real and immediate action to understand lessons learned, gaps, disconnects, and common denominators with all school tragedies... this is the best way to learn HOW to prevent future tragedies in schools.

If you currently have conventional security controls (armed guards, SROs, locks, alarms, access control, cameras, threat assessment teams, and security apps, etc.) you may think you are doing everything you can to ensure your students, staff, and security are safe.

Many or all of these security measures were in place at Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, yet they did not prevent the violence that unfolded.

Evidence shows the same problems have been occurring from 1999 through 2018 despite the observed warning signs from multiple communities, as demonstrated in the timeline put together here:

[Warning signs- timelines from Columbine to Marjory Stoneman Douglas.](#)

The proven-solution complements conventional security controls as well as implementing a Community-wide "Connecting the Dots" Platform from Awareity so the Warning Signs/Dots (almost always observed and reported in silos) can be connected together BEFORE incidents occur and more effectively and immediately connected with the appropriate Team Members (school administration, threat, behavior, safety, intervention, community social services, community mental health, community law enforcement, etc.) who can intervene and disrupt evil before it happens.

To learn more contact me directly or request more info at <http://awareity.com/info-request/>.

Sincerely,



Rick Shaw

Founder/CEO of Awareity
RickShaw@awareity.com



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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 05:38:33 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

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Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its "Meet the Masters" program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program "has been held after school locally once a week." The Arts Commission financed the program's "curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists." The "Meet the Masters" program "has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website," but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children "participated in the program when the family was living in California."

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams "the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called 'Aqua Adventure.'" Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday's event, explained that not a competition, as "FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students 'exposed to a very simple programming concept.'"

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana's state legislative session,

state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

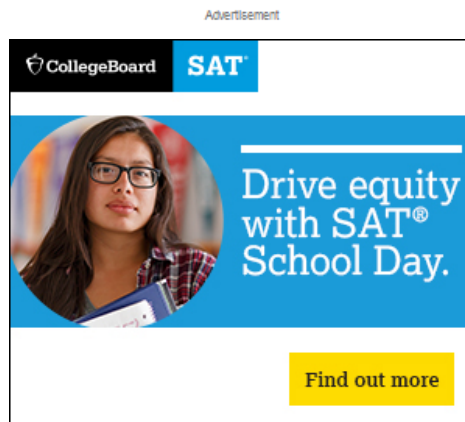
[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking “to devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that

under Sweeney's plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be "paid for by a corporate-tax" increase. However, it's unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, "I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education." He added, "Every district has this problem." He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

Congress Proposes Contrasting School Safety Bills.

[Education Week](#) (3/12) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, congressional Republicans "want to focus on school-safety initiatives, not gun control." The House and Senate are both pushing bills called the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act that are broadly similar, but there are "a few key areas where the bills aren't the same." The article contrasts the two plans.

[ABC News](#) (3/12, Phelps) reports President Trump is "set to endorse formally" the STOP School Violence Act and the "FIX NICS Bill, which calls for making improvements to the nation's background check system."



Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 "in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level." The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address "keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students "are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's

Day in a way that won't cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence." Local students "say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took." However, "three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems." Also reporting are [WRC-TV](#) [Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer "spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton," and on August 14, "the first day of school for the district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response

team if a shooter enters a building.” The Post adds that “in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators’ permission,” and that “after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach.”

Teachers Report Feeling “Hyper-Aware” Of Possibility Of Threats After Parkland.

[NBC News](#) (3/12) reports that Sylvania, Ohio high school teacher Dan Greenberg says “he’s hyper-aware of the possibility of more school shootings” in a way that he was not before the Parkland massacre. The attack “has left an indelible uneasiness among teachers and students across the country — and a determination to bring a sense of safety back to the classroom.”

Iowa District Debates Training Students To Fight Back.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (3/12) reports that administrators in Ames, Iowa have revisited how they are preparing for potential active shooter attacks, and that the debate is centered on whether to train students “to fight back” in such a scenario. The district already puts staff through ALICE Training, which “stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate.” The ‘C’ in this acronym, for ‘counter,’ is controversial, because it means training people to fight back if a person with a gun enters their classroom.” The article notes that ED “has supported teaching adults the fight method, but not students.”

FBI: Over 100 School Threats In Louisiana Since Parkland Shootings.

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports the FBI and Louisiana state police said on Monday that in the month since the Parkland massacre, “authorities have investigated at least 106 threats of violence in or near schools in Louisiana.” This report came “as the University of New Orleans was reopening its campus following the arrest of a suspect in one such threat.”

Parents, Officials Express Concerns About Indiana Bullying Prevention System.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports on “large discrepancies” in Indiana state data on school bullying which “officials and parents worried” that schools are failing to report many bullying incidents to the state as required by a five-year-old law. “Last academic year, Indiana schools reported more than 4,500 instances of bullying — a number parents say barely scratches the surface, and officials acknowledge is likely inaccurate.”

Family Of Alabama School Shooting Victim Calls For Reform.

The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was “killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances.”

FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies present the next in their college admission and planning webinar series, “**You’re Accepted—Now What?**” The webinar is ideal for seniors faced with a decision in choosing one school among multiple offers. For those students who have made a selection, valuable tips to prepare

for fall entry will be shared. Younger NHS and NJHS members will also pick up important guidance well before faced with the decision-making process. The webinar airs Wednesday, March 21, 7:00–8:00 p.m. (ET). Registration is now open for NHS and NJHS student members, parents, and faculty/staff of affiliated schools at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

The National Honor Societies—NHS and NJHS—are programs of NASSP.

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EDUCATION POLICY

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

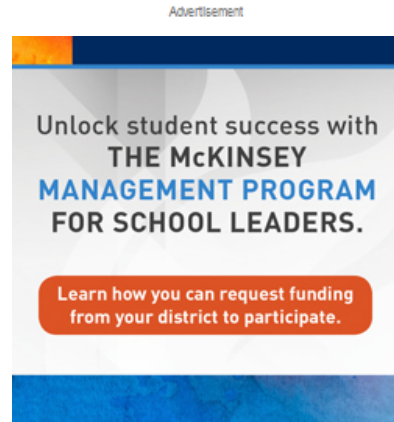
[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ “announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety.” Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, “No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence.” Sessions “will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions’ “proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications.” Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, “It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is

prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you.” Sessions also “sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding ‘swift and aggressive’ prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications.”

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also “offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also “reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would ‘effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession’ of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday.” However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), “neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump’s plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions’s actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law.”



DeVos Touts Administration’s School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC’s “Today” to promote “the Trump administration’s plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn’t be ‘appropriate.’” Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie “what percentage of teachers should be armed,” DeVos replied, “I don’t have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it’s appropriate.” Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, “I don’t think that would be appropriate and I don’t think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it.”

Asked on [NBC’s Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by “assault-style” weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, “The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis.” Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, “Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners.”

DeVos was asked on [NBC’s Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, “What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective,” DeVos said, “I don’t have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where’s it’s appropriate.” Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, “I don’t think that would be appropriate. And I don’t think anybody would agree that would be.” DeVos added, “This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined.”

Asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to “harden the schools,” DeVos said, “That’s one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state.” DeVos added that “there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop

Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a 'disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.'"

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration's school safety plan includes "the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration's 'Rethink School Discipline' policies." The announcement sparked concern among "school safety, civil rights and teachers' advocates," who "say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn't discriminate against minority and disabled students."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos' history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission "will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms." The Times quotes DeVos saying, "Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps."

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne

Community Schools “saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools.” FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that “it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which “has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome.” In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was “pleased with the content of the memo,” with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials “are glad to know that PARCC’s days are numbered,” as “it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey’s classrooms.”

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that “it’s a little more complicated” than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to “promptly jettison” PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot “just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served,” NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie’s administration had a “desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

DeVos Stresses States’ Lack Authority To Regulate Student Loan Servicers.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (3/12) reports that on Friday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos issued a legal interpretation regarding “whether states have the authority to regulate federal student loan servicers,” saying “that the federal government exclusively has the power to provide that oversight.” DeVos argued that state regulatory efforts “conflict with federal law and the obligations of federally contracted entities.” Democrats and consumer advocacy groups “called it another attempt to weaken protections for student loan borrowers.”

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (3/12) reports that ED published a notice in the Federal Register on Monday laying out “that the federal government, not the states, is responsible for overseeing loan servicing. But several state legislatures are considering — or have passed — bills to tighten the rules governing the companies, and the department’s new interpretation would pre-empt those laws.” This piece reports “several consumer advocates and state attorneys general quickly voiced their displeasure with the department’s interpretation after it became clear on Friday that the department would use a broad reading of its authority. And two Democratic attorneys general said they would disregard the guidance.”

Universities Express Concern About Shrinking Number Of Student Visas.

[CNN Money](#) (3/12, Kavilanz) reports that according to recent data from the State Department, “the number of F-1 visas issued to foreign students seeking to attend college and other types of academic institutions in the United States decreased by 17% in the year that ended September 30, 2017.” The piece quotes Earl Johnson, vice president of enrollment and student services at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, saying, “The current administration’s ‘America First’ mantra is causing [international students] a great deal of anxiety and fear. Also, the cost of college tuition, on average, has gone up 40% in the last 10 years. It’s weighing on them.” The article says these developments are “bad news for schools that have large international student populations.”

Op-Ed: Survey Results Show US College Students More Inclined To Protest Free Speech.

In an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (3/9) Jeffrey Selingo, a professor of practice at Arizona State University, notes the results of a new Gallup and Knight Foundation survey released Monday of 3,000 US college students. The survey indicated that students “generally endorse the ideals of free speech.” However, “once that speech begins to infringe on their values, they’re likely to support policies that place limits on speech” like “free-speech zones, speech codes and prohibitions on hate speech.” The survey found that 53% “think that handing out literature on controversial issues is ‘always acceptable.’” Furthermore, 37% “said that shouting down speakers was acceptable, at least sometimes” while 10% “said it was acceptable sometimes to use violence to prevent someone from speaking.” Selingo concludes by saying that students are not “protesting with as much passion about the things that directly affect them: cuts to state budgets, taxes on endowments and proposals before Congress right now to revise federal student loans.”

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)
- [New Education Department Guidance Tells State Regulators To “Back Off” Student Loan Servicers.](#)

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its "Meet the Masters" program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program "has been held after school locally once a week." The Arts Commission financed the program's "curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists." The "Meet the Masters" program "has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website," but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children "participated in the program when the family was living in California."

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams "the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called 'Aqua Adventure.'" Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday's event, explained that not a competition, as "FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students 'exposed to a very simple programming concept.'"

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana's state legislative session,

state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

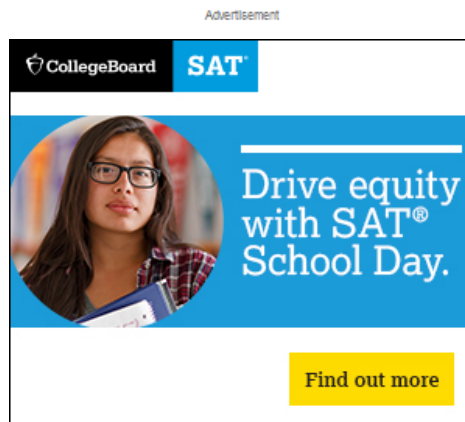
[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking “to devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that

under Sweeney's plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be "paid for by a corporate-tax" increase. However, it's unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, "I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education." He added, "Every district has this problem." He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

Congress Proposes Contrasting School Safety Bills.

[Education Week](#) (3/12) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, congressional Republicans "want to focus on school-safety initiatives, not gun control." The House and Senate are both pushing bills called the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act that are broadly similar, but there are "a few key areas where the bills aren't the same." The article contrasts the two plans.

[ABC News](#) (3/12, Phelps) reports President Trump is "set to endorse formally" the STOP School Violence Act and the "FIX NICS Bill, which calls for making improvements to the nation's background check system."



Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 "in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level." The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address "keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students "are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's

Day in a way that won't cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence." Local students "say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took." However, "three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems." Also reporting are [WRC-TV](#) [Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

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The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was “killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances.”

FROM NASSP

College Decision-Making Is Focus of Next NHS/NJHS College Planning Webinar

The National Honor Societies present the next in their college admission and planning webinar series, “**You’re Accepted—Now What?**” The webinar is ideal for seniors faced with a decision in choosing one school among multiple offers. For those students who have made a selection, valuable tips to prepare

for fall entry will be shared. Younger NHS and NJHS members will also pick up important guidance well before faced with the decision-making process. The webinar airs Wednesday, March 21, 7:00–8:00 p.m. (ET). Registration is now open for NHS and NJHS student members, parents, and faculty/staff of affiliated schools at www.nhs.us/webinars and www.njhs.us/webinars.

The National Honor Societies—NHS and NJHS—are programs of NASSP.

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EDUCATION POLICY

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

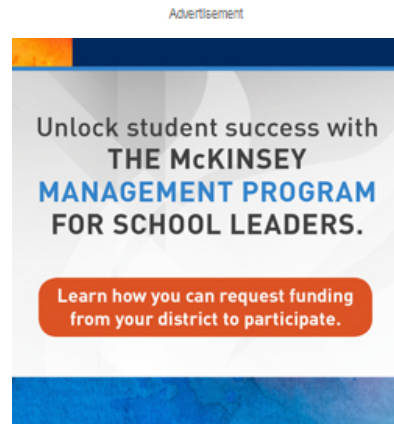
[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ “announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety.” Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, “No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence.” Sessions “will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions’ “proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications.” Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, “It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is

prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you.” Sessions also “sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding ‘swift and aggressive’ prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications.”

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also “offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also “reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would ‘effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession’ of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday.” However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), “neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump’s plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions’s actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law.”



DeVos Touts Administration’s School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC’s “Today” to promote “the Trump administration’s plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn’t be ‘appropriate.’” Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie “what percentage of teachers should be armed,” DeVos replied, “I don’t have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it’s appropriate.” Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, “I don’t think that would be appropriate and I don’t think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it.”

Asked on [NBC’s Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by “assault-style” weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, “The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis.” Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, “Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners.”

DeVos was asked on [NBC’s Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, “What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective,” DeVos said, “I don’t have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where’s it’s appropriate.” Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, “I don’t think that would be appropriate. And I don’t think anybody would agree that would be.” DeVos added, “This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined.”

Asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to “harden the schools,” DeVos said, “That’s one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state.” DeVos added that “there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop

Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a 'disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.'"

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration's school safety plan includes "the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration's 'Rethink School Discipline' policies." The announcement sparked concern among "school safety, civil rights and teachers' advocates," who "say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn't discriminate against minority and disabled students."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos' history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission "will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms." The Times quotes DeVos saying, "Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps."

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne

Community Schools “saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools.” FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that “it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which “has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome.” In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was “pleased with the content of the memo,” with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials “are glad to know that PARCC’s days are numbered,” as “it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey’s classrooms.”

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that “it’s a little more complicated” than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to “promptly jettison” PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot “just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served,” NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie’s administration had a “desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

DeVos Stresses States’ Lack Authority To Regulate Student Loan Servicers.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (3/12) reports that on Friday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos issued a legal interpretation regarding “whether states have the authority to regulate federal student loan servicers,” saying “that the federal government exclusively has the power to provide that oversight.” DeVos argued that state regulatory efforts “conflict with federal law and the obligations of federally contracted entities.” Democrats and consumer advocacy groups “called it another attempt to weaken protections for student loan borrowers.”

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (3/12) reports that ED published a notice in the Federal Register on Monday laying out “that the federal government, not the states, is responsible for overseeing loan servicing. But several state legislatures are considering — or have passed — bills to tighten the rules governing the companies, and the department’s new interpretation would pre-empt those laws.” This piece reports “several consumer advocates and state attorneys general quickly voiced their displeasure with the department’s interpretation after it became clear on Friday that the department would use a broad reading of its authority. And two Democratic attorneys general said they would disregard the guidance.”

Universities Express Concern About Shrinking Number Of Student Visas.

[CNN Money](#) (3/12, Kavilanz) reports that according to recent data from the State Department, “the number of F-1 visas issued to foreign students seeking to attend college and other types of academic institutions in the United States decreased by 17% in the year that ended September 30, 2017.” The piece quotes Earl Johnson, vice president of enrollment and student services at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, saying, “The current administration’s ‘America First’ mantra is causing [international students] a great deal of anxiety and fear. Also, the cost of college tuition, on average, has gone up 40% in the last 10 years. It’s weighing on them.” The article says these developments are “bad news for schools that have large international student populations.”

Op-Ed: Survey Results Show US College Students More Inclined To Protest Free Speech.

In an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (3/9) Jeffrey Selingo, a professor of practice at Arizona State University, notes the results of a new Gallup and Knight Foundation survey released Monday of 3,000 US college students. The survey indicated that students “generally endorse the ideals of free speech.” However, “once that speech begins to infringe on their values, they’re likely to support policies that place limits on speech” like “free-speech zones, speech codes and prohibitions on hate speech.” The survey found that 53% “think that handing out literature on controversial issues is ‘always acceptable.’” Furthermore, 37% “said that shouting down speakers was acceptable, at least sometimes” while 10% “said it was acceptable sometimes to use violence to prevent someone from speaking.” Selingo concludes by saying that students are not “protesting with as much passion about the things that directly affect them: cuts to state budgets, taxes on endowments and proposals before Congress right now to revise federal student loans.”

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [Investigations Seek Answers About Parkland, Florida School Shooting.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)
- [New Education Department Guidance Tells State Regulators To “Back Off” Student Loan Servicers.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2018 05:38:25 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Thursday, April 26, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement

Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/25) reports teachers in Arizona are making preparations for a "mass teacher walkout" on Thursday. On Wednesday, "thousands of Arizona educators and supporters" took part in protests to make "their final public stand" before the walkout. "For the hundreds of educators who lined the street, it was one part protest, one part mutual acknowledgment that years of frustration and weeks of action were about to explode."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports Arizona teachers "will walk out on Thursday in the first-ever statewide strike to press for higher salaries and school funding." The walkout follows "three days of school 'walk-ins' this week. Walk-ins are meant to be a nondisruptive way for parents and community members to join

educators before or after school hours to show their support." Gov. Doug Ducey (R) "has said he will urge the state legislature to pass a 20 percent pay raise for teachers," but educators are "skeptical of the plan, questioning where the money will come from." Echoing this concern, the state PTA has withdrawn support. "However, the Arizona School Boards Association and the Association of School Business Officials still support the plan."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports "tens of thousands" of Arizona and Colorado teachers are expected to "walk out of their classrooms and head to the state capitols" on Thursday. Says Arizona Education Association President Joe Thomas, "I know that it sounds like it's almost incredulous that anyone would ask for that much of a raise, but we're just trying to get competitive salaries. A 20 percent raise still has us beneath the national average."

The [Denver Post](#) (4/25) reports that in Colorado, "thousands of teachers from mostly Front Range school districts" in Colorado "are expected to march to the state Capitol" on Thursday and Friday "to demand more state funding for schools and a fix for the state's pension plan for public employees."

Arizona Republic: Ducey Plan Would Require New Revenue Stream. An [Arizona Republic](#) (4/23) editorial explores the factors that have led Arizona teachers to “a breaking point,” citing data from a new Education Resource Strategies report which show that the state’s “investment in K-12 has been behind nationally since 1990.” The editors say that polling shows widespread public support for Ducey’s plan to give teachers a 20% raise, but add that “teachers who began this movement are correct in voicing strong concerns about how this will be financed in future years. Ducey’s plan does not create a dedicated funding source for what would be a significant increase in state spending.” The paper concedes that Ducey’s plan could serve as a “stopgap,” but argues that “in the long run, Arizona will need new revenue to sustain the promised raises and the other necessary investments in our schools.”

New Research Explores Preschool “Fade Out.”

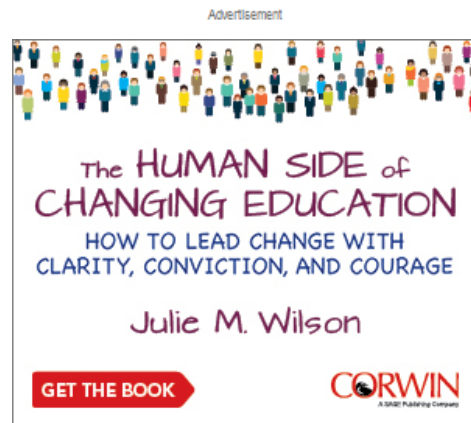
[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports that early childhood education research has shown that the academic improvements attributable to pre-K education fade in the ensuing years. “Two new studies have tackled the topic of early-education ‘fadeout’” and reached “similar conclusions: For positive benefits to last, early-childhood programs have to be of high quality and can’t be seen as a one-shot inoculation that will sustain children throughout their academic careers.”

Students From Around Globe Converge On Detroit For FIRST Robotics Competition.

The [Detroit News](#) (4/25) reports students from around the world gathered in Detroit in Wednesday for the first day of the FIRST Robotics Competition. “More than 15,000 students on 700 teams from 37 countries are fighting for bragging rights for the best robot and inventions in competitions through Saturday.” The News quotes FIRST President Donald Bossi saying, “We’re a friendly version of TV’s Battle Bots. We are a competition, but it’s not that head-to-head-I-need-to-beat-you type of thing.” Students take part in robotics and technology challenges.

Houston Students Selected For National Rocketry Competition.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25, Stuckey) reports students at Harmony Science Academy in Houston, along with 100 other teams from around the US, have been selected to compete in the 16th annual Team America Rocketry Challenge, which “aims to encourage students to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields by having middle and high school students design, build and fly rockets.”



Teachers At First Unionized DC Charter School Rally To Protest High Consultant Spending.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Stein) reports that teachers at Chavez Prep Middle, “the first DC charter school to unionize,” are “taking to the streets of a D.C. neighborhood to press their case that the school is spending millions of dollars on consultants while cutting core classroom positions.” The Post characterizes the protest as “a rare battle between teachers and administrators at a charter school.” Teachers, who voted in June to be represented by the American Federation of Teachers, “say the administration’s spending is hurting students, who predominantly come from low-income, Hispanic families.”

Wisconsin AG Urges Districts To Apply For School

Security Grants.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, speaking at a school in Madison on Wednesday, “said the state will use \$30 million in grants to ensure that by fall all Wisconsin schools are using a single secure entrance and other basic safeguards.” Schimel “said by mid-June he wants to award the first round of school safety grants, which could go to thousands of public and private schools.” Said Schimel, “We need to get every school to a baseline. Our hope is that we can get the grant (awards) to schools in time to have construction happen over the summer.”

The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (4/25, Beck) reports Schimel was speaking at St. Dennis School in Madison, which “has a small sign that directs visitors to register at the school office, and not much else. Some of the entryway’s glass is shatterproof, there are security cameras in the front hallway, but nobody’s guarding the door.” The school’s administrators “hope that will change this year through \$100 million in school safety grants lawmakers approved earlier this year.” Schimel “announced the start of the grant application process at the school Wednesday – urging all public and private schools to apply for a grant to ensure students in their buildings have at least ‘baseline’ measures in place to prevent school violence.” The [AP](#) (4/24) reports Schimel “said Wednesday that he’ll work to give a share of new safety grants to every school that applies, but buildings that need basic security upgrades will be a priority.”

Florida Senators Push Bill To Expand Secret Service Threat Center To Prevent School Shootings.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) have introduced legislation “to expand the U.S. Secret Service’s National Threat Assessment Center” as part of an effort to prevent school shootings. Rubio released a statement saying, “To prevent future tragedies like Parkland, a multi-pronged approach is needed to ensure that threats do not fall through the cracks. By providing funding to the National Threat Assessment Center, top-notch research to stop school violence will help prevent future tragedies,” Rubio said in a statement.

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements—Last Call for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Today is the last day to submit any comments or recommendations you have for this statement. Please submit them to Amanda Karhuse, NASSP’s director of advocacy, at karhusea@nassp.org today.

Connect with NASSP:   

EDUCATION POLICY

New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding.

The [New York Times](#) (4/25, Harris, Subscription Publication) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday a \$125 million boost in public school funding, but his statement “was overshadowed by Mr. de Blasio’s suggestion, in response to questions from reporters, that the number of sexual harassment allegations at the education department was inflated because of a ‘hyper complaint dynamic’ at the department.” De Blasio spoke about “what he described as a culture of complaint-filing.” The Times says the school funding boost “was intended to narrow the substantial gaps between how much money schools in the city receive. At the announcement, Mr. de Blasio repeatedly criticized Albany for failing to fund schools sufficiently, and said the city was stepping up where the state was not.”

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/25) reports the funding boost “means that all city schools will soon receive at least 90 percent of the money they are supposed to get under the city’s funding formula.” De Blasio said the supplement “will allow 854 schools to spend more on things like literacy specialists, tutoring, supplies, and technology.” However, Chalkbeat reports, “many schools will still not reach the level the city considers fully funded.” Principals have complained that short of this goal, “the neediest schools will struggle to afford crucial services, such as additional academic programs or after-school classes.”

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Education Stakeholders Address Chronic Absenteeism, Discipline Practices Under ESSA.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that district officials and education advocates took part in a Brookings Institution forum on “expanded accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act.” Attendees said that “as more states rate schools based on how many of their students are chronically absent, policymakers must consider harsh discipline practices, an issue at the fore in education circles as the Education Department considers whether to revoke federal guidance on disparate discipline.” The Seventy Four adds that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “has held several ‘listening sessions’ as she considers removing a 2014 guidance document that urged schools to limit exclusionary discipline, like suspensions and expulsions, and reminded district

leaders that disparate discipline outcomes based on race could be a violation of federal law.”

Civil Rights Data Collection Could Affect DeVos School Discipline Decision.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/25, Wermund) reports on the potential impact of the release this week of ED’s Civil Rights Data Collection on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ decision over whether to “scrap Obama-era school discipline guidance.” The data make “clear that big disparities remain in the way students are treated in the nation’s schools.” Politico says the report “shows that black students and those with disabilities are suspended and arrested far more often than their peers – just as DeVos is mulling whether to scrap policies meant to combat those problems.”

Missouri Senate, House Pass Rival School Funding Boost Measures.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Ballentine) reports that on Wednesday the Missouri state Senate passed “a budget proposal that would give more money to public K-12 schools in the upcoming fiscal year, but not as much as recommended by their House colleagues.” The Senate plan “would give \$48 million more in core school funding in the fiscal year that begins in July.” The plan passed by the House gives \$50 million more and would meet “funding goals outlined in

state law.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Education Tech Trends Expected To Dominate Coming Year.

[THE Journal](#) (4/25) reports on a number of emerging education technology trends, such as virtual reality, project-based learning, makerspaces, a growing focus on computational thinking, and the protection of student data privacy, which are “evolving in new ways that we believe will dominate education conversations for the rest of the year.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



State Data On How Well High Schools Prepare Students For College Lacking.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that only nine states gather and report data on how well students from specific high schools do in college, and only two “publish full information on whether students from specific high schools go on to graduate from postsecondary education.” The Seventy Four quotes nonprofit education data group GreatSchools Chief Strategy Officer Samantha Brown Olivieri saying, “A clear reason is that [states are] not federally mandated to publish this data. But more and more states are seeing their role as the data steward – not just one of compliance, but one of transparency, and they’re using data to inform improvement rather than as just a form of reporting for accountability.” The article adds that ESSA “requires states

to report how many graduates from individual high schools enroll in postsecondary education, but it doesn’t mandate states to follow those students through college and see how they perform once they’re there, and whether they ultimately earn a degree.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Student Loan Report Admits Founder, Editor Does Not Exist.

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (4/24) reported that Drew Cloud, founder of the website Student Loan Report, “has been quoted in major news outlets, including The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, and CNBC, and is a fixture in the smaller, specialized blogosphere of student debt.” However, “he’s a fiction, the invention of a student-loan refinancing company.” The piece quotes Nate Matherson, CEO of student loan refinancing firm LendEDU, saying in a statement, “Drew Cloud is a pseudonym that a diverse group of authors at Student Loan Report, LLC use to share experiences and information related to the challenges college students face with funding their education.” However, before this revelation, “Cloud had corresponded at length with many journalists, pitching them stories and offering email interviews, many of which were published.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Siegel) reports “Cloud,” who “has been quoted by a wide array of news outlets, is

a fictitious person manufactured by a for-profit student loan refinancing firm called LendEDU, the company acknowledged Wednesday.” The identity “was manufactured when LendEDU created a news site called The Student Loan Report in 2016.” The Post reports that “Matherson also acknowledged that The Student Loan Report had written about LendEDU without acknowledging that it had a relationship with the company in those articles.”

[NPR](#) (4/25, Ingber) reports Chronicle of Higher Education reporters were seeking information from “Cloud” because they “were skeptical of a survey conducted by The Student Loan Report and published on its website. More than one in five students were using excess money from their loans to invest in cryptocurrency, according to the survey.”

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Suspends Greek Organizations After Racially Charged Incidents.

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2018 05:38:25 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Thursday, April 26, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Arizona, Colorado Teachers Set To Begin Walkouts.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/25) reports teachers in Arizona are making preparations for a "mass teacher walkout" on Thursday. On Wednesday, "thousands of Arizona educators and supporters" took part in protests to make "their final public stand" before the walkout. "For the hundreds of educators who lined the street, it was one part protest, one part mutual acknowledgment that years of frustration and weeks of action were about to explode."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports Arizona teachers "will walk out on Thursday in the first-ever statewide strike to press for higher salaries and school funding." The walkout follows "three days of school 'walk-ins' this week. Walk-ins are meant to be a nondisruptive way for parents and community members to join

educators before or after school hours to show their support." Gov. Doug Ducey (R) "has said he will urge the state legislature to pass a 20 percent pay raise for teachers," but educators are "skeptical of the plan, questioning where the money will come from." Echoing this concern, the state PTA has withdrawn support. "However, the Arizona School Boards Association and the Association of School Business Officials still support the plan."

[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports "tens of thousands" of Arizona and Colorado teachers are expected to "walk out of their classrooms and head to the state capitols" on Thursday. Says Arizona Education Association President Joe Thomas, "I know that it sounds like it's almost incredulous that anyone would ask for that much of a raise, but we're just trying to get competitive salaries. A 20 percent raise still has us beneath the national average."

The [Denver Post](#) (4/25) reports that in Colorado, "thousands of teachers from mostly Front Range school districts" in Colorado "are expected to march to the state Capitol" on Thursday and Friday "to demand more state funding for schools and a fix for the state's pension plan for public employees."

Arizona Republic: Ducey Plan Would Require New Revenue Stream. An [Arizona Republic](#) (4/23) editorial explores the factors that have led Arizona teachers to “a breaking point,” citing data from a new Education Resource Strategies report which show that the state’s “investment in K-12 has been behind nationally since 1990.” The editors say that polling shows widespread public support for Ducey’s plan to give teachers a 20% raise, but add that “teachers who began this movement are correct in voicing strong concerns about how this will be financed in future years. Ducey’s plan does not create a dedicated funding source for what would be a significant increase in state spending.” The paper concedes that Ducey’s plan could serve as a “stopgap,” but argues that “in the long run, Arizona will need new revenue to sustain the promised raises and the other necessary investments in our schools.”

New Research Explores Preschool “Fade Out.”

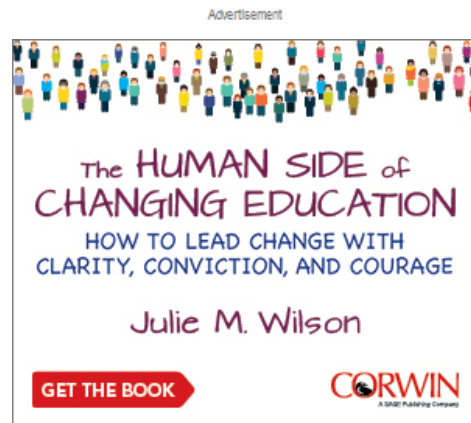
[Education Week](#) (4/25) reports that early childhood education research has shown that the academic improvements attributable to pre-K education fade in the ensuing years. “Two new studies have tackled the topic of early-education ‘fadeout’” and reached “similar conclusions: For positive benefits to last, early-childhood programs have to be of high quality and can’t be seen as a one-shot inoculation that will sustain children throughout their academic careers.”

Students From Around Globe Converge On Detroit For FIRST Robotics Competition.

The [Detroit News](#) (4/25) reports students from around the world gathered in Detroit in Wednesday for the first day of the FIRST Robotics Competition. “More than 15,000 students on 700 teams from 37 countries are fighting for bragging rights for the best robot and inventions in competitions through Saturday.” The News quotes FIRST President Donald Bossi saying, “We’re a friendly version of TV’s Battle Bots. We are a competition, but it’s not that head-to-head-I-need-to-beat-you type of thing.” Students take part in robotics and technology challenges.

Houston Students Selected For National Rocketry Competition.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/25, Stuckey) reports students at Harmony Science Academy in Houston, along with 100 other teams from around the US, have been selected to compete in the 16th annual Team America Rocketry Challenge, which “aims to encourage students to enter Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields by having middle and high school students design, build and fly rockets.”



Teachers At First Unionized DC Charter School Rally To Protest High Consultant Spending.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Stein) reports that teachers at Chavez Prep Middle, “the first DC charter school to unionize,” are “taking to the streets of a D.C. neighborhood to press their case that the school is spending millions of dollars on consultants while cutting core classroom positions.” The Post characterizes the protest as “a rare battle between teachers and administrators at a charter school.” Teachers, who voted in June to be represented by the American Federation of Teachers, “say the administration’s spending is hurting students, who predominantly come from low-income, Hispanic families.”

Wisconsin AG Urges Districts To Apply For School

Security Grants.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, speaking at a school in Madison on Wednesday, “said the state will use \$30 million in grants to ensure that by fall all Wisconsin schools are using a single secure entrance and other basic safeguards.” Schimel “said by mid-June he wants to award the first round of school safety grants, which could go to thousands of public and private schools.” Said Schimel, “We need to get every school to a baseline. Our hope is that we can get the grant (awards) to schools in time to have construction happen over the summer.”

The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (4/25, Beck) reports Schimel was speaking at St. Dennis School in Madison, which “has a small sign that directs visitors to register at the school office, and not much else. Some of the entryway’s glass is shatterproof, there are security cameras in the front hallway, but nobody’s guarding the door.” The school’s administrators “hope that will change this year through \$100 million in school safety grants lawmakers approved earlier this year.” Schimel “announced the start of the grant application process at the school Wednesday – urging all public and private schools to apply for a grant to ensure students in their buildings have at least ‘baseline’ measures in place to prevent school violence.” The [AP](#) (4/24) reports Schimel “said Wednesday that he’ll work to give a share of new safety grants to every school that applies, but buildings that need basic security upgrades will be a priority.”

Florida Senators Push Bill To Expand Secret Service Threat Center To Prevent School Shootings.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (4/25) reports Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) have introduced legislation “to expand the U.S. Secret Service’s National Threat Assessment Center” as part of an effort to prevent school shootings. Rubio released a statement saying, “To prevent future tragedies like Parkland, a multi-pronged approach is needed to ensure that threats do not fall through the cracks. By providing funding to the National Threat Assessment Center, top-notch research to stop school violence will help prevent future tragedies,” Rubio said in a statement.

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements—Last Call for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Today is the last day to submit any comments or recommendations you have for this statement. Please submit them to Amanda Karhuse, NASSP’s director of advocacy, at karhusea@nassp.org today.

Connect with NASSP:   

EDUCATION POLICY

New York Mayor Announces Plan To Equalize School Funding.

The [New York Times](#) (4/25, Harris, Subscription Publication) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday a \$125 million boost in public school funding, but his statement “was overshadowed by Mr. de Blasio’s suggestion, in response to questions from reporters, that the number of sexual harassment allegations at the education department was inflated because of a ‘hyper complaint dynamic’ at the department.” De Blasio spoke about “what he described as a culture of complaint-filing.” The Times says the school funding boost “was intended to narrow the substantial gaps between how much money schools in the city receive. At the announcement, Mr. de Blasio repeatedly criticized Albany for failing to fund schools sufficiently, and said the city was stepping up where the state was not.”

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/25) reports the funding boost “means that all city schools will soon receive at least 90 percent of the money they are supposed to get under the city’s funding formula.” De Blasio said the supplement “will allow 854 schools to spend more on things like literacy specialists, tutoring, supplies, and technology.” However, Chalkbeat reports, “many schools will still not reach the level the city considers fully funded.” Principals have complained that short of this goal, “the neediest schools will struggle to afford crucial services, such as additional academic programs or after-school classes.”

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Education Stakeholders Address Chronic Absenteeism, Discipline Practices Under ESSA.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that district officials and education advocates took part in a Brookings Institution forum on “expanded accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act.” Attendees said that “as more states rate schools based on how many of their students are chronically absent, policymakers must consider harsh discipline practices, an issue at the fore in education circles as the Education Department considers whether to revoke federal guidance on disparate discipline.” The Seventy Four adds that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “has held several ‘listening sessions’ as she considers removing a 2014 guidance document that urged schools to limit exclusionary discipline, like suspensions and expulsions, and reminded district

leaders that disparate discipline outcomes based on race could be a violation of federal law.”

Civil Rights Data Collection Could Affect DeVos School Discipline Decision.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/25, Wermund) reports on the potential impact of the release this week of ED’s Civil Rights Data Collection on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ decision over whether to “scrap Obama-era school discipline guidance.” The data make “clear that big disparities remain in the way students are treated in the nation’s schools.” Politico says the report “shows that black students and those with disabilities are suspended and arrested far more often than their peers – just as DeVos is mulling whether to scrap policies meant to combat those problems.”

Missouri Senate, House Pass Rival School Funding Boost Measures.

The [AP](#) (4/25, Ballentine) reports that on Wednesday the Missouri state Senate passed “a budget proposal that would give more money to public K-12 schools in the upcoming fiscal year, but not as much as recommended by their House colleagues.” The Senate plan “would give \$48 million more in core school funding in the fiscal year that begins in July.” The plan passed by the House gives \$50 million more and would meet “funding goals outlined in

state law.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

New Education Tech Trends Expected To Dominate Coming Year.

[THE Journal](#) (4/25) reports on a number of emerging education technology trends, such as virtual reality, project-based learning, makerspaces, a growing focus on computational thinking, and the protection of student data privacy, which are “evolving in new ways that we believe will dominate education conversations for the rest of the year.”

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



State Data On How Well High Schools Prepare Students For College Lacking.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/25) reports that only nine states gather and report data on how well students from specific high schools do in college, and only two “publish full information on whether students from specific high schools go on to graduate from postsecondary education.” The Seventy Four quotes nonprofit education data group GreatSchools Chief Strategy Officer Samantha Brown Olivieri saying, “A clear reason is that [states are] not federally mandated to publish this data. But more and more states are seeing their role as the data steward – not just one of compliance, but one of transparency, and they’re using data to inform improvement rather than as just a form of reporting for accountability.” The article adds that ESSA “requires states

to report how many graduates from individual high schools enroll in postsecondary education, but it doesn’t mandate states to follow those students through college and see how they perform once they’re there, and whether they ultimately earn a degree.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Student Loan Report Admits Founder, Editor Does Not Exist.

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (4/24) reported that Drew Cloud, founder of the website Student Loan Report, “has been quoted in major news outlets, including The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, and CNBC, and is a fixture in the smaller, specialized blogosphere of student debt.” However, “he’s a fiction, the invention of a student-loan refinancing company.” The piece quotes Nate Matherson, CEO of student loan refinancing firm LendEDU, saying in a statement, “Drew Cloud is a pseudonym that a diverse group of authors at Student Loan Report, LLC use to share experiences and information related to the challenges college students face with funding their education.” However, before this revelation, “Cloud had corresponded at length with many journalists, pitching them stories and offering email interviews, many of which were published.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/25, Siegel) reports “Cloud,” who “has been quoted by a wide array of news outlets, is

a fictitious person manufactured by a for-profit student loan refinancing firm called LendEDU, the company acknowledged Wednesday.” The identity “was manufactured when LendEDU created a news site called The Student Loan Report in 2016.” The Post reports that “Matherson also acknowledged that The Student Loan Report had written about LendEDU without acknowledging that it had a relationship with the company in those articles.”

[NPR](#) (4/25, Ingber) reports Chronicle of Higher Education reporters were seeking information from “Cloud” because they “were skeptical of a survey conducted by The Student Loan Report and published on its website. More than one in five students were using excess money from their loans to invest in cryptocurrency, according to the survey.”

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 05:41:46 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 19, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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REQUEST INFO

Baltimore County School Board Votes To Make Interim Superintendent Permanent.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/17, Bowie) reports Tuesday the Baltimore County school board voted 8-4 to make interim superintendent Verletta White the permanent superintendent. During the nine months she served as interim, the board's "ethics panel determined she had previously violated ethics rules as a schools employee." The board has to approve a four-year contract to begin July 1. The [AP](#) (4/18) based its report on that in the Sun.

White Faces Multiple Challenges As She Settles Into Role. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports in a separate article that educators and community members say White is taking on a challenging position, noting that while she "has strong support among administrators and some in the community," she also

"faces a divided school board, politicians who wanted a different choice, and skeptics concerned about her ethical lapses who wonder if she was too close to the former superintendent, Dallas Dance, who is to be sentenced Friday after pleading guilty last month to four counts of perjury."

Dance Seeking Probation Instead Of Jail Time. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/18) reports that former Baltimore County Superintendent Dallas Dance "is asking a judge to give him probation rather than jail time for failing to disclose nearly \$147,000 he earned from part-time consulting jobs." Dance's attorneys paint him in a court document as "taking responsibility for his behavior, and feeling 'deep regret and repentance.'"

POLITICS & POLICY

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DeVos To Seek Mattis' Support For Vouchers For Military Families.



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[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports ED officials “are exploring a new benefit that would give military families additional resources for their children’s schooling – despite the fact that the proposal faces significant opposition from within the military community itself, where it is largely seen as costly and ineffective.” The piece reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is scheduled to meet with DOD officials on Thursday and “plans to ask for Secretary James Mattis’ support for a plan that would create education savings accounts for military families that would cover various education expenses – including private school tuition and tutoring.” U.S. News says Mattis may not support the plan “because the proposal would be paid for in part by co-opting funding from the \$1.3 billion federal Impact Aid program.” [The Hill](#) (4/18, Thomsen) reports DeVos is “pushing for military families to be offered private school vouchers, even as major groups within the military community oppose the proposal.”

ED Tells States They’ll Have To Change Portfolio Assessments For Students With Disabilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/18) reports ED “has started informing a small group of states that they will have to make changes to the way they test students with severe cognitive disabilities, because of accountability changes” under ESSA. The piece explains that under NCLB, students with severe cognitive disabilities could be assessed by way of a portfolio of student work, but ESSA mandates “that student assessments for accountability can only ‘be partially delivered in the form of portfolios, projects, or extended performance tasks,’ meaning that states relying solely on portfolios have to make a change.” ED officials “said only a few state educational agencies are expected to be affected by this, and said that so far, Georgia and Puerto Rico have been notified that they will have to change their testing procedures.”

California Bill Would Boost Funding For Districts With Heavy African American Enrollment.

[EdSource](#) (4/17) reports that under a bill sponsored by California Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D), “California districts with African-American students, currently the lowest-performing ethnic or racial student group, would receive additional funding.” Weber “said the bill is needed to correct the failure of the Local Control Funding Formula, as written, to address the glaring and persistent low academic achievement of the state’s 350,000 black students.” The bill “does not specifically identify African-American students; they would qualify for extra funding based on standardized test scores in math and English language arts. The bill would add ‘lowest-performing student subgroup or group’ as a new category under the funding formula.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports the National Institute for Early Education Research has released its annual report on state pre-k programs, finding that “more students are enrolling in state preschool programs than ever

before as states continue to invest in them.” However, rising spending and enrollment “are eclipsed by a slump in the rate of growth and in per-student spending, the latter of which is an important indicator of quality.” The piece quotes NIEER senior co-director Steven Barnett saying, “Most developed nations now offer universal preschool – even China has committed to pre-K for every 4-year-old by 2020. Meanwhile, the United States has made little progress. This is no way to compete globally now or in the future. Our first step back to leadership is quality preschool.”

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/18, Hefling) says the report indicates that “state-funded preschool programs are enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds than ever before, though per-student funding has lagged.” The report features “quality benchmarks that include measures such as teacher qualifications, staff-to-child ratios and curriculum development. Three states – Michigan, Alabama and Rhode Island – met all 10 benchmarks. Nine states – California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas – and the District of Columbia met fewer than half the benchmarks.”

Several news outlets cover the report’s findings related to individual states, including the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (4/18), [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (4/18), [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (4/18), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (4/18), [Chalkbeat](#) (4/18), an [AP](#) (4/18) article out of Mississippi, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Zelinski), [CNN](#) (4/18, Barnett, Shriver), [WTVY-TV Dothan \(AL\)](#) Dothan, AL (4/18), the [Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#) (4/18), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/18), and [Alabama Live](#) (4/18).

Pennsylvania Teacher Suspended For Making Students Pancakes During Testing.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Strauss) reports Kyle Byler, a teacher at Hand Middle School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, “said he got in trouble for making whole-grain pancakes for his eighth-grade students on an electric griddle while they were taking a standardized test.” Byler “told LancasterOnline he was suspended without pay on April 10 when an assistant principal stopped his classroom while students were taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.” Byler “said he was told by school officials that he would be fired because he had caused a distraction for students and was supposed to be devoting his full attention to proctoring the test. However, the School District of Lancaster issued a statement saying he would not lose his job.”

Washington State Launching New School Assessment System.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/18) reports Washington state Superintendent Chris Reykdal is announcing changes in how parents can determine “how schools are doing” in the state, saying “the new system will help administrators, teachers and parents identify deficiencies in all schools, including those that may get among the best scores.” The Spokesman-Review explains that ED approved the state’s ESSA plan in February, and that “Reykdal recently barnstormed the state to tout the coming changes, which soon will allow parents to look up every test score at their children’s school and compare them to other schools in the district and the state.”

Most States Have Seen More Growth In Teacher Numbers Than In Students.

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Will) reports that based on federal data, the Education Week Research Center determined that in the past 20 years, teachers in US schools have “increased by 21 percent, while the number of students has only increased by 12 percent.” The center found that in 41 states and the District of Columbia, “teachers are being hired at a faster rate than students are enrolling,” but in four states, student numbers are growing faster than teacher hires: Arizona, Indiana, Nevada, and Oklahoma. Education Week adds that Arizona, Oklahoma and Indiana all have seen growing teacher activism about the state budget and teacher pay.

OPERATIONS

Los Angeles School Board Continues Discussions On Candidate To Lead Schools.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/17, Blume) reports on Tuesday the Los Angeles Board of Education spent over “10 hours interviewing candidates and trying to reach a decision on who would be the next leader of the nation’s second-largest school system.” The board announced it will “reconvene Friday at noon.” There are four finalists: “former investment banker Austin Beutner, interim Supt. Vivian Ekchian, former Baltimore schools chief Andres Alonso and Indianapolis Supt. Lewis Ferebee.” Beutner, the Times said, “appeared to have the inside track.”

Indianapolis Superintendent Withdraws From Search. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/18, Resmovits) reports that Indianapolis Schools Superintendent Lewis Ferebee has withdrawn from the search for Los Angeles schools superintendent. Ferebee said, “I have withdrawn my name from consideration.” He added, “It was an honor to have been considered for an opportunity of this magnitude.”

Bennet, Boasberg Defend Work In Denver Schools.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/18, Asmar) reports on an event hosted by the Gates Family Foundation featuring former Denver Schools Superintendent and US Sen. Michael Bennet and current Denver Superintendent Tom Boasberg. The two “steered the state’s largest district through reforms that include creating a unified school choice system, closing low-performing schools and replacing them with schools the district deems more likely to succeed, and building a ‘portfolio’ of district-run, charter, and innovation schools.” At the event, they “defended their most controversial decisions.” Since Bennet began, he and then Boasberg have closed 30 “lower-performing” schools and opened 75 schools. Boasberg urged his listeners to “find common ground whenever possible,” and to recognize that “disagreement is legitimate and normal.”

School Nurses Have Wide Range Of Duties.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/18, Quann) reports on school nurses in the Bensalem School District in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and specifically, Jamie Thim a certified school nurse and the district nursing coordinator. According to the district, “more parents now are using school nurses as gatekeepers for their children’s health care.” The schools must have “one certified school nurse for 1,500 students,” but may also have registered or licensed practical nurses as staff nurses. Thim said that because of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act more children “with serious health problems have been mainstreamed into public schools,” and that gives school nurses regular duties that may include having “to adjust a child’s feeding tube or catheter, check sugar levels for a child with diabetes, administer prescription medications, or evaluate an injury.” Thim also said, “Mental health is a huge item.” Nurses may also advise parents to seek a physician’s care or may refer a student to a county health clinic.

Four-day School Weeks Becoming More Common.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/18, Quinton) reports on the four-day schedule in public schools, saying that it has been “long popular in rural Western communities,” but is now “becoming more common elsewhere as school leaders search for ways to both attract teachers and save money.” In Oklahoma, 97 of 513 districts have a four-day schedule “to cope with a teacher shortage and state budget cuts.” The schedule is also “generally popular among families, students and teachers.” Yet some experts say the shorter schedules “save only a little,” and “results are mixed” as to whether it “helps or hurts students’ learning.” The short schedule is also a difficulty for “families who have to scramble to find child care and could prevent children from accessing free or low-cost meals five days a week.” At present, somewhere between 300 and 500 of the nation’s 13,500 school districts operate on a four-day week. The districts are in 22 states, most west of the Mississippi.

DIGITAL LEARNING

ED-funded Report Suggests Ways Technology Could Benefit Adult Learners.

[THE Journal](#) (4/18, Schaffhauser) reports that education technology “does a poor job of addressing the particular needs of the adult learner.” It cites an ED-funded report from Luminary Labs that “explores how technology could make an impact for adult learners.” Among the suggestions is developing “adaptive features that can lead individual students through content at an appropriate pace”; “the use of mobile tools...to replace face-to-face interaction”; using “gaming” and “family-friendly interfaces”; using “Q&A message boards and online social groups”; and linking “students’ personal experiences to their learning content”.

Maryland Bill Would Require State Education Officials To Develop Health, Safety Practices For Digital Device Use In Schools.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 05:41:46 -0600 (MDT)
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To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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April 19, 2018

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POLITICS & POLICY

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DeVos To Seek Mattis' Support For Vouchers For Military Families.



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[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports ED officials “are exploring a new benefit that would give military families additional resources for their children’s schooling – despite the fact that the proposal faces significant opposition from within the military community itself, where it is largely seen as costly and ineffective.” The piece reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is scheduled to meet with DOD officials on Thursday and “plans to ask for Secretary James Mattis’ support for a plan that would create education savings accounts for military families that would cover various education expenses – including private school tuition and tutoring.” U.S. News says Mattis may not support the plan “because the proposal would be paid for in part by co-opting funding from the \$1.3 billion federal Impact Aid program.” [The Hill](#) (4/18, Thomsen) reports DeVos is “pushing for military families to be offered private school vouchers, even as major groups within the military community oppose the proposal.”

ED Tells States They’ll Have To Change Portfolio Assessments For Students With Disabilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/18) reports ED “has started informing a small group of states that they will have to make changes to the way they test students with severe cognitive disabilities, because of accountability changes” under ESSA. The piece explains that under NCLB, students with severe cognitive disabilities could be assessed by way of a portfolio of student work, but ESSA mandates “that student assessments for accountability can only ‘be partially delivered in the form of portfolios, projects, or extended performance tasks,’ meaning that states relying solely on portfolios have to make a change.” ED officials “said only a few state educational agencies are expected to be affected by this, and said that so far, Georgia and Puerto Rico have been notified that they will have to change their testing procedures.”

California Bill Would Boost Funding For Districts With Heavy African American Enrollment.

[EdSource](#) (4/17) reports that under a bill sponsored by California Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D), “California districts with African-American students, currently the lowest-performing ethnic or racial student group, would receive additional funding.” Weber “said the bill is needed to correct the failure of the Local Control Funding Formula, as written, to address the glaring and persistent low academic achievement of the state’s 350,000 black students.” The bill “does not specifically identify African-American students; they would qualify for extra funding based on standardized test scores in math and English language arts. The bill would add ‘lowest-performing student subgroup or group’ as a new category under the funding formula.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports the National Institute for Early Education Research has released its annual report on state pre-k programs, finding that “more students are enrolling in state preschool programs than ever

before as states continue to invest in them.” However, rising spending and enrollment “are eclipsed by a slump in the rate of growth and in per-student spending, the latter of which is an important indicator of quality.” The piece quotes NIEER senior co-director Steven Barnett saying, “Most developed nations now offer universal preschool – even China has committed to pre-K for every 4-year-old by 2020. Meanwhile, the United States has made little progress. This is no way to compete globally now or in the future. Our first step back to leadership is quality preschool.”

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/18, Hefling) says the report indicates that “state-funded preschool programs are enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds than ever before, though per-student funding has lagged.” The report features “quality benchmarks that include measures such as teacher qualifications, staff-to-child ratios and curriculum development. Three states – Michigan, Alabama and Rhode Island – met all 10 benchmarks. Nine states – California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas – and the District of Columbia met fewer than half the benchmarks.”

Several news outlets cover the report’s findings related to individual states, including the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (4/18), [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (4/18), [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (4/18), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (4/18), [Chalkbeat](#) (4/18), an [AP](#) (4/18) article out of Mississippi, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Zelinski), [CNN](#) (4/18, Barnett, Shriver), [WTVY-TV Dothan \(AL\)](#) Dothan, AL (4/18), the [Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#) (4/18), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/18), and [Alabama Live](#) (4/18).

Pennsylvania Teacher Suspended For Making Students Pancakes During Testing.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Strauss) reports Kyle Byler, a teacher at Hand Middle School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, “said he got in trouble for making whole-grain pancakes for his eighth-grade students on an electric griddle while they were taking a standardized test.” Byler “told LancasterOnline he was suspended without pay on April 10 when an assistant principal stopped his classroom while students were taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.” Byler “said he was told by school officials that he would be fired because he had caused a distraction for students and was supposed to be devoting his full attention to proctoring the test. However, the School District of Lancaster issued a statement saying he would not lose his job.”

Washington State Launching New School Assessment System.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/18) reports Washington state Superintendent Chris Reykdal is announcing changes in how parents can determine “how schools are doing” in the state, saying “the new system will help administrators, teachers and parents identify deficiencies in all schools, including those that may get among the best scores.” The Spokesman-Review explains that ED approved the state’s ESSA plan in February, and that “Reykdal recently barnstormed the state to tout the coming changes, which soon will allow parents to look up every test score at their children’s school and compare them to other schools in the district and the state.”

Most States Have Seen More Growth In Teacher Numbers Than In Students.

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Will) reports that based on federal data, the Education Week Research Center determined that in the past 20 years, teachers in US schools have “increased by 21 percent, while the number of students has only increased by 12 percent.” The center found that in 41 states and the District of Columbia, “teachers are being hired at a faster rate than students are enrolling,” but in four states, student numbers are growing faster than teacher hires: Arizona, Indiana, Nevada, and Oklahoma. Education Week adds that Arizona, Oklahoma and Indiana all have seen growing teacher activism about the state budget and teacher pay.

OPERATIONS

Los Angeles School Board Continues Discussions On Candidate To Lead Schools.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/17, Blume) reports on Tuesday the Los Angeles Board of Education spent over “10 hours interviewing candidates and trying to reach a decision on who would be the next leader of the nation’s second-largest school system.” The board announced it will “reconvene Friday at noon.” There are four finalists: “former investment banker Austin Beutner, interim Supt. Vivian Ekchian, former Baltimore schools chief Andres Alonso and Indianapolis Supt. Lewis Ferebee.” Beutner, the Times said, “appeared to have the inside track.”

Indianapolis Superintendent Withdraws From Search. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/18, Resmovits) reports that Indianapolis Schools Superintendent Lewis Ferebee has withdrawn from the search for Los Angeles schools superintendent. Ferebee said, “I have withdrawn my name from consideration.” He added, “It was an honor to have been considered for an opportunity of this magnitude.”

Bennet, Boasberg Defend Work In Denver Schools.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/18, Asmar) reports on an event hosted by the Gates Family Foundation featuring former Denver Schools Superintendent and US Sen. Michael Bennet and current Denver Superintendent Tom Boasberg. The two “steered the state’s largest district through reforms that include creating a unified school choice system, closing low-performing schools and replacing them with schools the district deems more likely to succeed, and building a ‘portfolio’ of district-run, charter, and innovation schools.” At the event, they “defended their most controversial decisions.” Since Bennet began, he and then Boasberg have closed 30 “lower-performing” schools and opened 75 schools. Boasberg urged his listeners to “find common ground whenever possible,” and to recognize that “disagreement is legitimate and normal.”

School Nurses Have Wide Range Of Duties.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/18, Quann) reports on school nurses in the Bensalem School District in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and specifically, Jamie Thim a certified school nurse and the district nursing coordinator. According to the district, “more parents now are using school nurses as gatekeepers for their children’s health care.” The schools must have “one certified school nurse for 1,500 students,” but may also have registered or licensed practical nurses as staff nurses. Thim said that because of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act more children “with serious health problems have been mainstreamed into public schools,” and that gives school nurses regular duties that may include having “to adjust a child’s feeding tube or catheter, check sugar levels for a child with diabetes, administer prescription medications, or evaluate an injury.” Thim also said, “Mental health is a huge item.” Nurses may also advise parents to seek a physician’s care or may refer a student to a county health clinic.

Four-day School Weeks Becoming More Common.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/18, Quinton) reports on the four-day schedule in public schools, saying that it has been “long popular in rural Western communities,” but is now “becoming more common elsewhere as school leaders search for ways to both attract teachers and save money.” In Oklahoma, 97 of 513 districts have a four-day schedule “to cope with a teacher shortage and state budget cuts.” The schedule is also “generally popular among families, students and teachers.” Yet some experts say the shorter schedules “save only a little,” and “results are mixed” as to whether it “helps or hurts students’ learning.” The short schedule is also a difficulty for “families who have to scramble to find child care and could prevent children from accessing free or low-cost meals five days a week.” At present, somewhere between 300 and 500 of the nation’s 13,500 school districts operate on a four-day week. The districts are in 22 states, most west of the Mississippi.

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[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports ED officials “are exploring a new benefit that would give military families additional resources for their children’s schooling – despite the fact that the proposal faces significant opposition from within the military community itself, where it is largely seen as costly and ineffective.” The piece reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is scheduled to meet with DOD officials on Thursday and “plans to ask for Secretary James Mattis’ support for a plan that would create education savings accounts for military families that would cover various education expenses – including private school tuition and tutoring.” U.S. News says Mattis may not support the plan “because the proposal would be paid for in part by co-opting funding from the \$1.3 billion federal Impact Aid program.” [The Hill](#) (4/18, Thomsen) reports DeVos is “pushing for military families to be offered private school vouchers, even as major groups within the military community oppose the proposal.”

ED Tells States They’ll Have To Change Portfolio Assessments For Students With Disabilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/18) reports ED “has started informing a small group of states that they will have to make changes to the way they test students with severe cognitive disabilities, because of accountability changes” under ESSA. The piece explains that under NCLB, students with severe cognitive disabilities could be assessed by way of a portfolio of student work, but ESSA mandates “that student assessments for accountability can only ‘be partially delivered in the form of portfolios, projects, or extended performance tasks,’ meaning that states relying solely on portfolios have to make a change.” ED officials “said only a few state educational agencies are expected to be affected by this, and said that so far, Georgia and Puerto Rico have been notified that they will have to change their testing procedures.”

California Bill Would Boost Funding For Districts With Heavy African American Enrollment.

[EdSource](#) (4/17) reports that under a bill sponsored by California Assemblywoman Shirley Weber (D), “California districts with African-American students, currently the lowest-performing ethnic or racial student group, would receive additional funding.” Weber “said the bill is needed to correct the failure of the Local Control Funding Formula, as written, to address the glaring and persistent low academic achievement of the state’s 350,000 black students.” The bill “does not specifically identify African-American students; they would qualify for extra funding based on standardized test scores in math and English language arts. The bill would add ‘lowest-performing student subgroup or group’ as a new category under the funding formula.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

NIEER Report Shows Rising Pre-K Enrollment With Corresponding Slump In Per-Student Funding.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/18) reports the National Institute for Early Education Research has released its annual report on state pre-k programs, finding that “more students are enrolling in state preschool programs than ever

before as states continue to invest in them.” However, rising spending and enrollment “are eclipsed by a slump in the rate of growth and in per-student spending, the latter of which is an important indicator of quality.” The piece quotes NIEER senior co-director Steven Barnett saying, “Most developed nations now offer universal preschool – even China has committed to pre-K for every 4-year-old by 2020. Meanwhile, the United States has made little progress. This is no way to compete globally now or in the future. Our first step back to leadership is quality preschool.”

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/18, Hefling) says the report indicates that “state-funded preschool programs are enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds than ever before, though per-student funding has lagged.” The report features “quality benchmarks that include measures such as teacher qualifications, staff-to-child ratios and curriculum development. Three states – Michigan, Alabama and Rhode Island – met all 10 benchmarks. Nine states – California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Indiana, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas – and the District of Columbia met fewer than half the benchmarks.”

Several news outlets cover the report’s findings related to individual states, including the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (4/18), [WPRI-TV](#) Providence, RI (4/18), [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (4/18), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (4/18), [Chalkbeat](#) (4/18), an [AP](#) (4/18) article out of Mississippi, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Zelinski), [CNN](#) (4/18, Barnett, Shriver), [WTVY-TV Dothan \(AL\)](#) Dothan, AL (4/18), the [Columbia \(SC\) Regional Business Report](#) (4/18), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (4/18), and [Alabama Live](#) (4/18).

Pennsylvania Teacher Suspended For Making Students Pancakes During Testing.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Strauss) reports Kyle Byler, a teacher at Hand Middle School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, “said he got in trouble for making whole-grain pancakes for his eighth-grade students on an electric griddle while they were taking a standardized test.” Byler “told LancasterOnline he was suspended without pay on April 10 when an assistant principal stopped his classroom while students were taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.” Byler “said he was told by school officials that he would be fired because he had caused a distraction for students and was supposed to be devoting his full attention to proctoring the test. However, the School District of Lancaster issued a statement saying he would not lose his job.”

Washington State Launching New School Assessment System.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/18) reports Washington state Superintendent Chris Reykdal is announcing changes in how parents can determine “how schools are doing” in the state, saying “the new system will help administrators, teachers and parents identify deficiencies in all schools, including those that may get among the best scores.” The Spokesman-Review explains that ED approved the state’s ESSA plan in February, and that “Reykdal recently barnstormed the state to tout the coming changes, which soon will allow parents to look up every test score at their children’s school and compare them to other schools in the district and the state.”

Most States Have Seen More Growth In Teacher Numbers Than In Students.

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Will) reports that based on federal data, the Education Week Research Center determined that in the past 20 years, teachers in US schools have “increased by 21 percent, while the number of students has only increased by 12 percent.” The center found that in 41 states and the District of Columbia, “teachers are being hired at a faster rate than students are enrolling,” but in four states, student numbers are growing faster than teacher hires: Arizona, Indiana, Nevada, and Oklahoma. Education Week adds that Arizona, Oklahoma and Indiana all have seen growing teacher activism about the state budget and teacher pay.

OPERATIONS

Los Angeles School Board Continues Discussions On Candidate To Lead Schools.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/17, Blume) reports on Tuesday the Los Angeles Board of Education spent over “10 hours interviewing candidates and trying to reach a decision on who would be the next leader of the nation’s second-largest school system.” The board announced it will “reconvene Friday at noon.” There are four finalists: “former investment banker Austin Beutner, interim Supt. Vivian Ekchian, former Baltimore schools chief Andres Alonso and Indianapolis Supt. Lewis Ferebee.” Beutner, the Times said, “appeared to have the inside track.”

Indianapolis Superintendent Withdraws From Search. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/18, Resmovits) reports that Indianapolis Schools Superintendent Lewis Ferebee has withdrawn from the search for Los Angeles schools superintendent. Ferebee said, “I have withdrawn my name from consideration.” He added, “It was an honor to have been considered for an opportunity of this magnitude.”

Bennet, Boasberg Defend Work In Denver Schools.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/18, Asmar) reports on an event hosted by the Gates Family Foundation featuring former Denver Schools Superintendent and US Sen. Michael Bennet and current Denver Superintendent Tom Boasberg. The two “steered the state’s largest district through reforms that include creating a unified school choice system, closing low-performing schools and replacing them with schools the district deems more likely to succeed, and building a ‘portfolio’ of district-run, charter, and innovation schools.” At the event, they “defended their most controversial decisions.” Since Bennet began, he and then Boasberg have closed 30 “lower-performing” schools and opened 75 schools. Boasberg urged his listeners to “find common ground whenever possible,” and to recognize that “disagreement is legitimate and normal.”

School Nurses Have Wide Range Of Duties.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/18, Quann) reports on school nurses in the Bensalem School District in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and specifically, Jamie Thim a certified school nurse and the district nursing coordinator. According to the district, “more parents now are using school nurses as gatekeepers for their children’s health care.” The schools must have “one certified school nurse for 1,500 students,” but may also have registered or licensed practical nurses as staff nurses. Thim said that because of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act more children “with serious health problems have been mainstreamed into public schools,” and that gives school nurses regular duties that may include having “to adjust a child’s feeding tube or catheter, check sugar levels for a child with diabetes, administer prescription medications, or evaluate an injury.” Thim also said, “Mental health is a huge item.” Nurses may also advise parents to seek a physician’s care or may refer a student to a county health clinic.

Four-day School Weeks Becoming More Common.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/18, Quinton) reports on the four-day schedule in public schools, saying that it has been “long popular in rural Western communities,” but is now “becoming more common elsewhere as school leaders search for ways to both attract teachers and save money.” In Oklahoma, 97 of 513 districts have a four-day schedule “to cope with a teacher shortage and state budget cuts.” The schedule is also “generally popular among families, students and teachers.” Yet some experts say the shorter schedules “save only a little,” and “results are mixed” as to whether it “helps or hurts students’ learning.” The short schedule is also a difficulty for “families who have to scramble to find child care and could prevent children from accessing free or low-cost meals five days a week.” At present, somewhere between 300 and 500 of the nation’s 13,500 school districts operate on a four-day week. The districts are in 22 states, most west of the Mississippi.

DIGITAL LEARNING

ED-funded Report Suggests Ways Technology Could Benefit Adult Learners.

[THE Journal](#) (4/18, Schaffhauser) reports that education technology “does a poor job of addressing the particular needs of the adult learner.” It cites an ED-funded report from Luminary Labs that “explores how technology could make an impact for adult learners.” Among the suggestions is developing “adaptive features that can lead individual students through content at an appropriate pace”; “the use of mobile tools...to replace face-to-face interaction”; using “gaming” and “family-friendly interfaces”; using “Q&A message boards and online social groups”; and linking “students’ personal experiences to their learning content”.

Maryland Bill Would Require State Education Officials To Develop Health, Safety Practices For Digital Device Use In Schools.

The [New York Times](#) (4/19, B7, Singer, Subscription Publication) reports that a bill passed earlier this month would require Maryland “state education officials to develop optimum health and safety practices for the use of digital devices in schools.” If Gov. Larry Hogan (R-MD) “does not sign or veto it before May 28, the measure will become law without his signature.” The American Academy of Pediatrics “has published guidelines on entertainment media, recommending among other things that children avoid exposure to digital screens at least an hour before bed,” but pediatrician Dr. David L. Hill who chairs the AAP’s council on communications and media, “said the group had decided against issuing recommendations on the use of devices in classrooms because of the lack of school-specific research.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

Texas Gubernatorial Candidate Outlines Plans To Boost Revenues For School Funding Boost.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (4/18, Silver, Subscription Publication) reports Texas gubernatorial candidate Andrew White (D) “said Wednesday he wants to increase public education spending by \$6.5 billion and would pay for it by expanding gambling in Texas, ending a property appraisal law and redirecting the state’s share of border security funding.” White’s plan calls for \$800 million to be shunted from border security to education. The piece quotes White saying, “Border security is a federal requirement. Education is a state requirement. Texans know that if you can’t take care of your own business, you shouldn’t jump into someone else’s.”

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/18, Wang, Bureau) reports White said the money is needed to address “an ‘education emergency’ in Texas.” White “told reporters...that he would expand gambling in the state so that the extra money can go toward public schools and scholarships for high school students. That would generate an estimated \$3 billion of revenue, he said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/18, Ward) also covers White’s “ambitious \$9 billion plan to improve Texas public schools,” noting that he says the plan would boost school funding and “provide a \$2.5 billion in property tax cuts for local homeowners. It also calls for a one-time, \$5,000-per-teacher pay raise, a \$5,000 scholarship for Texas students who graduate with a 3.0 grade point average or better and attend a Texas college or university, and a \$10,000 scholarship for students who want to become teachers.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Louisiana Governor Says Every School Needs Trained, Armed Officer.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Izaguirre) reports Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said Wednesday that he favors having a trained armed officer in every school. He said, “We need to know that every school district, every school, has one.” The AP adds that the Louisiana Blue Ribbon Commission on School Safety met Wednesday. Gov. Edwards also “reiterated his opposition to arming teachers.”

Florida Senators Hold Forum On School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Frazee) reports on Wednesday, Florida Sens. Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio held a forum at the US Capitol at which, “Parents of students who died in the Parkland, Florida, school shooting” urged “a range of steps to prevent gun violence,” with some suggesting “national standards for school safety that include bulletproof glass” and improved communication technology. Other parents urged a focus on “threat prevention, saying schools and law enforcement need clear guidelines to help identify potential school shooters.”

[Education Week](#) (4/18, Ujifusa) also reports on the forum, describing it as having “focused on how to help students head off threats from their peers, and on improving security measures for schools.”

Maryland Elementary School Student Arrested For Bringing Gun To School.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Larimer) reports an 8-year-old boy was arrested at Park Hall Elementary School in Park Hall, Maryland “after allegedly bringing a handgun” to school. The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service responded to a “report of a student with a handgun.” Authorities believe the student found the gun at home and brought it to school.

Washington Area Students Plan Walkout For Columbine Anniversary At White House And Capitol.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/18, Truong, Stein, George) reports, “on Friday — the 19th anniversary of the Columbine assault...students in the Washington region plan to walk out of their schools and stage a vigil outside the White House to honor the Columbine victims and others killed by gun violence.” They will also “march to the Capitol for a rally and to deliver letters to lawmakers calling for tougher gun-control measures.” Other students will “demonstrate at their schools.” National School Walkout DC has applied for a permit for the event outside the White House in which it says it expects “thousands” to be at the demonstration. Local school authorities are hoping to avoid a walkout and will consider anyone who leaves for such an event to have an unexcused absence.

Sibling Survivors Of Parkland Massacre Sign Book Deal.

The [AP](#) (4/18) reports David and Lauren Hogg, “students who survived the deadly mass shooting this year at a Florida high school have a book deal.” The students “are working on ‘#NEVERAGAIN: A New Generation Draws the Line.’” The book is due out on June 5 and “the Hoggs were donating their proceeds to charity and community organizations. The Hoggs and other students at the Parkland, Florida, school have become leading gun control advocates since the Feb. 14 tragedy that left 17 people dead.”

Parkland Parents Call For National School Safety Standards.

The [AP](#) (4/18, Daly) reports that the parents of some students killed in the Parkland massacre “are calling for a range of steps to prevent gun violence, including measures to ‘harden’ schools to minimize attacks and to identify potential shooters before they act.” Parent Max Schachter “urged national standards for school safety that include bulletproof glass and technology that allows teachers and other officials to communicate during a crisis. Schachter said he

wasn't proposing that 'every school fence be 10 feet high' but said practical steps can be taken to make schools safer and prevent future tragedies."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Illinois State Board Of Education Finds Lack Of Training In Chicago Schools Special Education Program.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/12, Perez) reports on the results of an investigation by the Illinois State Board of Education which found that a Chicago Public Schools "overhaul of special education policies in 2016 created a range of problems that have delayed and denied services to students." It also found "a lack of training for special ed staff, conflicting information for parents and educators, and problems with electronic programs meant to assess students' needs for services or develop education plans." ISBE general counsel Stephanie Jones said, "We did find that there is a lack of regular, coordinated and comprehensive training."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (4/18, Esposito) reports that the attorney for those who originally brought the complaint that sparked the investigation said that the report "is a good start but doesn't go far enough." Attorney Matt Cohen said, "The findings capture the technical violations, but kids were affected, kids didn't get aides, kids got injured, they didn't get summer school, they didn't get transportation." Cohen added, "What we really need to see now is what does the board do with the recommendations."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Kentucky Schools Chief Steps Down Under Pressure.](#)
- [Louisiana, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico Apply For ESSA Testing Pilot.](#)
- [Study Finds CTE Students Less Likely To Skip Class, More Likely To Graduate.](#)
- [Education Week Runs Package On Principals' Education Technology Challenges.](#)
- [Kansas Governor Signs School Funding Bill.](#)

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From: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Sun, 4 Mar 2018 18:59:12 -0700 (MST)
Subject: <no subject>
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:ATT00001.htm (496 bytes) considerations-in-response-to-school-violence.pdf (235.16k)

Greg Rodriguez, PhD
Superintendent
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
Sent from my iPhone

From: "Will Riley" <willriley999@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 6 Apr 2018 14:32:29 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: <no subject>
To: <lisa.caplis@carlsbadschools.net>

Parkland Students Don't Speak for Me or My Generation

By Will Riley, Carlsbad High School senior

(word count: 645)

For the past month, Americans have been subjected to wall-to-wall cable news coverage of a well-orchestrated campaign to dismantle the Second Amendment. This campaign, organized and funded by national gun control groups, has exploited a handful of grieving teens from the Parkland, Florida high school shooting tragedy. As a high school senior in Carlsbad who supports gun rights, I am disgusted by how these students and their adult handlers are trying to define my generation. My generation is not anti-Second Amendment. My generation does not agree with retired Justice John Paul Stevens that the Second Amendment should be repealed. In fact, millennials are more pro-gun than our parents are. It's time the media starts hearing from the millions of young Americans who respect the Constitution and recognize that the Second Amendment is fundamental to our protection and safety, as both individuals, and as a nation.

A recent Gallup poll found that 66 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds said they think that concealed carry guns would make the U.S. safer, 10 percentage points higher than the national average of 56 percent. A separate Pew Research Center poll found differences between millennials and the generations before them on two gun control proposals, outlawing "assault-style" weapons and banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. Both Republican and Democratic millennials are more conservative on these proposals and less likely to favor them than Generation Xers, baby boomers, and even members of the so-called "silent generation," those born between the mid-1920s and mid-1940s. These Parkland high school students do not speak for my generation.

I am not a hunter. I am not much of a shooter. But this issue is not only about guns. This is a battle for the very heart and soul of our country. My goal is simple. I want to spread awareness that not all of my generation shares in this shortsighted crusade to strike a grievous blow to our nation. That is why I have decided to start this movement, Stand for the Second, and began planning a student walkout paralleling the National Day of Action and March for our Lives.

Rather than focus on the victims of firearms, as the gun control walkout did, our walkout will recognize all the American lives saved each year by firearms. Every year an estimated 1.5 million Americans use a firearm to defend themselves. During a 16 minute walkout, that breaks down to 88,000 American lives saved every minute. We want Americans to know that firearms are overwhelmingly used for good in our country. More importantly, the Constitution guarantees the right of every law abiding American to Keep and Bear Arms. That is what we want to remind people of – our Constitution is still relevant today and the Second Amendment in particular is still sacred.

Currently, my Stand for the Second walkout is expected to draw several hundred students at Carlsbad High School, with a small residual effect causing smaller walkouts in Artesia, Hobbs, and possibly Roswell. However, this is not the vision I want for our movement. I want a nationwide movement to defend the Constitution. Unfortunately, I don't have the benefit of wealthy organizers and funders like the Parkland students enjoyed. It's pretty much just me and my friends trying to get the word out. I am asking everyone who sees this, to consider a Stand for the Second walk out at your high school. Because my generation is so connected on social media, I think our message should be spread on Twitter and Instagram, and whatever other sites you use. You can link to my website on social media to help promote it: standforthesecond.com

My generation has an obligation to define itself and not let ourselves be defined by national gun control groups. This is our opportunity to stand up for the Second Amendment and have our voices heard in this critical national debate.

From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:31:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016
To: <david.shoup@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning David Shoup

March 19, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that according to documents in the criminal case against accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, in September 2016, school officials and a sheriff's deputy recommended that Cruz be "involuntarily committed for a mental evaluation." The documents show that Cruz "had written the word 'kill' in a notebook, told a classmate that he wanted to buy a gun and use it, and had cut his arm supposedly in anger because he had broken up with a girlfriend." The AP adds that an involuntary commitment would have been "a high obstacle if not a complete barrier to legally obtaining a firearm, such as the AR-15 rifle used in the Stoneman Douglas massacre on Feb. 14, authorities say."

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) says an involuntary commitment "could have kept Mr. Cruz from passing a background check required to buy a firearm," but he "appears never to have been institutionalized." The Times says it "appeared to be another in a string of missed opportunities to deal with the troubled young man."

POLITICS & POLICY

WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student's Rights.

A [Washington Post](#) (3/16, Board) editorial says that while the Administration "has made no secret of its animus toward transgender people," US District Judge George L. Russell III ruled that it was discriminatory and illegal for a

Maryland high school to prevent a 15-year-old transgender student “from using the boy’s locker room, which aligned with his gender identity.” The Post asserts “other school districts should pay attention and realize that fair treatment of transgender children is not just the right thing to do, but is, in fact, the law.” The Post also expresses “hope [that] this ruling – consistent with other federal court decisions in similar cases – prompts the federal Education Department to revisit the wobbly reasoning used to justify its decision to stop handling complaints from transgender students who have been victimized by prejudice and barred from school bathrooms and locker rooms.”

Administration Seeks To Reverse Obama Era School Discipline Policy.

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that Minnesota’s largest school district “suspends an inordinate number of black students compared with white ones, and it is struggling to figure out why.” Across the district last year, “black students were 41 percent of the overall student population, but made up 76 percent of the suspensions.” Based on numbers like that, the Obama Administration drafted “tough new policies to try to address racial disparities in school discipline across the country,” which the Trump Administration is now “trying to reverse...in part, administration officials say, as a response to school shootings like the massacre last month at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.” The issue has “divided educators in the Twin Cities,” with some arguing in support of “reversing the 2014 guidelines,” and others for keeping them in place.

North Dakota Schools Chief: Innovation Goes Beyond ESSA Plans.

In a piece for the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (3/18), North Dakota Superintendent Kirsten Baesler writes about Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ criticism of states’ ESSA plans at the recent conference of the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, DC, in which she “said that states need to do more to innovate education,” emphasizing “the need to give local schools and communities the flexibility and authority to transform classrooms.” Baesler counters that DeVos “may have overlooked...the transformative initiatives states like North Dakota already have in place — ones that cannot be communicated effectively in a regulatory document such as a templated ESSA application.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Proposed Oklahoma Teacher Pay Hike Would Raise State Out Of Regional Bottom.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/18) reports on the impact that a proposed \$10,000 teacher pay raise in Oklahoma would have on individual educators, noting that the “Oklahoma Education Association has put its weight behind a three-year, \$10,000 raise for teachers that could potentially bring Oklahoma teacher pay out of the bottom rungs nationwide.” The plan “would allow average Oklahoma teacher pay to surpass all neighboring states’ current average except for Texas, which it would only trail by \$614, a Tulsa World analysis shows.” The piece notes, however, that there are proposals for smaller raises being considered by the state legislature.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) reports the proposed \$10,000 raise would mean public school teachers would earn more than teachers at public two-year colleges in the state. The piece reports that Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant says that his college “lost a valued professor who moved to Colorado to teach at the high school level for \$15,000 more, he said. If the Legislature gives schoolteachers a significant raise, Bryant expects to start losing faculty to high schools in the state.”

Paper Criticizes Oklahoma Education Association Funding Proposal Over Lack Of Transparency.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) editorializes that the Oklahoma Education Association “has demanded \$1.4 billion in increased annual state spending [for education] within three years.” However, “it’s increasingly notable that teacher pay doesn’t represent the majority of costs associated with some proposed ‘teacher pay’ measures. This risks

offending citizens who will suspect they are being manipulated or worse.” The paper explains that much of the overall funding would go to raises for other school staff and “millions more that will be run through Oklahoma’s school funding formula. There’s no specific uses outlined for that last item, which will have a total cost of \$200 million annually within three years.”

Jersey City Teachers Stage Strike.

The [New York Times](#) (3/16, Harris, Subscription Publication) reported that members of the Jersey City Education Association “went on strike Friday after they and the school district failed to reach an agreement over the cost of health insurance.” The teachers “had been working under an expired contract since Sep. 1,” but on Friday afternoon “a judge ordered the teachers to return to work on Monday.”

Jersey City Teachers Strike Over Stalled Contract Negotiations.

[NJ News](#) (3/17) reported that after Jersey City teachers walked off the job on Friday in protest of stalled contract negotiations between the Jersey City Education Association and the Jersey City Board of Education, there were “boisterous protests outside city schools” as students “skipped class to join their teachers on the picket line.” However, Hudson County Superior Court Judge Barry P. Sarkisian issued an injunction ordering Jersey City teachers to end their strike.

Virginia District Program Aims To Remove Racial Barriers For Gifted Classes.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/18, Remmers) reports on a program at a number of elementary schools in Virginia’s Chesterfield County “designed to help students build the kind of skills they would need to enroll — and succeed — within a Chesterfield gifted classroom. Another end goal: to break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes.” The article details racial disparities in the district’s gifted programs.

Middle Schoolers Build, Race Election Cars.

[The Doings \(IL\)](#) (3/18, Wright) reports that at the annual Electric Car Kit Competition, sponsored by Argonne National Laboratory, middle school students built and raced electric cars. Engineers said that car designs at the competition have advanced over the years, with some teams 3D printing components and others using creative designs.

Two Utah High School Receive Award For Expanding STEM Education.

[KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/18) reports Hala Louviere and Cassandra Ivie, two high school seniors at Entheos Academy in Kearns, Utah, “won the 2018 Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award by the National Youth Leadership Council for their efforts in launching a new STEM curriculum.” the two created a “portable engineering club kit called the ‘Incredible Machine,’” which “can be rented at minimal cost by groups throughout Utah to help educate students and teachers on engineering.” The award “includes a \$1,000 grant to help the girls increase the reach of STEM education in Utah.”

Many Districts Offering Free College Admission Testing, But No Essay Portion.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/17, Anderson) reports that districts around the country are increasingly offering “college admission testing to high school juniors at no charge. But there’s a catch for many of these students and others around the country: The free exams won’t include the essay-writing portion that some highly selective universities require.”

New Jersey Criticized For Seeking To End PARCC Test.

Former Lawrence, New Jersey, school board member Laura Waters, in an op-ed on the [Seventy Four](#) (3/18), wrote that while New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and new education commissioner, Lamont Repollet are moving to scrap the PARCC exams, “how they would accomplish this goal seems problematic,” as “replacing the data on student growth that PARCC provides with – well, something else – is complex, expensive, and inevitably disruptive, and it serves no academic purpose beyond pandering to union leaders and allied lobbying groups.” Waters argues that PARCC is “a highly regarded test aligned with state standards and lauded by local education leaders” and the state shouldn’t seeking indulge the teacher’s union, which “had a temper tantrum because our teacher evaluation law ties teacher quality to student outcomes” but instead should do “what’s best for kids” and retain the test.

Bloomberg Calls For High School Exit Exams.

In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (3/16) wrote, “America’s high schools have a credibility problem,” as students are graduating with earning their diplomas, and calls for high school exit examinations, as “most rich countries” require. Bloomberg argued the exams should have different levels of scoring to indicate basic proficiency and college readiness. Acknowledging critics arguments that such exams “disproportionately hurt low-income students and minorities,” Bloomberg called for simultaneously “investing more in helping all students meet high standards.”

OPERATIONS

Arizona Charter School Breaks Ground On New Campus.

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- [Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.](#)
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- [New York City Audit Finds Educators Allowed Homeless Students To Miss School.](#)
- [Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Student Data Bill.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:31:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

March 19, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that according to documents in the criminal case against accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, in September 2016, school officials and a sheriff's deputy recommended that Cruz be "involuntarily committed for a mental evaluation." The documents show that Cruz "had written the word 'kill' in a notebook, told a classmate that he wanted to buy a gun and use it, and had cut his arm supposedly in anger because he had broken up with a girlfriend." The AP adds that an involuntary commitment would have been "a high obstacle if not a complete barrier to legally obtaining a firearm, such as the AR-15 rifle used in the Stoneman Douglas massacre on Feb. 14, authorities say."

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) says an involuntary commitment "could have kept Mr. Cruz from passing a background check required to buy a firearm," but he "appears never to have been institutionalized." The Times says it "appeared to be another in a string of missed opportunities to deal with the troubled young man."

POLITICS & POLICY

WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student's Rights.

A [Washington Post](#) (3/16, Board) editorial says that while the Administration "has made no secret of its animus toward transgender people," US District Judge George L. Russell III ruled that it was discriminatory and illegal for a

Maryland high school to prevent a 15-year-old transgender student “from using the boy’s locker room, which aligned with his gender identity.” The Post asserts “other school districts should pay attention and realize that fair treatment of transgender children is not just the right thing to do, but is, in fact, the law.” The Post also expresses “hope [that] this ruling – consistent with other federal court decisions in similar cases – prompts the federal Education Department to revisit the wobbly reasoning used to justify its decision to stop handling complaints from transgender students who have been victimized by prejudice and barred from school bathrooms and locker rooms.”

Administration Seeks To Reverse Obama Era School Discipline Policy.

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that Minnesota’s largest school district “suspends an inordinate number of black students compared with white ones, and it is struggling to figure out why.” Across the district last year, “black students were 41 percent of the overall student population, but made up 76 percent of the suspensions.” Based on numbers like that, the Obama Administration drafted “tough new policies to try to address racial disparities in school discipline across the country,” which the Trump Administration is now “trying to reverse...in part, administration officials say, as a response to school shootings like the massacre last month at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.” The issue has “divided educators in the Twin Cities,” with some arguing in support of “reversing the 2014 guidelines,” and others for keeping them in place.

North Dakota Schools Chief: Innovation Goes Beyond ESSA Plans.

In a piece for the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (3/18), North Dakota Superintendent Kirsten Baesler writes about Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ criticism of states’ ESSA plans at the recent conference of the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, DC, in which she “said that states need to do more to innovate education,” emphasizing “the need to give local schools and communities the flexibility and authority to transform classrooms.” Baesler counters that DeVos “may have overlooked...the transformative initiatives states like North Dakota already have in place — ones that cannot be communicated effectively in a regulatory document such as a templated ESSA application.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Proposed Oklahoma Teacher Pay Hike Would Raise State Out Of Regional Bottom.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/18) reports on the impact that a proposed \$10,000 teacher pay raise in Oklahoma would have on individual educators, noting that the “Oklahoma Education Association has put its weight behind a three-year, \$10,000 raise for teachers that could potentially bring Oklahoma teacher pay out of the bottom rungs nationwide.” The plan “would allow average Oklahoma teacher pay to surpass all neighboring states’ current average except for Texas, which it would only trail by \$614, a Tulsa World analysis shows.” The piece notes, however, that there are proposals for smaller raises being considered by the state legislature.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) reports the proposed \$10,000 raise would mean public school teachers would earn more than teachers at public two-year colleges in the state. The piece reports that Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant says that his college “lost a valued professor who moved to Colorado to teach at the high school level for \$15,000 more, he said. If the Legislature gives schoolteachers a significant raise, Bryant expects to start losing faculty to high schools in the state.”

Paper Criticizes Oklahoma Education Association Funding Proposal Over Lack Of Transparency.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) editorializes that the Oklahoma Education Association “has demanded \$1.4 billion in increased annual state spending [for education] within three years.” However, “it’s increasingly notable that teacher pay doesn’t represent the majority of costs associated with some proposed ‘teacher pay’ measures. This risks

offending citizens who will suspect they are being manipulated or worse.” The paper explains that much of the overall funding would go to raises for other school staff and “millions more that will be run through Oklahoma’s school funding formula. There’s no specific uses outlined for that last item, which will have a total cost of \$200 million annually within three years.”

Jersey City Teachers Stage Strike.

The [New York Times](#) (3/16, Harris, Subscription Publication) reported that members of the Jersey City Education Association “went on strike Friday after they and the school district failed to reach an agreement over the cost of health insurance.” The teachers “had been working under an expired contract since Sep. 1,” but on Friday afternoon “a judge ordered the teachers to return to work on Monday.”

Jersey City Teachers Strike Over Stalled Contract Negotiations.

[NJ News](#) (3/17) reported that after Jersey City teachers walked off the job on Friday in protest of stalled contract negotiations between the Jersey City Education Association and the Jersey City Board of Education, there were “boisterous protests outside city schools” as students “skipped class to join their teachers on the picket line.” However, Hudson County Superior Court Judge Barry P. Sarkisian issued an injunction ordering Jersey City teachers to end their strike.

Virginia District Program Aims To Remove Racial Barriers For Gifted Classes.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/18, Remmers) reports on a program at a number of elementary schools in Virginia’s Chesterfield County “designed to help students build the kind of skills they would need to enroll — and succeed — within a Chesterfield gifted classroom. Another end goal: to break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes.” The article details racial disparities in the district’s gifted programs.

Middle Schoolers Build, Race Election Cars.

[The Doings \(IL\)](#) (3/18, Wright) reports that at the annual Electric Car Kit Competition, sponsored by Argonne National Laboratory, middle school students built and raced electric cars. Engineers said that car designs at the competition have advanced over the years, with some teams 3D printing components and others using creative designs.

Two Utah High School Receive Award For Expanding STEM Education.

[KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/18) reports Hala Louviere and Cassandra Ivie, two high school seniors at Entheos Academy in Kearns, Utah, “won the 2018 Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award by the National Youth Leadership Council for their efforts in launching a new STEM curriculum.” the two created a “portable engineering club kit called the ‘Incredible Machine,’” which “can be rented at minimal cost by groups throughout Utah to help educate students and teachers on engineering.” The award “includes a \$1,000 grant to help the girls increase the reach of STEM education in Utah.”

Many Districts Offering Free College Admission Testing, But No Essay Portion.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/17, Anderson) reports that districts around the country are increasingly offering “college admission testing to high school juniors at no charge. But there’s a catch for many of these students and others around the country: The free exams won’t include the essay-writing portion that some highly selective universities require.”

New Jersey Criticized For Seeking To End PARCC Test.

Former Lawrence, New Jersey, school board member Laura Waters, in an op-ed on the [Seventy Four](#) (3/18), wrote that while New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and new education commissioner, Lamont Repollet are moving to scrap the PARCC exams, “how they would accomplish this goal seems problematic,” as “replacing the data on student growth that PARCC provides with – well, something else – is complex, expensive, and inevitably disruptive, and it serves no academic purpose beyond pandering to union leaders and allied lobbying groups.” Waters argues that PARCC is “a highly regarded test aligned with state standards and lauded by local education leaders” and the state shouldn’t seeking indulge the teacher’s union, which “had a temper tantrum because our teacher evaluation law ties teacher quality to student outcomes” but instead should do “what’s best for kids” and retain the test.

Bloomberg Calls For High School Exit Exams.

In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (3/16) wrote, “America’s high schools have a credibility problem,” as students are graduating with earning their diplomas, and calls for high school exit examinations, as “most rich countries” require. Bloomberg argued the exams should have different levels of scoring to indicate basic proficiency and college readiness. Acknowledging critics arguments that such exams “disproportionately hurt low-income students and minorities,” Bloomberg called for simultaneously “investing more in helping all students meet high standards.”

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Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:32:23 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Monday, March 19, 2018

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Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.

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Unspent Money In Florida "Guardian" Plan Could Be Used To Hire More Resource Officers.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports the Florida legislature earlier this month passed "a \$400 million school safety proposal that includes \$97 million for more school resource officers and \$67 million for the 'school guardian' program" which would allow trained teachers to carry weapons. However, many districts have said they are not planning to use the program, and "Senate President Joe Negron said Friday that if there is unspent money in the guardian program, it might be used to hire school resource officers."

Arizona Governor To Release School Safety Plan.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (3/18) reports Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey on Monday plans to release a proposal for improving school security, and describes differences between Ducey's plan and the law that Florida Gov. Rick Scott recently signed. "The common thread of what he will propose and what he will not, Ducey said, is separating out who should and should not have guns."

Alabama House To Debate Arming Teachers Tuesday.

[Alabama Live](#) (3/18) reports the Alabama House is scheduled to hold a Tuesday hearing on "a bill that would allow approved teachers to carry or keep guns in schools," noting that the topic "could spark an intense debate." The

piece describes a public hearing on the issue last week which “week revealed a sharp divide between those who say it would add a last line of defense in some schools and those who say it would be a risky and poor alternative to putting police officers in schools.”

Walkouts Reveal Divisions Among Students.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that the wave of “walkouts to protest gun violence” that swept schools across the nation last week “also created tensions in hallways and classrooms as a new generation was thrust into the debate over guns. While those calling for new restrictions stood in the spotlight, the surge of youth activism has exposed sharp differences of opinion.” Meanwhile, administrators are “sorting through the fallout as some schools hand out discipline for those who defied school instructions and participated in the walkouts,” even as some teachers worked to ease tensions among students.

States Implementing Student Safety Tip-lines Based On Colorado Program.

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Two Utah High School Receive Award For Expanding STEM Education.

[KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/18) reports Hala Louviere and Cassandra Ivie, two high school seniors at Entheos Academy in Kearns, Utah, “won the 2018 Youth Leadership for Service-Learning Excellence Award by the National Youth Leadership Council for their efforts in launching a new STEM curriculum.” the two created a “portable engineering club kit called the ‘Incredible Machine,’” which “can be rented at minimal cost by groups throughout Utah to help educate students and teachers on engineering.” The award “includes a \$1,000 grant to help the girls increase the reach of STEM education in Utah.”

Many Districts Offering Free College Admission Testing, But No Essay Portion.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/17, Anderson) reports that districts around the country are increasingly offering “college admission testing to high school juniors at no charge. But there’s a catch for many of these students and others around the country: The free exams won’t include the essay-writing portion that some highly selective universities require.”

New Jersey Criticized For Seeking To End PARCC Test.

Former Lawrence, New Jersey, school board member Laura Waters, in an op-ed on the [Seventy Four](#) (3/18), wrote that while New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and new education commissioner, Lamont Repollet are moving to scrap the PARCC exams, “how they would accomplish this goal seems problematic,” as “replacing the data on student growth that PARCC provides with – well, something else – is complex, expensive, and inevitably disruptive, and it serves no academic purpose beyond pandering to union leaders and allied lobbying groups.” Waters argues that PARCC is “a highly regarded test aligned with state standards and lauded by local education leaders” and the state shouldn’t seeking indulge the teacher’s union, which “had a temper tantrum because our teacher evaluation law ties teacher quality to student outcomes” but instead should do “what’s best for kids” and retain the test.

Bloomberg Calls For High School Exit Exams.

In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (3/16) wrote, “America’s high schools have a credibility problem,” as students are graduating with earning their diplomas, and calls for high school exit examinations, as “most rich countries” require. Bloomberg argued the exams should have different levels of scoring to indicate basic proficiency and college readiness. Acknowledging critics arguments that such exams “disproportionately hurt low-income students and minorities,” Bloomberg called for simultaneously “investing more in helping all students meet high standards.”

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Using Collaborative Conversation Toward Student Outcomes

The Collaborative Conversation Performance Guide is a tool developed with leaders nationwide during The Wallace Foundation/NASSP Principal PLC. Tune in to the next NASSP webinar to become familiar with this evidence-based framework. It is designed to help you structure conversations related to student outcomes around key processes: instructional grouping, instructional delivery, and collaborative culture. The webinar, “**Using Collaborative Conversation to Enhance Your PLC**,” takes place on Wednesday, March 28, 3:00–4:00 p.m. (ET). The presentation and guide will allow viewers thoughtful reflection on the work of their PLC. [Register now.](#)

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EDUCATION POLICY

WPost: Education Department Should Emulate Court Ruling Defending Transgender Student’s Rights.

A [Washington Post](#) (3/16, Board) editorial says that while the Administration “has made no secret of its animus toward transgender people,” US District Judge George L. Russell III ruled that it was discriminatory and illegal for a Maryland high school to prevent a 15-year-old transgender student “from using the boy’s locker room, which aligned with his gender identity.” The Post asserts “other school districts should pay attention and realize that fair treatment of transgender children is not just the right thing to do, but is, in fact, the law.” The Post also expresses “hope [that] this ruling – consistent with other federal court decisions in similar cases – prompts the federal Education Department to revisit the wobbly reasoning used to justify its decision to stop handling complaints from transgender students who have been victimized by prejudice and barred from school bathrooms and locker rooms.”

Administration Seeks To Reverse Obama Era School Discipline Policy.

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that Minnesota’s largest school district “suspends an inordinate number of black students compared with white ones, and it is struggling to figure out why.” Across the district last year, “black students were 41 percent of the overall student population, but made up 76 percent of the suspensions.” Based on numbers like that, the Obama Administration drafted “tough new policies to try to address racial disparities in school discipline across the country,” which the Trump Administration is now “trying to reverse...in part, administration officials say, as a response to school shootings like the massacre last

month at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.” The issue has “divided educators in the Twin Cities,” with some arguing in support of “reversing the 2014 guidelines,” and others for keeping them in place.

North Dakota Schools Chief: Innovation Goes Beyond ESSA Plans.

In a piece for the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (3/18), North Dakota Superintendent Kirsten Baesler writes about Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ criticism of states’ ESSA plans at the recent conference of the Council of Chief State School Officers in Washington, DC, in which she “said that states need to do more to innovate education,” emphasizing “the need to give local schools and communities the flexibility and authority to transform classrooms.” Baesler counters that DeVos “may have overlooked...the transformative initiatives states like North Dakota already have in place — ones that cannot be communicated effectively in a regulatory document such as a templated ESSA application.”

Senate Hearing Examines Law Enforcement’s Role In Permitting Parkland Shooting.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/14, Tanfani) reports on a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee examining “law enforcement agencies’ failure to heed multiple warnings about” the Parkland, Florida school shooting. During the hearing, acting Deputy FBI Director Bill Bowdich “told the Senate panel that the agency obviously erred when it failed to follow up on a long, detailed warning on a tip line that Cruz was ‘going to explode.’” The article says the hearing took place “as students walked out of schools across the country Wednesday to protest gun violence” and “as the accused gunman, Nikolas Cruz...appeared in court in Fort Lauderdale,” and provides further detail on the proceedings.

Parkland School Students Address Gun Control At Dubai Forum.

The [AP](#) (3/17, Batrawy) reports that three seniors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School “spoke in Dubai at the Global Education and Skills Forum,” where they “talked about their experience” during the Feb. 14 mass shooting at the school “and their push for stricter gun safety measures.” The students each “wore a red ribbon representing the color of their school in honor of the victims.”

Poll Finds Nearly 75 Percent Of Teachers Oppose Arming School Staff.

The [New York Times](#) (3/16, Chokshi, Subscription Publication) reports on a new Gallup poll released Friday which found that “nearly three out of four teachers oppose letting staff members carry guns in schools.” The study found that 20 percent of teachers support the proposal, which the article says “has become central to President Trump’s response to the school shooting last month in Parkland, Florida.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

Organization Says Its Personalized Learning Programs Produce Reading Gains.

The [Seventy Four](#) (3/18, Stringer) reports an analysis by LEAP Innovations, a national personalized learning organization, found that personalized learning programs in Chicago, where the company is works “to individualize student instruction by pairing schools with education technology and coaches who help teachers reimagine their instruction and classroom design,” helps “boost reading scores for students by an amount equivalent to 13 percentile points of growth.” Phyllis Lockett, founder and CEO of LEAP Innovations, “attributes the growth in scores to LEAP’s work improving professional development for educators.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Dueling Op-eds On Free College Tuition.

In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication), Temple University professor Sara Goldrick-Rab, argues higher education should be free, pointing to the personal, economic, and societal costs of increasing student debt and the decreasing graduation rates. She argues that free tuition is an investment similar to libraries, roads, and fire departments, and would similarly would benefit everyone through increased tax revenue. In a paired op-ed, Cato Institute Center for Educational Freedom Director Neal McCluskey argues that the costs of free tuition would unfair to taxpayers who choose not to pursue college degrees. He argues the current demand for degrees in the workplace is cause by government subsidies for higher education and that the holders of such degrees don't have greater useful knowledge or skills than those without them. He also argues that free tuition would end the competition between schools that produced the excellent quality of US colleges.

Blogger Calls For Ending Greater Student Loan Debt For Women.

Contributor Chelsea Brenann, in a blog on [Forbes](#) (3/17) wrote that student loan debt is affecting women more than men, as they, on average, "carry more student loan debt, and take longer to pay it off, than men," and that addressing this is needed to reduce the gender wealth gap. Reasons that women carry more debt include families helping women pay for education less than men, women being less likely to understand financial aid options, and women receiving lower paying jobs after graduation.

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States Implementing Student Safety Tip-lines Based On Colorado Program.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that in an effort to prevent school shootings and teenage suicides, “states across the country” are creating safety tip-lines based on a Colorado “anonymous tip line and mobile app, known as Safe2Tell.” The AP reports these programs “aim to prevent young people from behaving dangerously, whether that means bullying, using drugs or killing someone.”

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FROM NASSP

Using Collaborative Conversation Toward Student Outcomes

The Collaborative Conversation Performance Guide is a tool developed with leaders nationwide during The Wallace Foundation/NASSP Principal PLC. Tune in to the next NASSP webinar to become familiar with this evidence-based framework. It is designed to help you structure conversations related to student outcomes around key processes: instructional grouping, instructional delivery, and collaborative culture. The webinar, “**Using Collaborative Conversation to Enhance Your PLC**,” takes place on Wednesday, March 28, 3:00–4:00 p.m. (ET). The presentation and guide will allow viewers thoughtful reflection on the work of their PLC. [Register now.](#)

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EDUCATION POLICY

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Dueling Op-eds On Free College Tuition.

In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication), Temple University professor Sara Goldrick-Rab, argues higher education should be free, pointing to the personal, economic, and societal costs of increasing student debt and the decreasing graduation rates. She argues that free tuition is an investment similar to libraries, roads, and fire departments, and would similarly would benefit everyone through increased tax revenue. In a paired op-ed, Cato Institute Center for Educational Freedom Director Neal McCluskey argues that the costs of free tuition would unfair to taxpayers who choose not to pursue college degrees. He argues the current demand for degrees in the workplace is cause by government subsidies for higher education and that the holders of such degrees don't have greater useful knowledge or skills than those without them. He also argues that free tuition would end the competition between schools that produced the excellent quality of US colleges.

Blogger Calls For Ending Greater Student Loan Debt For Women.

Contributor Chelsea Brenann, in a blog on [Forbes](#) (3/17) wrote that student loan debt is affecting women more than men, as they, on average, "carry more student loan debt, and take longer to pay it off, than men," and that addressing this is needed to reduce the gender wealth gap. Reasons that women carry more debt include families helping women pay for education less than men, women being less likely to understand financial aid options, and women receiving lower paying jobs after graduation.

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Video Footage Shows Officer Standing Outside Parkland School.](#)
- [Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.](#)
- [Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Senate Bill.](#)
- [Cooper Union Aims To Provide Tuition-Free Education In 10 Years.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:31:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



Good morning Ron Singleton

March 19, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



Officials Recommended Involuntary Commitment For Cruz In 2016.

The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that according to documents in the criminal case against accused Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, in September 2016, school officials and a sheriff's deputy recommended that Cruz be "involuntarily committed for a mental evaluation." The documents show that Cruz "had written the word 'kill' in a notebook, told a classmate that he wanted to buy a gun and use it, and had cut his arm supposedly in anger because he had broken up with a girlfriend." The AP adds that an involuntary commitment would have been "a high obstacle if not a complete barrier to legally obtaining a firearm, such as the AR-15 rifle used in the Stoneman Douglas massacre on Feb. 14, authorities say."

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) says an involuntary commitment "could have kept Mr. Cruz from passing a background check required to buy a firearm," but he "appears never to have been institutionalized." The Times says it "appeared to be another in a string of missed opportunities to deal with the troubled young man."

POLITICS & POLICY

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Proposed Oklahoma Teacher Pay Hike Would Raise State Out Of Regional Bottom.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/18) reports on the impact that a proposed \$10,000 teacher pay raise in Oklahoma would have on individual educators, noting that the “Oklahoma Education Association has put its weight behind a three-year, \$10,000 raise for teachers that could potentially bring Oklahoma teacher pay out of the bottom rungs nationwide.” The plan “would allow average Oklahoma teacher pay to surpass all neighboring states’ current average except for Texas, which it would only trail by \$614, a Tulsa World analysis shows.” The piece notes, however, that there are proposals for smaller raises being considered by the state legislature.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) reports the proposed \$10,000 raise would mean public school teachers would earn more than teachers at public two-year colleges in the state. The piece reports that Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant says that his college “lost a valued professor who moved to Colorado to teach at the high school level for \$15,000 more, he said. If the Legislature gives schoolteachers a significant raise, Bryant expects to start losing faculty to high schools in the state.”

Paper Criticizes Oklahoma Education Association Funding Proposal Over Lack Of Transparency.

The [Oklahoman](#) (3/18) editorializes that the Oklahoma Education Association “has demanded \$1.4 billion in increased annual state spending [for education] within three years.” However, “it’s increasingly notable that teacher pay doesn’t represent the majority of costs associated with some proposed ‘teacher pay’ measures. This risks

offending citizens who will suspect they are being manipulated or worse.” The paper explains that much of the overall funding would go to raises for other school staff and “millions more that will be run through Oklahoma’s school funding formula. There’s no specific uses outlined for that last item, which will have a total cost of \$200 million annually within three years.”

Jersey City Teachers Stage Strike.

The [New York Times](#) (3/16, Harris, Subscription Publication) reported that members of the Jersey City Education Association “went on strike Friday after they and the school district failed to reach an agreement over the cost of health insurance.” The teachers “had been working under an expired contract since Sep. 1,” but on Friday afternoon “a judge ordered the teachers to return to work on Monday.”

Jersey City Teachers Strike Over Stalled Contract Negotiations.

[NJ News](#) (3/17) reported that after Jersey City teachers walked off the job on Friday in protest of stalled contract negotiations between the Jersey City Education Association and the Jersey City Board of Education, there were “boisterous protests outside city schools” as students “skipped class to join their teachers on the picket line.” However, Hudson County Superior Court Judge Barry P. Sarkisian issued an injunction ordering Jersey City teachers to end their strike.

Virginia District Program Aims To Remove Racial Barriers For Gifted Classes.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/18, Remmers) reports on a program at a number of elementary schools in Virginia’s Chesterfield County “designed to help students build the kind of skills they would need to enroll — and succeed — within a Chesterfield gifted classroom. Another end goal: to break down barriers that have prevented students of color from enrolling in gifted classes.” The article details racial disparities in the district’s gifted programs.

Middle Schoolers Build, Race Election Cars.

[The Doings \(IL\)](#) (3/18, Wright) reports that at the annual Electric Car Kit Competition, sponsored by Argonne National Laboratory, middle school students built and raced electric cars. Engineers said that car designs at the competition have advanced over the years, with some teams 3D printing components and others using creative designs.

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OPERATIONS

Arizona Charter School Breaks Ground On New Campus.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/17, Carrillo) reported, the New Mexico School for the Arts charter school “broke ground Friday at the former Sanbusco Center in Santa Fe’s Railyard,” and is expected to first hold classes in the 2019 school year. Head of School Eric Crites said the new location will allow all school facilities to be on site. The school “hopes to grow to about 400 students in coming years and will build dormitories” to house about 100 students.

Incoming New York City School Chancellor Profiled.

The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Harris, Fernandez, Subscription Publication) profiles Richard A. Carranza, who will become chancellor of the New York City school system on April 2. The job “is organizationally complex, intensely political – in a word, daunting” – and Carranza has “only modest big-district experience on his résumé.” He held his last job, as head of the Houston school system, for just 18 months. There Carranza proposed a “controversial” plan to give some preference to children from low-income families and eliminated many “test-score and academic requirements” for magnet-school programs. He also proposed funding changes that “would take some discretion away from principals but provide a minimum level of staffing at every school.” Neither proposal has been approved yet.

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SCHOOL FINANCE

New York Educational Leaders Concerned About Per-Pupil Spending Disclosure.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (3/18) reports, “Many Long Island educational leaders” are concerned that the “new national requirement that school districts disclose per-pupil spending for each school” will cause people to believe “some students are being shortchanged, even when this is not the case.” Issues in interpreting the data include larger schools benefiting from economies of scale and special education costing more per student. However, supporters cast the reporting “as a means of encouraging greater educational equity.”

Arizona Charters School Challenging Audit That Found It Received Too Much State Aid.

The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (3/18, Cayton) reports the Fort Mohave, Arizona, Desert Star Academy “is disputing an audit by the Arizona Department of Education” that found the school incorrectly calculated its enrollment figures and has to pay back \$115,526 in state aid. Desert Star founder Margie Montgomery disputed the finding that some students were too young and that some kindergarten students were placed in first grade based on their academic abilities.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Senate Hearing Examines Law Enforcement’s Role In Permitting Parkland Shooting.

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California Teacher Apologizes For Accidentally Firing Gun During Lecture.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/16, Knoll) reports that Dennis Alexander, a California high school teacher “who accidentally fired a gun during a lecture on ‘public safety awareness,’” has “publicly apologized for the classroom incident that injured three students.” In “an impromptu speech Thursday at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting,” Alexander said, “I want to apologize from the bottom of my heart...I can’t find the words to say how sorry I am.”

Police Arrest Sister Of South Carolina Church Shooter With Gun On School Campus.

The [AP](#) (3/16) reports that Morgan Roof, sister of “the man sentenced to die for killing nine people at a South Carolina church in 2015,” was arrested Wednesday at A.C. Flora High School in South Carolina, according to a news release from the local county sheriff. Roof “is charged with two counts of carrying a weapon on school grounds and one count of simple possession of marijuana.”

Gun Manufacturers Worried By Sandy Hook Families’ Lawsuit Against Remington.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/16, Gershman, Subscription Publication) reports the Connecticut Supreme Court is hearing a lawsuit brought against Remington, a leading manufacturer of AR-15 rifles. The case was brought by families of victims killed at the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, and the Court will decide whether the gun industry can be held legally responsible for mass shootings. The article provides detail on the case.

Students Hoping Half A Million Will Join Anti-Gun March In Washington.

Sharyn Alfonsi reported on [CBS’ 60 Minutes](#) (3/18) that in the wake of the Florida school shooting, the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School “gathered in living rooms and in front of cameras, declaring, ‘never again,’” and in “less than a month, the teens did what few thought possible. They changed gun laws in Florida and ignited a national movement.” On Saturday, the students are “hoping a half million people will join them to march in Washington. They want Congress to ban military style rifles, like this, along with the kind of high-capacity magazines that were used in Las Vegas and at Sandy Hook.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/18, Teproff) reports that the five students “behind the #NeverAgain movement that was born in the wake” of the Florida shooting appeared on “60 Minutes” to discuss “how they’ve been able to accomplish things adults haven’t been able to.”

Alabama Lawmaker Opposes Arming Female Teachers.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Horton) reports that Alabama state Rep. Henry Shiver has taken a position against arming teachers “by declaring that it would violate the feminine sensibilities of teachers.” Shiver argued “that guns should not be placed in the hands of ‘our ladies’ – meaning female teachers – many of whom he believes are ‘scared’ of firearms.” In an interview with AL.com published Thursday, Shiver said, “I’m not saying all [women], but in most schools, women are [the majority] of the teachers. ... Some of them just don’t want to [be trained to possess firearms]. If they want to, then that’s good. But most of them don’t want to learn how to shoot like that and carry a gun.”

Parkland Survivors Visit Chicago Students To Plan Gun Control March.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (3/17) reports a group of survivors of the Parkland massacre “visited Chicago Public Schools students Saturday to brainstorm ideas for next weekend’s March for Our Lives demonstration in Chicago.” The meeting “followed a week of walkouts at schools across the country, as teenage organizers continue their push

for more strict gun control measures.” Former Education Secretary Arne Duncan “joined students who said they shouldn’t have to do the jobs of elected officials to keep them safe, arguing that their lives should matter more than ‘a piece of metal.’”

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The [AP](#) (3/18) reports that in an effort to prevent school shootings and teenage suicides, “states across the country” are creating safety tip-lines based on a Colorado “anonymous tip line and mobile app, known as Safe2Tell.” The AP reports these programs “aim to prevent young people from behaving dangerously, whether that means bullying, using drugs or killing someone.”

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Video Footage Shows Officer Standing Outside Parkland School.](#)
- [Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.](#)
- [Survey: Helping Children With Homework Does Little To Boost Test Scores.](#)
- [New York City Audit Finds Educators Allowed Homeless Students To Miss School.](#)
- [Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Studen Data Bill.](#)

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Sent Date: Thu, 5 Apr 2018 05:28:17 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma House Approves \$20 Million Internet Sales Tax As Teacher Walkout Continues
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Eric Spencer

Thursday, April 5, 2018

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School Safety Standards Bill Advances In Maryland Senate.

The [AP](#) (4/4, Witte) reports the Maryland state Senate Budget and Taxation Committee “approved a measure to create consistent standards for school safety statewide.” The measure “requires the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop a policy for school-safety assessment. The policy

will include guidance on identifying people whose behavior could pose a threat to a school.”

California Districts Taking Part In School Climate, Safety Study.

[EdSource](#) (4/3) reports that California districts are taking part in a new five-year study by the American Institutes for Research on school safety and climate. The study “promises to be a groundbreaking examination of school safety in California schools. Virginia Tech University’s Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality is partnering with AIR on the research and Public Counsel, the Los Angeles-based public interest law firm, is also involved.”

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements Open for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Comments or recommendations should be sent to NASSP Director of Advocacy Amanda Karhuse at karhusea@nassp.org by April 26, 2018.

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EDUCATION POLICY

GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that “black students continue to be disciplined at school more often and more harshly than their white peers, often for similar infractions, according to a new report by Congress’s nonpartisan watchdog agency, which counters claims fueling” the Trump Administration’s “efforts to re-examine discipline policies of the Obama administration.” The report, issued by the Government Accountability Office on Wednesday, “is the first national governmental analysis of discipline policies since the Obama administration issued guidance in 2014 that urged schools to examine the disproportionate rates at which black students were being punished.” The Times adds that critics “of the Obama-era guidance have questioned whether students of color suffer from unfair treatment under school discipline policies,” but the GAO “found that not only have black students across the nation continued to bear the brunt of such policies, but the impact was felt more widely than previously reported – including by black students in affluent schools.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports the GAO “released a report Wednesday outlining severe disparities between how white students and students of color are disciplined at the same day Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met with groups to discuss possibly rescinding Obama-era guidance designed to reduce these inequities.” The report “comes as civil rights leaders are fighting tooth and nail to save this guidance” which “calls on schools to reduce their reliance on harsh disciplinary practices like suspensions and expulsions. It also warns schools they could run afoul of federal law if certain groups of students are disproportionately punished.” The report analyzed ED data from 2013-15 and “reveal[ed] deep discipline disparities across student groups and the very problem the guidance is

intended to address.”

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/4) reports the GAO study “found that the disparities were widespread and present regardless of the type of disciplinary action, level of school poverty or type of public school attended.” US News says the report comes “amid a divisive national debate over federal guidance on school discipline issued during the Obama administration in 2014. The guidance sought to stem the school-to-prison pipeline by addressing the disproportionate rate at which students of color and students with disabilities are suspended and expelled.” However, “some educators and education policy researchers now argue the Obama-era guidance did a disservice to schools, creating disruptive classrooms where teachers feel unsafe because they are pressure by school administrators not to report students.”

[NPR](#) (4/4, Turner) reports GAO researcher Jacqueline Nowicki “and her team interviewed administrators, visited schools across the country, and used 2013-2014 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection, which includes disciplinary actions in more than 95,000 schools across the country. Those numbers include suspensions, expulsions and referrals to law enforcement.”

DeVos Meets With Stakeholders On School Discipline Guidance. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met Wednesday with in a closed-door session “with educators who believe that rolling back the Obama rule will further entrench discrimination. Later in the day she heard from opponents who say that softening discipline practices makes schools less safe and prevents effective learning.” The AP reports that while there is little debate on whether disparities are “a serious problem, there’s intense debate over what causes them and how to fix them.”

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports DeVos’ Wednesday meetings came “as she considers whether to rescind the document,” which “put schools on notice that they may be found in violation of federal civil rights laws if they enforce...discriminatory rules or if their policies lead to disproportionately higher rates of discipline for students in one racial group, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” The piece says the debate hinges on “why those differing discipline rates occur and the role of the federal government in addressing them.” Meanwhile, Education Week reports, “DeVos and her team have not committed to a particular time frame for making a final decision on whether to keep, toss, or tweak the guidance. That decision is also on the agenda of a new school safety task force assembled by the White House, which DeVos chairs.”

Noting that the 2014 guidance was a joint document from ED and the Department of Justice, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/4, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports on similarities to meetings held before ED ended controversial Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/4, Emma) reports that a number of organizations, including the National Women’s Law Center, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Indian Education Association, and GLSEN, wrote to DeVos expressing concerns about a lack of transparency and broad representation surrounding the meetings.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports DeVos met with “civil rights leaders, parents and teachers Wednesday morning to discuss the impact of Obama-era guidance that calls on schools to reduce their reliance on suspensions and to consider whether racial bias plays a role in their disciplinary practices,” saying the “examination of this guidance is part of DeVos’ work as leader of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, although she has reportedly been thinking for months about rescinding the guidance.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/4, Richardson) reports DeVos “heard radically different takes” on the issue, saying stakeholders said the guidance, “depending on who was testifying, is either working like a charm in some classrooms or creating hair-raising chaos in others.” The Times reports ED spokesman Nate Bailey “said there is no timetable for a decision on the guidance, which was aimed at addressing concerns about racial disparities in discipline.”

Top Kansas Republicans Drop Effort To Bar Judges From Ruling On School Funding Cases.

The [AP](#) (4/4, John Hanna |, Ap) reports Kansas state Senate President Susan Wagler (R) and Majority Leader Jim Denning (R) “on Wednesday dropped a demand that lawmakers move to curb judges’ power before increasing

spending on public schools, allowing work to move forward on satisfying a court mandate on education funding.” The two “had said Tuesday that their chamber would not debate school funding until the GOP-controlled Legislature approved a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the courts’ power to decide education spending issues.” State House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr. (R) said the measure would not see a vote in the state House this week.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/4) reports the “stalemate...finally broke late Wednesday when Republican leaders in the Senate withdrew their demand that lawmakers first pass a constitutional amendment to take away the authority of state courts to review school funding adequacy cases.” The article reports Wagle and Denning announced their withdrawal of their ultimatum “just hours after the House Judiciary Committee voted narrowly to advance a constitutional amendment to the full House, even though House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., R-Olathe, had said he would not bring it to the floor for debate this week.”

The [High Plains Public Radio \(KS\)](#) (4/4) reports that on Tuesday, the state House “voted 71-53 to back a \$500 million school funding plan, passing it on to the Senate.” However, “Wagle fears that plan will again drive Kansas into a budget deficit and won’t guarantee an end to the lawsuits.” The paper explains that the state is “facing an April 30 deadline to pass a school funding increase and defend the solution at the Kansas Supreme Court. Lawmakers agreed last spring to hike school funding by around \$300 million, but failed to win the court over.”

Trump Discusses Cutting Education Funding From Omnibus Bill.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports President Trump “wasn’t totally thrilled about signing a spending bill that included a \$2.6 billion increase for education” and is “still trying to find a way to make cuts. Trump has reportedly discussed with House Republican leaders the idea of effectively cutting some spending out of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill he signed late last month.”

Texas Education Officials Seeking Public Feedback On Special Education Overhaul.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/4) reports Texas Education Agency officials are seeking feedback from the public “on the latest proposal to overhaul Texas’ special education services. In March, the Texas Education Agency officials proposed spending \$211.3 million over six years on professional development, engaging special education parents, monitoring special education practices at school districts and identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

DeVos To Consider Restoring Recognition To ACICS.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “said in a signed order Tuesday that she was restoring the federal recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, the for-profit accreditor that had waged a fight for reinstatement since the Obama administration withdrew its recognition in 2016.” This piece says DeVos’ move came in response to “a federal district court judge’s ruling last month that former secretary John King failed to consider key evidence before terminating the recognition of ACICS.”

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (4/3) reports the move makes ACICS, which “oversees primarily for-profit career colleges,” once again “eligible to serve as a gatekeeper of financial aid.” The move “means that more than 100 colleges still accredited by the council will remain eligible to receive federal student aid, for now” and that ACICS “will not have to face a federal advisory panel in May as part of the process to regain recognition.” The Chronicle reports the move “does not necessarily mean she will reverse the decision made under the Obama administration.

But [DeVos] will consider more options than just the binary choice of either renewing or denying the council's recognition."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/4, Douglas-Gabriel) reports DeVos "said Tuesday evening that she will consider reinstating the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, following a court ruling in favor of the controversial higher education accrediting agency." The Post says DeVos "has temporarily restored its status as a federally recognized agency pending her final decision. That will give any schools still accredited by the agency more time to find another accreditor, though the vast majority have already." The Post quotes DeVos saying in a statement, "As the court ordered, we will fairly consider all of the facts presented and make an appropriate determination on ACICS's petition." [MarketWatch](#) (4/4) also covers this story.

Video Captures University Of Chicago Police Officer Shooting Student.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/4, Cherney, Briscoe) reports that a University of Chicago police officer "shot and seriously wounded a 21-year-old student who charged an officer with a metal pipe near the South Side campus late Tuesday, authorities said." According to the Tribune, "body camera footage showing the shooting, which happened off campus just before 10:15 p.m. in the Hyde Park neighborhood, was released by the school on Wednesday night." Three university police officers "responding to a call of a burglary...encountered a man – later identified as a student – breaking car and apartment windows with a long metal pipe, university officials said in an email to students." The officers "ordered the student to drop the pipe, but he refused and charged at the officer in an alley," according to university officials. One of the officers "fired his weapon, hitting the student in the shoulder, according to the university," and he "was initially taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in serious condition, authorities said."

Asian-Americans Suing Harvard Over Admissions.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that "a group that is suing Harvard University is demanding that it publicly release admissions data on hundreds of thousands of applicants, saying the records show a pattern of discrimination against Asian-Americans going back decades." The group "was able to view the documents through its" 2014 lawsuit challenging Harvard's admissions policies. According to the Times, the plaintiffs "said in a letter to the court last week that the documents were so compelling that" the judge should "rule summarily in their favor based on the documents alone," and that "the public...has a right to see the evidence that the judge will consider in her decision." Harvard "counters that the documents are tantamount to trade secrets, and that even in the unlikely event that the judge agrees to decide the case without a trial, she is likely to use only a fraction of the evidence in her decision."

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The [AP](#) (4/4) reports that the Louisiana state House “criminal justice committee” on Wednesday “rejected a proposal” to allow teachers to carry guns at school that was “opposed by law enforcement, educators and the governor.” Sponsor Rep. Raymond Garofalo (R) “said that laws barring guns on school grounds invite attacks. But if teachers who have concealed carry permits and have gone through active shooter training were allowed to bring guns to school, shooters would stay away.” However, opponents “said the policy is bound to result in unintended shootings and would create confusion in the event of a school shooting.”

School Safety Standards Bill Advances In Maryland Senate.

The [AP](#) (4/4, Witte) reports the Maryland state Senate Budget and Taxation Committee “approved a measure to create consistent standards for school safety statewide.” The measure “requires the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop a policy for school-safety assessment. The policy

will include guidance on identifying people whose behavior could pose a threat to a school.”

California Districts Taking Part In School Climate, Safety Study.

[EdSource](#) (4/3) reports that California districts are taking part in a new five-year study by the American Institutes for Research on school safety and climate. The study “promises to be a groundbreaking examination of school safety in California schools. Virginia Tech University’s Laboratory for the Study of Youth Inequality is partnering with AIR on the research and Public Counsel, the Los Angeles-based public interest law firm, is also involved.”

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements Open for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Comments or recommendations should be sent to NASSP Director of Advocacy Amanda Karhuse at karhusea@nassp.org by April 26, 2018.

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EDUCATION POLICY

GAO Finds Racial Bias In School Discipline As ED Mulls Revising Guidance.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Green, Subscription Publication) reports that “black students continue to be disciplined at school more often and more harshly than their white peers, often for similar infractions, according to a new report by Congress’s nonpartisan watchdog agency, which counters claims fueling” the Trump Administration’s “efforts to re-examine discipline policies of the Obama administration.” The report, issued by the Government Accountability Office on Wednesday, “is the first national governmental analysis of discipline policies since the Obama administration issued guidance in 2014 that urged schools to examine the disproportionate rates at which black students were being punished.” The Times adds that critics “of the Obama-era guidance have questioned whether students of color suffer from unfair treatment under school discipline policies,” but the GAO “found that not only have black students across the nation continued to bear the brunt of such policies, but the impact was felt more widely than previously reported – including by black students in affluent schools.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports the GAO “released a report Wednesday outlining severe disparities between how white students and students of color are disciplined at the same day Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met with groups to discuss possibly rescinding Obama-era guidance designed to reduce these inequities.” The report “comes as civil rights leaders are fighting tooth and nail to save this guidance” which “calls on schools to reduce their reliance on harsh disciplinary practices like suspensions and expulsions. It also warns schools they could run afoul of federal law if certain groups of students are disproportionately punished.” The report analyzed ED data from 2013-15 and “reveal[ed] deep discipline disparities across student groups and the very problem the guidance is

intended to address.”

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/4) reports the GAO study “found that the disparities were widespread and present regardless of the type of disciplinary action, level of school poverty or type of public school attended.” US News says the report comes “amid a divisive national debate over federal guidance on school discipline issued during the Obama administration in 2014. The guidance sought to stem the school-to-prison pipeline by addressing the disproportionate rate at which students of color and students with disabilities are suspended and expelled.” However, “some educators and education policy researchers now argue the Obama-era guidance did a disservice to schools, creating disruptive classrooms where teachers feel unsafe because they are pressure by school administrators not to report students.”

[NPR](#) (4/4, Turner) reports GAO researcher Jacqueline Nowicki “and her team interviewed administrators, visited schools across the country, and used 2013-2014 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection, which includes disciplinary actions in more than 95,000 schools across the country. Those numbers include suspensions, expulsions and referrals to law enforcement.”

DeVos Meets With Stakeholders On School Discipline Guidance. The [AP](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos met Wednesday with in a closed-door session “with educators who believe that rolling back the Obama rule will further entrench discrimination. Later in the day she heard from opponents who say that softening discipline practices makes schools less safe and prevents effective learning.” The AP reports that while there is little debate on whether disparities are “a serious problem, there’s intense debate over what causes them and how to fix them.”

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports DeVos’ Wednesday meetings came “as she considers whether to rescind the document,” which “put schools on notice that they may be found in violation of federal civil rights laws if they enforce...discriminatory rules or if their policies lead to disproportionately higher rates of discipline for students in one racial group, even if those policies were written without discriminatory intent.” The piece says the debate hinges on “why those differing discipline rates occur and the role of the federal government in addressing them.” Meanwhile, Education Week reports, “DeVos and her team have not committed to a particular time frame for making a final decision on whether to keep, toss, or tweak the guidance. That decision is also on the agenda of a new school safety task force assembled by the White House, which DeVos chairs.”

Noting that the 2014 guidance was a joint document from ED and the Department of Justice, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/4, Hackman, Subscription Publication) reports on similarities to meetings held before ED ended controversial Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (4/4, Emma) reports that a number of organizations, including the National Women’s Law Center, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Indian Education Association, and GLSEN, wrote to DeVos expressing concerns about a lack of transparency and broad representation surrounding the meetings.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/4, Klein) reports DeVos met with “civil rights leaders, parents and teachers Wednesday morning to discuss the impact of Obama-era guidance that calls on schools to reduce their reliance on suspensions and to consider whether racial bias plays a role in their disciplinary practices,” saying the “examination of this guidance is part of DeVos’ work as leader of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, although she has reportedly been thinking for months about rescinding the guidance.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/4, Richardson) reports DeVos “heard radically different takes” on the issue, saying stakeholders said the guidance, “depending on who was testifying, is either working like a charm in some classrooms or creating hair-raising chaos in others.” The Times reports ED spokesman Nate Bailey “said there is no timetable for a decision on the guidance, which was aimed at addressing concerns about racial disparities in discipline.”

Top Kansas Republicans Drop Effort To Bar Judges From Ruling On School Funding Cases.

The [AP](#) (4/4, John Hanna |, Ap) reports Kansas state Senate President Susan Wagle (R) and Majority Leader Jim Denning (R) “on Wednesday dropped a demand that lawmakers move to curb judges’ power before increasing

spending on public schools, allowing work to move forward on satisfying a court mandate on education funding.” The two “had said Tuesday that their chamber would not debate school funding until the GOP-controlled Legislature approved a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution to limit the courts’ power to decide education spending issues.” State House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr. (R) said the measure would not see a vote in the state House this week.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/4) reports the “stalemate...finally broke late Wednesday when Republican leaders in the Senate withdrew their demand that lawmakers first pass a constitutional amendment to take away the authority of state courts to review school funding adequacy cases.” The article reports Wagle and Denning announced their withdrawal of their ultimatum “just hours after the House Judiciary Committee voted narrowly to advance a constitutional amendment to the full House, even though House Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., R-Olathe, had said he would not bring it to the floor for debate this week.”

The [High Plains Public Radio \(KS\)](#) (4/4) reports that on Tuesday, the state House “voted 71-53 to back a \$500 million school funding plan, passing it on to the Senate.” However, “Wagle fears that plan will again drive Kansas into a budget deficit and won’t guarantee an end to the lawsuits.” The paper explains that the state is “facing an April 30 deadline to pass a school funding increase and defend the solution at the Kansas Supreme Court. Lawmakers agreed last spring to hike school funding by around \$300 million, but failed to win the court over.”

Trump Discusses Cutting Education Funding From Omnibus Bill.

[Education Week](#) (4/4) reports President Trump “wasn’t totally thrilled about signing a spending bill that included a \$2.6 billion increase for education” and is “still trying to find a way to make cuts. Trump has reportedly discussed with House Republican leaders the idea of effectively cutting some spending out of the \$1.3 trillion omnibus bill he signed late last month.”

Texas Education Officials Seeking Public Feedback On Special Education Overhaul.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/4) reports Texas Education Agency officials are seeking feedback from the public “on the latest proposal to overhaul Texas’ special education services. In March, the Texas Education Agency officials proposed spending \$211.3 million over six years on professional development, engaging special education parents, monitoring special education practices at school districts and identifying previously unidentified students who may be eligible for special education services.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

DeVos To Consider Restoring Recognition To ACICS.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (4/4) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos “said in a signed order Tuesday that she was restoring the federal recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, the for-profit accreditor that had waged a fight for reinstatement since the Obama administration withdrew its recognition in 2016.” This piece says DeVos’ move came in response to “a federal district court judge’s ruling last month that former secretary John King failed to consider key evidence before terminating the recognition of ACICS.”

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (4/3) reports the move makes ACICS, which “oversees primarily for-profit career colleges,” once again “eligible to serve as a gatekeeper of financial aid.” The move “means that more than 100 colleges still accredited by the council will remain eligible to receive federal student aid, for now” and that ACICS “will not have to face a federal advisory panel in May as part of the process to regain recognition.” The Chronicle reports the move “does not necessarily mean she will reverse the decision made under the Obama administration.

But [DeVos] will consider more options than just the binary choice of either renewing or denying the council's recognition."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/4, Douglas-Gabriel) reports DeVos "said Tuesday evening that she will consider reinstating the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, following a court ruling in favor of the controversial higher education accrediting agency." The Post says DeVos "has temporarily restored its status as a federally recognized agency pending her final decision. That will give any schools still accredited by the agency more time to find another accreditor, though the vast majority have already." The Post quotes DeVos saying in a statement, "As the court ordered, we will fairly consider all of the facts presented and make an appropriate determination on ACICS's petition." [MarketWatch](#) (4/4) also covers this story.

Video Captures University Of Chicago Police Officer Shooting Student.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/4, Cherney, Briscoe) reports that a University of Chicago police officer "shot and seriously wounded a 21-year-old student who charged an officer with a metal pipe near the South Side campus late Tuesday, authorities said." According to the Tribune, "body camera footage showing the shooting, which happened off campus just before 10:15 p.m. in the Hyde Park neighborhood, was released by the school on Wednesday night." Three university police officers "responding to a call of a burglary...encountered a man – later identified as a student – breaking car and apartment windows with a long metal pipe, university officials said in an email to students." The officers "ordered the student to drop the pipe, but he refused and charged at the officer in an alley," according to university officials. One of the officers "fired his weapon, hitting the student in the shoulder, according to the university," and he "was initially taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in serious condition, authorities said."

Asian-Americans Suing Harvard Over Admissions.

The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Hartocollis, Subscription Publication) reports that "a group that is suing Harvard University is demanding that it publicly release admissions data on hundreds of thousands of applicants, saying the records show a pattern of discrimination against Asian-Americans going back decades." The group "was able to view the documents through its" 2014 lawsuit challenging Harvard's admissions policies. According to the Times, the plaintiffs "said in a letter to the court last week that the documents were so compelling that" the judge should "rule summarily in their favor based on the documents alone," and that "the public...has a right to see the evidence that the judge will consider in her decision." Harvard "counters that the documents are tantamount to trade secrets, and that even in the unlikely event that the judge agrees to decide the case without a trial, she is likely to use only a fraction of the evidence in her decision."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.](#)
- [Education Week Package Explores States' Progress Toward ESSA Implementation.](#)
- [Baltimore County School Board Approves New Technology Contract.](#)
- [Survey: 36 Percent Of College Students Don't Have Enough To Eat.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2018 05:29:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 9, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



After Extending Session Through Weekend, Kansas Legislature Passes \$522 Million School Funding Boost.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/8) reports on Sunday morning, the Kansas legislature passed "a \$522 million increase in annual K-12 school funding, phased in over five years." The plan is "based largely on the one originally offered by the House, one that is nearly twice as large as the Senate's original plan." Gov. Jeff Colyer announced that he intends to sign the measure, which "came only after lawmakers waited until literally the last possible minute to pass a resolution allowing the session to continue beyond midnight."

The [AP](#) (4/8, Hanna) reports that Republicans pushed the bill "over the bitter objections of some GOP colleagues in hopes of

meeting a court mandate." A number of teachers demonstrating at the Statehouse cheered the bill's passage. The AP explains that the state Supreme Court "ruled last fall that the state isn't spending enough money on its public schools. Colyer and some members of the Republican-controlled Legislature worried that a frustrated high court would take the unprecedented step of preventing the state from distributing dollars through a flawed education funding system, effectively closing schools statewide." The piece notes that most House Democrats voted against the plan, concerned that it "would not satisfy the Supreme Court." However, "the measure had bipartisan support in the Senate."

The [AP](#) (4/8) reports in a separate article that the debate surrounding the bill "highlighted deep divisions among top Republicans." Colyer and other key Republicans had supported the measure, but "the plan that passed did not feel like a compromise to the Senate's GOP leaders, who favored phasing in a \$274 million increase over five years. They argued the bigger plan, approved early Sunday and sent to Colyer, would force lawmakers to raise taxes within two years."

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/7) reports the Senate approved the bill “after hours of drama, angry speeches and bitterness that further showed the divisions within the Republican caucus. ... Conservatives in the Senate largely opposed the bill, saying that just giving more money wasn’t enough.” Earlier this week, the Star reports, the Senate passed a bill “that would add about \$250 million over five years and fund additional programs.”

The [Garden City \(KS\) Telegram](#) (4/8) reports the Senate passed the measure “by the slimmest of margins...following late-night drama that sent lawmakers into a whirlwind of fury and relief and nearly derailed a session’s worth of work.” This piece reports the legislature “now will have to convince the Kansas Supreme Court that the plan adequately funds public schools.”

The [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (4/8) reports that while former Gov. Sam Brownback came under withering criticism when he recommended increasing school funding by \$500 million over five years, “the Legislature ended up passing a plan early Sunday that will boost funding by roughly the same amount.”

POLITICS & POLICY

ESSA Student Funding Pilot Not Being Used For School Choice.

[Education Week](#) (4/8) reports ESSA allows districts “to apply for a ‘weighted student funding pilot.’” However, “it doesn’t look like most of the five districts that want to participate in the first year of the pilot, the 2018-19 school year, are planning to use the flexibility to lay the groundwork for new school choice programs.” Districts taking part in the program “can combine federal, state, and local dollars into a single funding stream tied to individual students.” Students “who cost more to educate” would carry more money. School choice fans “were initially really excited about the pilot’s potential to further students’ public school options.” However, “for now, most districts appear to be thinking of the pilot as a means to make sure disadvantaged students get” fair funding.

Columnist: Texas Could “Make History” By Adopting Mexican American Studies Standards.

[San Antonio Express-News](#) (4/8, Ayala) columnist Elaine Ayala says the Texas State Board of Education “could make history” if it endorses state “standards for a high school Mexican American studies course, the first time specific state standards could be set for an ethnic studies class” in the state. Ayala says a “yes” vote would constitute “a monumental step for a state whose board of education has been associated with non-academic decision-making, policy vetted not by educators but by religious conservatives and books filled with contorted views of history.” She argues that it would also help Texas “better serve not only the 52 percent of its public school students who are Latino but all the rest who’ll get wider views of history, culture and societies.” Board members will convene for a hearing on Thursday, during which they “will hear about research showing ethnic studies improves student outcomes, resulting in better grade point averages and higher retention and graduation rates.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.

[Reuters](#) (4/6, Krehbiel-Burton) reports that teachers in Oklahoma will enter their second week of strikes, having “walked out in protest of a decade of education budget cuts and low salaries,” calling for “\$200 million in increased annual education funding.” The strike, which has affected over 500,000 students, has “garnered strong public backing.”

The [AP](#) (4/6, Murphy) reports that the teacher’s union said the strike would continue, despite lawmakers approval of “an additional \$40 million for public schools Friday,” to be funded through taxes on Internet sales and

gambling. Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest called for additional funding through the elimination of “a capital gains tax exemption” and of “a repeal of a proposed lodging tax” to end the protests.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/8, story 8, 1:45, Snow) reported, “There is no sign” of an end to the teacher walkout in Oklahoma, which has been “extended into a second week in the state’s biggest districts as the teachers keep up their pressure on lawmakers to find more money for the schools.” NBC (McCoy) added the teachers “are finding unexpected allies” in nearly 200 attorneys who “will visit the capital Monday to mediate a resolution, or they say they’ll run for the legislators’ seats come November.”

Column: Teachers Are Competing With The Elderly For Scarce State Funds.

Robert J. Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/8) that the recent teacher strikes for higher pay in West Virginia and Oklahoma are “a harbinger of things to come” because teachers and schools are “competing with the elderly for scarce” public funds. Samuelson says, “Spending on the elderly is squeezing K-12 schools, police, parks, libraries, roads and other infrastructure (water projects, sewers), mainly through two programs: (a) Medicaid, a joint state-federal program of health insurance for the poor, which pays about half of nursing-home and long-term-care costs for the aged and disabled (on average, states pay about 37 percent of Medicaid’s costs); and (b) contributions to underfunded pensions for state and local workers.” He proposes that coverage for long-term care should “be moved into Medicare, which is fully paid by the federal government.”

Analysis: Teacher Walkouts Repeat Cycle From Decades Ago.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/7, Jamieson, Waldron) reports that the current wave of teacher walkouts in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kentucky can be attributed in part to austerity measures since the recession, “but the longer explanation stretches back a full generation, to when teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky last walked off the job.” The piece describes such actions in the late 80s and early 90s, calling them “seminal revolts that today’s striking teachers still remember, either as students or young educators early in their careers. The work stoppages led to meaningful raises and investment at the time. But the promise they held eventually lost out to the anti-tax ideology of both legislators and voters.”

Teacher Shortage, Walkouts Impact Hiring Scene.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/8) reports on the prospects that teachers entering the workforce face, noting that “a nationwide shortage of teachers means new teachers have the freedom to choose the job that fits them best.” However, “given teacher walkouts in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona because of low wages and a lack of resources, the profession may be less valued than ever.” The article describes a teacher employment fair at the University of Northern Colorado, which “attracted 161 school districts from 18 states and about 500 UNC teaching students. ... The teacher shortage allows these students to be more selective in the offers they accept, but it may also drive prospective teachers away from the areas of greatest need.”

California Districts Introduce Alternative Course On Big Data.

[EdSource](#) (4/8, Burdman) reports Los Angeles Unified is offering a new course, called “Introduction to Data Science,” at 21 of its “roughly 100 comprehensive high schools.” The approximately 1,000 juniors and seniors enrolled in the course “are collecting, analyzing and interpreting sets of data from their own lives,” while “learning basic statistics and computer programming, not to mention gaining insights into things like their stress levels and snacking habits.” Since Los Angeles Unified piloted the course “four years ago with funding from the National Science Foundation,” six other southern California districts have piloted it, “with eight more lining up.” EdSource says the “course rests at the vanguard of a quiet revolt against the dominance of algebra in the high school curriculum, a revolt that could

reshape the pathway to college for years to come.” EdSource adds that the new approaches to teaching offered by alternative courses “have the potential to improve equity and ensure that quantitative literacy is a right, not a privilege.”

New Mexico District To Launch Dual-Language Spanish, Navajo Programs.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Farmington Municipal School District, located “in New Mexico’s Four Corners region,” is launching two new dual-language programs next year aimed at having “some students fluent in Spanish or Navajo by time they graduate from high school.” In the first year, the district will offer “a 20-student kindergarten class learning Diné at Apache Elementary School, and another 20-student class learning Spanish at McCormick Elementary School.” Superintendent Gene Schmidt said FMSD hopes to expand the two programs to other schools as well.

University Of Michigan Initiative Helps Robotics Students Prepare For World Competition.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported a University of Michigan initiative dubbed the “Michigan Engineering Zone” has “helped more than 2,800 Detroit high school students build robotics, train for competitions and expand their science, technology, engineering and math education.” Involved students “will be able to put their practice to the test as Detroit gears up to host the FIRST Championship, a global robotics competition,” from April 25-29. Many students in the Detroit area lack the tools, resources, or staff to sustain a robotics team, and so MEZ is offering “workstations, equipment, storage and a cadre of mentors, including professional engineers and graduate students.” It also “gives high school students a hands-on learning environment to practice real job skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking,” as well as “assistance on college applications” and financial aid.

Washington District’s Natural Resource Program Profiled.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Kalama Middle-High School in Kalama, Washington launched a natural resources program this year to expose students to hands-on instruction and “real-life applications of science.” Superintendent Eric Nerison said more importantly, the course “makes students aware of career opportunities in forestry in particular.” Last week, 10 students in science teacher Chris Stone’s class planted roughly 300 Douglas fir seedlings “in the school district’s 38-acre forest.” Stone also “leads lessons on invasive species, ecology, tree identification and other topics” inside the classroom. The program is both a science course and career and technical education course, with students “learn[ing] forestry management first-hand from industry partners, ranging from government agencies such as DNR and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to private companies.” Students interested in a career in forest management can also pursue “internships, jobs and course credit with Grays Harbor College.”

Nebraska Girls Outscore Boys On Statewide ACT Exam.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (4/8) reports female students in Nebraska outscored their male counterparts “on the initial statewide ACT exam” for the 2016-17 junior class, “matching the boys in science and beating them in reading and English.” While male students scored higher in math by a half-point, female students “achieved a higher ‘STEM’ score” overall – and STEM “is a sort of holy grail in the fight to close the gender gap.” While a single “year of data does not make a trend,” the World-Herald says that “a reliable national test has shown that Nebraska girls tested well, relative to the boys, across the board, giving hope to those eager to see them close the gender gap.” University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education associate director and professor Wendy Smith said evidence of a narrowing gender gap “is what we’re looking for,” but she cautioned that “some pretty big gaps” along racial and income lines persist.

OPERATIONS

Sociology Professor: School Infrastructure Is In Dire Need Of Repair.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (4/7, Peek, Subscription Publication), University of Colorado Boulder sociology professor and National Hazards Center director Lori Peek says many of the public school buildings that host “more than 50 million children” in the US are “so dilapidated and poorly designed that children’s health and safety are at risk.” She examines various regional threats, such as earthquakes and floods, that further threaten public school buildings, and adds that “these issues are not just environmental,” but “social issues, too.” Peek argues, “If we legally require children to attend school, then we should be held accountable for keeping them safe there.” While “a real investment in our nation’s school infrastructure and emergency planning efforts” is “not really an option,” Peek says nonetheless, “we need to spend whatever time and money it takes to ensure those buildings are safe.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

WPost A1: Elementary Schools Increasingly Offering Courses On Proper Internet Use.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (4/6, A1, Harwell) reports on a growing trend of elementary schools offering lessons on “perhaps one of the most important and least understood school subjects in America – how to protect their privacy, save their brains and survive the big, bad Web.” The Post says that “classes such as these, though surprisingly rare, are spreading across the country amid hopes of preparing kids and parents for some of the core tensions of modern childhood: what limits to set around technologies whose long-term effects are unknown – and for whom young users are a prime audience.”

Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are “Mostly Harmful” For Students’ Mental Health, Poll Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Joyce) reports that according to new research by Gallup, “teachers and parents are at odds when it comes to how much they think digital devices are affecting children’s mental and physical health,” with 69 percent of teachers saying they think such devices have been “mostly harmful” for mental health, and 55 percent saying they are “mostly harmful” for students’ physical health as well. In contrast 69 percent of parents surveyed said such devices are “more helpful” for mental health, and 59 percent saying they are “more helpful” for physical health. Teachers are claiming that they are seeing “more anxiety,” that students have “trouble...thinking through problems,” and that the devices are affecting “their ability to think, to reason, to have a higher order of thinking.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooting Survivors Hold Town Hall Meetings.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/7, story 4, 2:05, Snow) reported, “Across the country today, young people are again pressuring lawmakers to end gun violence, this time in an effort they’re calling ‘Town Hall for Our Lives.’ Survivors of the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida are attending many of these nationwide events.” NBC (McCoy) added the events are being held “in more than 100 cities across the country,” and are part of “an effort to move the gun debate forward to the elections this November.” In most, Republicans did not appear, so “empty chairs symbolized those invited but who did not show up.”

Stoneman Douglas Yearbook To Focus On Good Times. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/7, story 5, 2:15, Snow) reported, “While a lot of young people from Parkland, Florida have been in the spotlight speaking out against gun

violence, they are also still students getting ready for proms and finals and graduation. Another rite of passage? Yearbooks. And for the yearbook committee at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, putting together this year's chronicle has been an emotional seesaw, balancing mentions of the tragedy with memories of their loved ones." NBC (Sanders) added, "Four hundred and fifty-two pages, 40 more than usual, but students and their advisers say they will not let the carnage define so many of their school's bright spots."

Parkland Student Blames Officials For School Shooting.

The [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Richardson) says Parkland student Anthony Borges, who was "shot five times as he shielded about 20 students by blocking a doorway" during February's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, "has blamed the Florida mass shooting on the sheriff and the school district." Borges wrote in a letter to Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel and superintendent Robert Runcie, "both of you failed us students, teachers, and parents alike on so many levels," adding, "I want all of us to move forward to end the environment that allowed people like Nikolas Cruz to fall through the cracks." Borges' attorney Alex Arreaza read the letter at a press conference on Friday.

Following Parkland Shooting, Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Becomes Gun Control Advocate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Germano, Subscription Publication) profiles Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack, who became an advocate for stricter gun controls following the Parkland, Florida school shooting. The Journal says Stack now supports an outright ban on assault weapons and a minimum purchase age of 21 for all firearms.

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Pilot Mental Health Program For Students.

The [AP](#) (4/8, Willetts) reports Kansas state lawmakers approved a \$10 million "pilot program to team up schools and community mental health centers" and "treat and track two pre-selected groups of children in six school districts." The state "House approved the plan as part of a larger education funding bill aimed at satisfying a state Supreme Court mandate to boost spending on public schools," and state lawmakers kept the "initiative intact in the final version of the education funding bill, which passed early Sunday and went to Gov. Jeff Colyer." To National Alliance on Mental Illness of Kansas executive director Richard Cagan, however, "the \$10 million is inadequate." State Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Kathy Busch, meanwhile, "said that when it comes to addressing students' mental and emotional needs, schools are being asked to do more with less."

Maryland State House Advances Bill To Increase School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/7, Witte, Press) reported that on Saturday, the Maryland state House of Delegates advanced a bill with bipartisan support that "aims to create a variety of standards and guidelines for school safety statewide." The bill addressed issues "involving the training of school resource officers, safety drills for staff and students, and identifying mental health concerns that could threaten student safety." Gov. Larry Hogan and state lawmakers proposed the legislation "after the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida," but the "issue of school safety" garnered "even greater interest in Maryland after the March 20 shooting in southern Maryland at Great Mills High School, where a student shot and killed a former girlfriend before killing himself."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Arizona Legislature Considering Overhaul To ELL Instruction.

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Sent Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2018 05:29:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

April 9, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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University Of Michigan Initiative Helps Robotics Students Prepare For World Competition.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported a University of Michigan initiative dubbed the “Michigan Engineering Zone” has “helped more than 2,800 Detroit high school students build robotics, train for competitions and expand their science, technology, engineering and math education.” Involved students “will be able to put their practice to the test as Detroit gears up to host the FIRST Championship, a global robotics competition,” from April 25-29. Many students in the Detroit area lack the tools, resources, or staff to sustain a robotics team, and so MEZ is offering “workstations, equipment, storage and a cadre of mentors, including professional engineers and graduate students.” It also “gives high school students a hands-on learning environment to practice real job skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking,” as well as “assistance on college applications” and financial aid.

Washington District’s Natural Resource Program Profiled.

The [AP](#) (4/7) reported Kalama Middle-High School in Kalama, Washington launched a natural resources program this year to expose students to hands-on instruction and “real-life applications of science.” Superintendent Eric Nerison said more importantly, the course “makes students aware of career opportunities in forestry in particular.” Last week, 10 students in science teacher Chris Stone’s class planted roughly 300 Douglas fir seedlings “in the school district’s 38-acre forest.” Stone also “leads lessons on invasive species, ecology, tree identification and other topics” inside the classroom. The program is both a science course and career and technical education course, with students “learn[ing] forestry management first-hand from industry partners, ranging from government agencies such as DNR and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to private companies.” Students interested in a career in forest management can also pursue “internships, jobs and course credit with Grays Harbor College.”

Nebraska Girls Outscore Boys On Statewide ACT Exam.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (4/8) reports female students in Nebraska outscored their male counterparts “on the initial statewide ACT exam” for the 2016-17 junior class, “matching the boys in science and beating them in reading and English.” While male students scored higher in math by a half-point, female students “achieved a higher ‘STEM’ score” overall – and STEM “is a sort of holy grail in the fight to close the gender gap.” While a single “year of data does not make a trend,” the World-Herald says that “a reliable national test has shown that Nebraska girls tested well, relative to the boys, across the board, giving hope to those eager to see them close the gender gap.” University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education associate director and professor Wendy Smith said evidence of a narrowing gender gap “is what we’re looking for,” but she cautioned that “some pretty big gaps” along racial and income lines persist.

OPERATIONS

Sociology Professor: School Infrastructure Is In Dire Need Of Repair.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (4/7, Peek, Subscription Publication), University of Colorado Boulder sociology professor and National Hazards Center director Lori Peek says many of the public school buildings that host “more than 50 million children” in the US are “so dilapidated and poorly designed that children’s health and safety are at risk.” She examines various regional threats, such as earthquakes and floods, that further threaten public school buildings, and adds that “these issues are not just environmental,” but “social issues, too.” Peek argues, “If we legally require children to attend school, then we should be held accountable for keeping them safe there.” While “a real investment in our nation’s school infrastructure and emergency planning efforts” is “not really an option,” Peek says nonetheless, “we need to spend whatever time and money it takes to ensure those buildings are safe.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

WPost A1: Elementary Schools Increasingly Offering Courses On Proper Internet Use.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (4/6, A1, Harwell) reports on a growing trend of elementary schools offering lessons on “perhaps one of the most important and least understood school subjects in America – how to protect their privacy, save their brains and survive the big, bad Web.” The Post says that “classes such as these, though surprisingly rare, are spreading across the country amid hopes of preparing kids and parents for some of the core tensions of modern childhood: what limits to set around technologies whose long-term effects are unknown – and for whom young users are a prime audience.”

Majority Of Teachers Believe Digital Devices Are “Mostly Harmful” For Students’ Mental Health, Poll Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Joyce) reports that according to new research by Gallup, “teachers and parents are at odds when it comes to how much they think digital devices are affecting children’s mental and physical health,” with 69 percent of teachers saying they think such devices have been “mostly harmful” for mental health, and 55 percent saying they are “mostly harmful” for students’ physical health as well. In contrast 69 percent of parents surveyed said such devices are “more helpful” for mental health, and 59 percent saying they are “more helpful” for physical health. Teachers are claiming that they are seeing “more anxiety,” that students have “trouble...thinking through problems,” and that the devices are affecting “their ability to think, to reason, to have a higher order of thinking.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

School Shooting Survivors Hold Town Hall Meetings.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/7, story 4, 2:05, Snow) reported, “Across the country today, young people are again pressuring lawmakers to end gun violence, this time in an effort they’re calling ‘Town Hall for Our Lives.’ Survivors of the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida are attending many of these nationwide events.” NBC (McCoy) added the events are being held “in more than 100 cities across the country,” and are part of “an effort to move the gun debate forward to the elections this November.” In most, Republicans did not appear, so “empty chairs symbolized those invited but who did not show up.”

Stoneman Douglas Yearbook To Focus On Good Times. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/7, story 5, 2:15, Snow) reported, “While a lot of young people from Parkland, Florida have been in the spotlight speaking out against gun

violence, they are also still students getting ready for proms and finals and graduation. Another rite of passage? Yearbooks. And for the yearbook committee at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, putting together this year's chronicle has been an emotional seesaw, balancing mentions of the tragedy with memories of their loved ones." NBC (Sanders) added, "Four hundred and fifty-two pages, 40 more than usual, but students and their advisers say they will not let the carnage define so many of their school's bright spots."

Parkland Student Blames Officials For School Shooting.

The [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Richardson) says Parkland student Anthony Borges, who was "shot five times as he shielded about 20 students by blocking a doorway" during February's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, "has blamed the Florida mass shooting on the sheriff and the school district." Borges wrote in a letter to Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel and superintendent Robert Runcie, "both of you failed us students, teachers, and parents alike on so many levels," adding, "I want all of us to move forward to end the environment that allowed people like Nikolas Cruz to fall through the cracks." Borges' attorney Alex Arreaza read the letter at a press conference on Friday.

Following Parkland Shooting, Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Becomes Gun Control Advocate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Germano, Subscription Publication) profiles Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Edward Stack, who became an advocate for stricter gun controls following the Parkland, Florida school shooting. The Journal says Stack now supports an outright ban on assault weapons and a minimum purchase age of 21 for all firearms.

Kansas State Lawmakers Approve Pilot Mental Health Program For Students.

The [AP](#) (4/8, Willetts) reports Kansas state lawmakers approved a \$10 million "pilot program to team up schools and community mental health centers" and "treat and track two pre-selected groups of children in six school districts." The state "House approved the plan as part of a larger education funding bill aimed at satisfying a state Supreme Court mandate to boost spending on public schools," and state lawmakers kept the "initiative intact in the final version of the education funding bill, which passed early Sunday and went to Gov. Jeff Colyer." To National Alliance on Mental Illness of Kansas executive director Richard Cagan, however, "the \$10 million is inadequate." State Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Kathy Busch, meanwhile, "said that when it comes to addressing students' mental and emotional needs, schools are being asked to do more with less."

Maryland State House Advances Bill To Increase School Safety.

The [AP](#) (4/7, Witte, Press) reported that on Saturday, the Maryland state House of Delegates advanced a bill with bipartisan support that "aims to create a variety of standards and guidelines for school safety statewide." The bill addressed issues "involving the training of school resource officers, safety drills for staff and students, and identifying mental health concerns that could threaten student safety." Gov. Larry Hogan and state lawmakers proposed the legislation "after the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida," but the "issue of school safety" garnered "even greater interest in Maryland after the March 20 shooting in southern Maryland at Great Mills High School, where a student shot and killed a former girlfriend before killing himself."

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2018 05:29:25 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

April 9, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

Advertisement



After Extending Session Through Weekend, Kansas Legislature Passes \$522 Million School Funding Boost.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/8) reports on Sunday morning, the Kansas legislature passed "a \$522 million increase in annual K-12 school funding, phased in over five years." The plan is "based largely on the one originally offered by the House, one that is nearly twice as large as the Senate's original plan." Gov. Jeff Colyer announced that he intends to sign the measure, which "came only after lawmakers waited until literally the last possible minute to pass a resolution allowing the session to continue beyond midnight."

The [AP](#) (4/8, Hanna) reports that Republicans pushed the bill "over the bitter objections of some GOP colleagues in hopes of

meeting a court mandate." A number of teachers demonstrating at the Statehouse cheered the bill's passage. The AP explains that the state Supreme Court "ruled last fall that the state isn't spending enough money on its public schools. Colyer and some members of the Republican-controlled Legislature worried that a frustrated high court would take the unprecedented step of preventing the state from distributing dollars through a flawed education funding system, effectively closing schools statewide." The piece notes that most House Democrats voted against the plan, concerned that it "would not satisfy the Supreme Court." However, "the measure had bipartisan support in the Senate."

The [AP](#) (4/8) reports in a separate article that the debate surrounding the bill "highlighted deep divisions among top Republicans." Colyer and other key Republicans had supported the measure, but "the plan that passed did not feel like a compromise to the Senate's GOP leaders, who favored phasing in a \$274 million increase over five years. They argued the bigger plan, approved early Sunday and sent to Colyer, would force lawmakers to raise taxes within two years."

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/7) reports the Senate approved the bill “after hours of drama, angry speeches and bitterness that further showed the divisions within the Republican caucus. ... Conservatives in the Senate largely opposed the bill, saying that just giving more money wasn’t enough.” Earlier this week, the Star reports, the Senate passed a bill “that would add about \$250 million over five years and fund additional programs.”

The [Garden City \(KS\) Telegram](#) (4/8) reports the Senate passed the measure “by the slimmest of margins...following late-night drama that sent lawmakers into a whirlwind of fury and relief and nearly derailed a session’s worth of work.” This piece reports the legislature “now will have to convince the Kansas Supreme Court that the plan adequately funds public schools.”

The [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (4/8) reports that while former Gov. Sam Brownback came under withering criticism when he recommended increasing school funding by \$500 million over five years, “the Legislature ended up passing a plan early Sunday that will boost funding by roughly the same amount.”

POLITICS & POLICY

ESSA Student Funding Pilot Not Being Used For School Choice.

[Education Week](#) (4/8) reports ESSA allows districts “to apply for a ‘weighted student funding pilot.’” However, “it doesn’t look like most of the five districts that want to participate in the first year of the pilot, the 2018-19 school year, are planning to use the flexibility to lay the groundwork for new school choice programs.” Districts taking part in the program “can combine federal, state, and local dollars into a single funding stream tied to individual students.” Students “who cost more to educate” would carry more money. School choice fans “were initially really excited about the pilot’s potential to further students’ public school options.” However, “for now, most districts appear to be thinking of the pilot as a means to make sure disadvantaged students get” fair funding.

Columnist: Texas Could “Make History” By Adopting Mexican American Studies Standards.

[San Antonio Express-News](#) (4/8, Ayala) columnist Elaine Ayala says the Texas State Board of Education “could make history” if it endorses state “standards for a high school Mexican American studies course, the first time specific state standards could be set for an ethnic studies class” in the state. Ayala says a “yes” vote would constitute “a monumental step for a state whose board of education has been associated with non-academic decision-making, policy vetted not by educators but by religious conservatives and books filled with contorted views of history.” She argues that it would also help Texas “better serve not only the 52 percent of its public school students who are Latino but all the rest who’ll get wider views of history, culture and societies.” Board members will convene for a hearing on Thursday, during which they “will hear about research showing ethnic studies improves student outcomes, resulting in better grade point averages and higher retention and graduation rates.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.

[Reuters](#) (4/6, Krehbiel-Burton) reports that teachers in Oklahoma will enter their second week of strikes, having “walked out in protest of a decade of education budget cuts and low salaries,” calling for “\$200 million in increased annual education funding.” The strike, which has affected over 500,000 students, has “garnered strong public backing.”

The [AP](#) (4/6, Murphy) reports that the teacher’s union said the strike would continue, despite lawmakers approval of “an additional \$40 million for public schools Friday,” to be funded through taxes on Internet sales and

gambling. Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest called for additional funding through the elimination of “a capital gains tax exemption” and of “a repeal of a proposed lodging tax” to end the protests.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/8, story 8, 1:45, Snow) reported, “There is no sign” of an end to the teacher walkout in Oklahoma, which has been “extended into a second week in the state’s biggest districts as the teachers keep up their pressure on lawmakers to find more money for the schools.” NBC (McCoy) added the teachers “are finding unexpected allies” in nearly 200 attorneys who “will visit the capital Monday to mediate a resolution, or they say they’ll run for the legislators’ seats come November.”

Column: Teachers Are Competing With The Elderly For Scarce State Funds.

Robert J. Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (4/8) that the recent teacher strikes for higher pay in West Virginia and Oklahoma are “a harbinger of things to come” because teachers and schools are “competing with the elderly for scarce” public funds. Samuelson says, “Spending on the elderly is squeezing K-12 schools, police, parks, libraries, roads and other infrastructure (water projects, sewers), mainly through two programs: (a) Medicaid, a joint state-federal program of health insurance for the poor, which pays about half of nursing-home and long-term-care costs for the aged and disabled (on average, states pay about 37 percent of Medicaid’s costs); and (b) contributions to underfunded pensions for state and local workers.” He proposes that coverage for long-term care should “be moved into Medicare, which is fully paid by the federal government.”

Analysis: Teacher Walkouts Repeat Cycle From Decades Ago.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/7, Jamieson, Waldron) reports that the current wave of teacher walkouts in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kentucky can be attributed in part to austerity measures since the recession, “but the longer explanation stretches back a full generation, to when teachers in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky last walked off the job.” The piece describes such actions in the late 80s and early 90s, calling them “seminal revolts that today’s striking teachers still remember, either as students or young educators early in their careers. The work stoppages led to meaningful raises and investment at the time. But the promise they held eventually lost out to the anti-tax ideology of both legislators and voters.”

Teacher Shortage, Walkouts Impact Hiring Scene.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/8) reports on the prospects that teachers entering the workforce face, noting that “a nationwide shortage of teachers means new teachers have the freedom to choose the job that fits them best.” However, “given teacher walkouts in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Kentucky and Arizona because of low wages and a lack of resources, the profession may be less valued than ever.” The article describes a teacher employment fair at the University of Northern Colorado, which “attracted 161 school districts from 18 states and about 500 UNC teaching students. ... The teacher shortage allows these students to be more selective in the offers they accept, but it may also drive prospective teachers away from the areas of greatest need.”

California Districts Introduce Alternative Course On Big Data.

[EdSource](#) (4/8, Burdman) reports Los Angeles Unified is offering a new course, called “Introduction to Data Science,” at 21 of its “roughly 100 comprehensive high schools.” The approximately 1,000 juniors and seniors enrolled in the course “are collecting, analyzing and interpreting sets of data from their own lives,” while “learning basic statistics and computer programming, not to mention gaining insights into things like their stress levels and snacking habits.” Since Los Angeles Unified piloted the course “four years ago with funding from the National Science Foundation,” six other southern California districts have piloted it, “with eight more lining up.” EdSource says the “course rests at the vanguard of a quiet revolt against the dominance of algebra in the high school curriculum, a revolt that could

reshape the pathway to college for years to come.” EdSource adds that the new approaches to teaching offered by alternative courses “have the potential to improve equity and ensure that quantitative literacy is a right, not a privilege.”

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Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day.

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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, Pennamom) 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 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,

“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.

[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



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

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

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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Subject: Oklahoma Teachers Protest To Continue For A Third Day
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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 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, Pennamom) 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 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."

Advertisement



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.”

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.

[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



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

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

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: "SP&M Weekly Update" <SchoolPlanning&Mgmt@1105direct.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 08:01:06 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Poll of Top Priorities for 2018 Has Education at No. 2
To: <don.owen@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

This email can be viewed as a [web page](#).



PoE Lighting Benefits and Design Considerations



SCHOOL Planning & Management Weekly Update

A 5-Minute Insight into pK-12 Education 2/22/2018

From the Industry

[State Chiefs Boost Student Achievement by Leveraging the Power of Teacher Leadership Networks](#)

[AASA Honors Veteran Educators for Distinguished Service at National Conference on Education](#)

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In the News

New Poll of Top Priorities for 2018 Has Education at No. 2

Valerie Strauss – The Washington Post – January 25, 2018

Washington, D.C. – A new poll of American adults released by the Washington-based Pew Research Center shows that the economy is not the No. 1 public priority for 2018. Fighting terrorism is No. 1, and No. 2 is improving education. Other issues, which had been less prominent public priorities in the past, have grown in importance.

Students Plan Protests, Washington March, to Demand Gun Control

Zachary Fagenson – REUTERS – February 18, 2018

Parkland, Fla. – Stunned by the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history, students mobilized across the country on Sunday to organize rallies and a national walkout in support of stronger gun laws, challenging politicians they say have failed to protect them.

Construction Project News

AISD Career + Technical Center Dedicated

On Feb. 10th, the Arlington, Texas, Independent School District held a dedication ceremony for their new Dan Dipert Career + Technical Center. This world class facility opened August 2017 and provides coursework centered on specific career and technical professions like animation, automotive technology, broadcasting, cosmetology, graphic design, and law enforcement.

[» Read More](#)

New School to Connect Preschoolers with Nature

Construction started Feb. 15 on a new nature-based preschool facility for the Environmental Nature Center (ENC), in Newport Beach, Calif., designed to create a hands-on, outdoor learning environment and demonstrate sustainable values for preschool students.

[» Read More](#)

Renovation Begins at Connecticut High School

Nonnewaug High School (Region 14) recently kicked off their renovation with a traditional groundbreaking ceremony. The \$63.8-million project involves a 145,000-square-foot renovation of the school facility.

[» Read More](#)

Also of Interest

Rainwater Harvesting Made Easy

Jessica Molter

Incorporating a rainwater harvesting system on your campus for irrigation is, conceptually, simple. However, a well-intentioned concept can easily turn into a complex and expensive system that is difficult and expensive to maintain. An easy solution to incorporate rainwater harvesting is to limit the scope.

Paying for Personalized Learning

By Dian Schaffhauser

Just how much does it cost to set up a personalized learning plan for an entire school, and is it really sustainable? Could a typical school budget cover the expense — and what would happen if budget cuts had to be made?

Featured Topic

CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) can reduce the opportunities for crime to occur by focusing on physical design features that discourage crime, while encouraging legitimate use of the environment.

Learn more about [CPTED](#) and how to create a safer, healthier environment for students and staff.

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From: "Eric Spencer" <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 07:49:59 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: 17 minutes of silence tomorrow
To: "Hannah Vanscoter" <Hannah.Vanscoter@CarlsbadSchools.net>

We have secured the auditorium for students to have a place at 8:30 to remember those who were affected by the Florida event. The auditorium will be reserved at noon today as well. The walkout at 10:00, should there be one, is not a school planned activity and should not be led by teachers. Mrs. Thomas and I discussed having a place for students today, and the auditorium was available.

I will be sending more information this morning to provide additional guidance.

Eric

-----Original Message-----

From: Hannah Vanscoter
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7:03 PM
To: Eric Spencer
Subject: 17 minutes of silence tomorrow

Mr Spencer,

I read your announcement today and I wanted to clarify. It said if students are wanting to participate to meet at 8:30, are the minutes of silence happening at 10:00? Or at 8:30?

Thank you

Hannah

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2018 15:46:01 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Re: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools
To: "Cindy Romero" <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

No

Greg Rodriguez, PhD
Superintendent
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2018, at 4:26 PM, Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net> wrote:

Not sure if you wanted me to forward this?

Cindy

From: Joanna Suarez [<mailto:automailer@edlio.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 3:23 PM
To: Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools

From: Joanna Suarez <joanna.suarez@fusion.net>

Hello, My name is Joanna Suarez and I'm a producer at FUSION TV. We're a digital and cable channel based in South Florida. Our team is working on a documentary speaking to students across the country on their views regarding the second amendment and the current gun control debate. I understand that Will Riley, a student at Carlsbad HS, has organized a Stand for the Second walkout on May 2. My understanding is that the students participating will not be walking off school grounds (which we have seen happen in other schools and is understandable). Would media outlets -- like our own -- interested in covering this short event be granted permission to be on campus for the duration of the walkout to get footage of it? I can be reached at Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net Many thanks for your time. Best, Joanna Suarez Joanna.Suarez@fusion.net

This email was automatically sent at by IP address 2600:1006:b06e:8d41:2456:d4a5:6254:b390 (computer id: 0.9281865956329509) on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 03:22 PM US/Mountain timezone.
This user has been authenticated with the following credentials from google: display name: Joanna Suarez; email: joanna.suarez@fusion.net; ID: 116520402056194283427.

From: "Cindy Romero" <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2018 15:52:38 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

That's what I thought!

From: Gregory Rodriguez
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: Re: Mail from Carlsbad Municipal Schools

No

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Superintendent
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From: "Deborah Haggerton" <Deborah.Haggerton@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Wed, 14 Mar 2018 10:00:01 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action - Walkout
To: "Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Mr Amador;

The west side of the main building is the hill and desert. I am assuming you mean the East side.

From: Adam Amador
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 9:32 AM
To: CHS Staff <CHSStaff@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Gregory Rodriguez <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Jesse Fuentes <Jesse.Fuentes@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action - Walkout

New Mexico's Finest,

Students have been inquiring about the National Day of Action – Walkout.
It is scheduled nationally for 10:00 am.

In the event students should walk out, be advised by the following:

If a student walks out during testing SBA testing, they will invalidate their test.

If/when you learn about student-led efforts, here are some tips for support:

- Meet with student leaders to assess needs and any plans.
- Remind students that counseling and guidance support are available to any student and that Carlsbad Municipal Schools encourages students to reach out
- Remind students that Carlsbad Municipal Schools supports their rights to peaceful assembly and free expression, but that school is about teaching and learning as priority, and that the Carlsbad Municipal Schools Student Code of Conduct remains in place and will be enforced.
- With student input, provide space on campus for students to assemble peacefully, but also ask students not to move off of campus for their own safety and security.
- Help ensure that any efforts to invite participation are open and that the events be inclusive of ALL students.
- Ask students to be respectful of students on campus who may not wish to participate, and/or students who may hold opposing views to those being shared during the event.
- Tell students that there may be increased staff, Carlsbad PD and/or security presence and that this presence is for student and staff protection and safety, not to quell their expression.
- Assess if there are teachable moments that could be relevant to class instruction or lessons.
- Invite student ideas for improving campus safety, security and culture.

If your students decide to walk out, the staging area will be in on the west side of the main building on the lawn. Please direct students that way.

After the allotted time for the walk out, students need to report back to class.

The Carlsbad Municipal School District supports students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression. Our goal in responding to walk-out plans and other forms of peaceful assembly is to try and keep focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance and planning to support student and staff safety.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Adam Garcia Amador
Principal
Carlsbad High School
3000 W. Church
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575.234.3319

From: "Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 13:27:17 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Misti Fernandez"
To: <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Deborah Beard" <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

That's how mine was too.

-----Original Message-----

From: Yolanda Pirtle
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:55 AM
To: Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Okay so, when I received this, I was in the 'to' slot and the rest of you were carbon copied. Is this how it appeared to you? Made me nervous! YP _____
From: Allison Hervol
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Fran McCarthy; Misti Fernandez; Yolanda Pirtle; Deborah Beard; Amy Newton; Denice Peterson; Nora Villarreal
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Yes, that is how I understood it. I think he wants 6-12 to send something out via school messenger.

From: Fran McCarthy
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>;

Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net<<mailto:gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>> has invited you to view the following document:

[<https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/documents/share/images/services/document-4.png>]

National Day of Action Walkout Response<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5a957fcb>

[Unknown profile photo]Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me.

Thanks. GR Open in Docs<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5a957fcb>

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

[Logo for Google Docs]<<https://drive.google.com>>

From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 11:41:33 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments: image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

No ma'am! I do know how to use the tool J Now to figure out how to write it all up...LOL!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:39 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Do you need help setting up a broadcast?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I was able to get logged in. Thank you for you help!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220

page 1 of 4

575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Would you please put a request into IT to add you as a login user. Once you are added if you would give me a call I will walk you through the process.

Thank you,

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

page 2 of 4

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:

National Day of Action Walkout Response

Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 11:42:19 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments: image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

Great! Let me know if you need any help.

Also on the right hand side there are a lot of help videos and pages.

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:42 AM
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Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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575-234-3318

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Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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Tammy Healey

page 1 of 4

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Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal

page 2 of 4

Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
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Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

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Subject: [National Day of Action Walkout Response](#) - Invitation to view

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You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 11:38:15 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

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Carlsbad Intermediate School

page 1 of 3

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575-234-3318

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Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
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Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:55:11 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Misti Fernandez"
To: <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Deborah Beard" <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Okay so, when I received this, I was in the 'to' slot and the rest of you were carbon copied. Is this how it appeared to you? Made me nervous! YP

From: Allison Hervol
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Fran McCarthy; Misti Fernandez; Yolanda Pirtle; Deborah Beard; Amy Newton; Denice Peterson; Nora Villarreal
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Yes, that is how I understood it. I think he wants 6-12 to send something out via school messenger.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; La Vern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net><<mailto:Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net<<mailto:gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>> has invited you to view the following document:

page 1 of 2

[\[https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/documents/share/images/services/document-4.png\]](https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/documents/share/images/services/document-4.png)

National Day of Action Walkout Response<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5a957fcb>

[Unknown profile photo]Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me.

Thanks. GR

Open in Docs<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5a957fcb>

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From: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 08:20:57 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image004.jpg (504 bytes) image002.jpg (1.1k)

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy

Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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[National Day of Action Walkout Response](#)

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From: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 09:11:14 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

Would you please put a request into IT to add you as a login user. Once you are added if you would give me a call I will walk you through the process.

Thank you,

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

page 1 of 3

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Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
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Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

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You have received this email because someone shared a document with you from Google Docs.

From: "Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:42:06 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Misti Fernandez" <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Yolanda Pirtle"
To: <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Deborah Beard" <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Yes, that is how I understood it. I think he wants 6-12 to send something out via school messenger.

From: Fran McCarthy
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:



National Day of Action Walkout Response



Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 11:47:18 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

Thank you so much!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:42 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Great! Let me know if you need any help.

Also on the right hand side there are a lot of help videos and pages.

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:42 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No ma'am! I do know how to use the tool J Now to figure out how to write it all up...LOL!

Andrea Edmonson

page 1 of 4

Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:39 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Do you need help setting up a broadcast?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I was able to get logged in. Thank you for your help!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Would you please put a request into IT to add you as a login user. Once you are added if you would give me a call I will walk you through the process.

Thank you,

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

page 2 of 4

408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
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To: Tammy Healey
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal

page 3 of 4

Carlsbad Intermediate School
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From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM

To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

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From: "Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 11:55:16 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Same way; me in the too slot and the rest of you

-----Original Message-----

From: Yolanda Pirtle
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:55 AM
To: Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Okay so, when I received this, I was in the 'to' slot and the rest of you were carbon copied. Is this how it appeared to you? Made me nervous! YP _____

From: Allison Hervol
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Fran McCarthy; Misti Fernandez; Yolanda Pirtle; Deborah Beard; Amy Newton; Denice Peterson; Nora Villarreal
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Yes, that is how I understood it. I think he wants 6-12 to send something out via school messenger.

From: Fran McCarthy
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
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<Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net<<mailto:gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>> has invited you to view the following document:

[<https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/documents/share/images/services/document-4.png>]

National Day of Action Walkout Response<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5a957fcb>

[Unknown profile photo]Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me.

Thanks. GR Open in Docs<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5a957fcb>

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From: "Misti Fernandez" <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:54:26 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Deborah Beard"
To: <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Yes!! It is for grades 6-12.

From: Fran McCarthy
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:



National Day of Action Walkout Response



Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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From: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 09:01:16 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments:image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson

page 1 of 2

Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM

To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:

National Day of Action Walkout Response

Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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From: "Yolanda Pirtle" <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 13:36:57 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Oh thank God!!! LOL!

Yolanda Carrasco Pirtle
Principal, Sunset Elementary
yolanda.pirtle@carlsbad.k12.nm.us
575-234-3315 ext. 1836

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
- Mother Teresa

-----Original Message-----

From: Allison Hervol
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:27 PM
To: Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

That's how mine was too.

-----Original Message-----

From: Yolanda Pirtle
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:55 AM
To: Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Okay so, when I received this, I was in the 'to' slot and the rest of you were carbon copied. Is this how it appeared to you? Made me nervous! YP _____

From: Allison Hervol
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Fran McCarthy; Misti Fernandez; Yolanda Pirtle; Deborah Beard; Amy Newton; Denice Peterson; Nora Villarreal
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Yes, that is how I understood it. I think he wants 6-12 to send something out via school messenger.

From: Fran McCarthy

page 1 of 2

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM

To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM

To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>

Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Andrea Edmonson

<Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net<

<mailto:Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Deborah Beard

<Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Nora

Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>;

Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net<

<mailto:Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Kim Arrington

<Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Mark Barela

<Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Don Owen

<Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Tammy Healey

<Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net<<mailto:Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>>>

Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net<<mailto:gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net>> has invited you to view the following document:

[<https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/documents/share/images/services/document-4.png>]

National Day of Action Walkout Response<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eil&ts=5a957fcb>

[Unknown profile photo]Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me.

Thanks. GR Open in Docs<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing_eip&ts=5a957fcb>

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[Logo for Google Docs]<<https://drive.google.com>>

From: "Deborah Beard" <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 13:13:58 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
"Fran McCarthy" <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Misti Fernandez" <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Yolanda Pirtle"
To: <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Amy Newton" <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Denice Peterson" <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Allison Hervol" <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Nora Villarreal" <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Yes.

From: Fran McCarthy
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 10:39 AM
To: Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Amy Newton <Amy.Newton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Denice Peterson <Denice.Peterson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I'm not asking CO, but we don't do anything other than read this? Is that how you interpreted it?

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:



National Day of Action Walkout Response



Please review this document. I will ask that you (principal) record a school messenger for grades 6-12 for release 2 days before the highlighted event. If you do not know how to record a message, please contact Tammy Healey. PLEASE DO NOT send this in emails or REMIND notices. IT IS TO GO OUT ON SCHOOL MESSENGER. If you have questions, please ask me. Thanks. GR

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From: "Tammy Healey" <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Mon, 12 Mar 2018 11:38:39 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view
To: "Andrea Edmonson" <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Attachments: image002.jpg (504 bytes) image001.jpg (1.1k)

Do you need help setting up a broadcast?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

I was able to get logged in. Thank you for your help!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Would you please put a request into IT to add you as a login user. Once you are added if you would give me a call I will walk you through the process.

Thank you,

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools

page 1 of 3

408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:01 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

No, I don't believe I am!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal
Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Tammy Healey
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Are you set up on the system?

Tammy Healey
Administrative Assistant
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
408 N. Canyon St.
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Office (575) 234-3300 ext. 1010
Fax (575) 234-3366

From: Andrea Edmonson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Tammy Healey
Subject: FW: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

Good Morning!

Do you have directions on how to send a message on the School Messenger System? I have not done this.

Thanks!

Andrea Edmonson
Principal

page 2 of 3

Carlsbad Intermediate School
800 West Church Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-234-3318

From: Gregory Rodriguez (via Google Docs) [<mailto:drive-shares-noreply@google.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:57 AM

To: Andrea Edmonson <Andrea.Edmonson@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Cc: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Lynn Strickland <Lynn.Strickland@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Allison Hervol <Allison.Hervol@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Deborah Beard <Deborah.Beard@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Joyce Lindauer <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Nora Villarreal <Nora.Villarreal@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tamara Faulk <Tamara.Faulk@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Yolanda Pirtle <Yolanda.Pirtle@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Misti Fernandez <Misti.Fernandez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Fran McCarthy <Fran.McCarthy@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kelli Barta <Kelli.Barta@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Kim Arrington <Kim.Arrington@CarlsbadSchools.net>; LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Mark Barela <Mark.Barela@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriel Lopez <Gabriel.Lopez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Don Owen <Don.Owen@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Eric Spencer <Eric.Spencer@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Tammy Healey <Tammy.Healey@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Cindy Romero <Cindy.Romero@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Invitation to view

gregory.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net has invited you to **view** the following document:

National Day of Action Walkout Response

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From: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 10:21:39 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Re: National Day of Action Walkout Response - Request for access
To: "Yolanda Pirtle" <yolanda.pirtle55@gmail.com>

Login with your school account.

—
Greg Rodríguez, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
(575) 234-3300
greg.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net

On Feb 27, 2018, at 10:20 AM, Yolanda Pirtle (via Google Docs) <yolanda.pirtle55@gmail.com> wrote:

is **requesting access** to the following document:



National Day of Action Walkout Response

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From: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2018 12:13:15 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Re: National Day of Action Walkout Response
To: "LaVern Shan" <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net>

This is great!

Greg Rodriguez, PhD
Superintendent
Carlsbad Municipal Schools
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2018, at 11:50 AM, LaVern Shan <LaVern.Shan@CarlsbadSchools.net> wrote:

Dr. Rodriguez,
You may have already seen this. . .but I liked the format and the messaging.
Something along this format in a couple of areas would be excellent guidance to school leaders.
LaVern

<National Day of Action Walkout Response.docx>

From: "Andrew Harris" <Andrew.Harris@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 18:47:58 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Re: National Day of Action Walkout Response
To: "Gregory Rodriguez" <Gregory.Rodriguez@CarlsbadSchools.net>

Greg, I was unable to open Google accounts. Can you send as attachment?

Mr Harris
â€

From: Gregory Rodriguez
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:16 AM
To: Abel Montoya; David Shoup; Simon Rubio; Andrew Harris; Ron Singleton
Cc: Cindy Romero
Subject: National Day of Action Walkout Response

Board,

Mr. Harris brought up the National Day of Action Walkouts and asked what administration was going to do about it. I have prepared the following information, and I will be requiring grade 6-12 principals to record a message for students and families for a call-out a couple of days before the April 20th date.

I am open to feedback, and suggestions for messaging and information.

As always, I appreciate your partnership. Please click the link below to view what we are working on. I ask that you **not** email this information to anyone, but instead use it for your information to respond to any inquiries you may receive regarding the walkouts.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17vw27dKDJ9x-9UlpJeCGwsL5FO33TS5Jdb65Oc6xZsw/edit?usp=sharing>

Thanks,

—

Greg Rodríguez, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
(575) 234-3300
greg.rodriguez@carlsbadschools.net

From: "Colleen Skelton" <Colleen.Skelton@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 15:02:49 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National walk-out
"Donna Gonzalez" <Donna.Gonzalez@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Lorie Mitchell" <Lorie.Mitchell@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Adam Amador"
To: <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Truth LaClair" <Truth.LaClair@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Jaime Berdoza" <Jaime.Berdoza@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
"Jana Smith" <Jana.Smith@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Gabriela Alaniz" <Gabriela.Alaniz@CarlsbadSchools.net>

I have not heard anything either --- and let's hope it stays that way!

From: Donna Gonzalez
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:35 PM
To: Lorie Mitchell <Lorie.Mitchell@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Truth LaClair <Truth.LaClair@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Colleen Skelton <Colleen.Skelton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Jaime Berdoza <Jaime.Berdoza@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Jana Smith <Jana.Smith@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriela Alaniz <Gabriela.Alaniz@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: RE: National walk-out

No ma'am! I haven't heard anything from our students.

From: Lorie Mitchell
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Adam Amador <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Truth LaClair <Truth.LaClair@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Colleen Skelton <Colleen.Skelton@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Donna Gonzalez <Donna.Gonzalez@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Jaime Berdoza <Jaime.Berdoza@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Jana Smith <Jana.Smith@CarlsbadSchools.net>; Gabriela Alaniz <Gabriela.Alaniz@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Subject: National walk-out

Have there been any rumblings about this happening here?

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/11/us/national-school-walkout-march-14/index.html?ofs=fbia>

Sent from my iPhone

From: "Donna Gonsalez" <Donna.Gonsalez@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 14:34:58 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: RE: National walk-out
"Lorie Mitchell" <Lorie.Mitchell@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Adam Amador" <Adam.Amador@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Truth LaClair"
To: <Truth.LaClair@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Colleen Skelton" <Colleen.Skelton@CarlsbadSchools.net>, "Jaime Berdoza" <Jaime.Berdoza@CarlsbadSchools.net>,
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Sent from my iPhone

From: "Joyce Lindauer" <Joyce.Lindauer@CarlsbadSchools.net>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Feb 2018 15:36:52 -0700 (MST)
Subject: RE: your house
To: "Treva Wheelless" <trevawheelless@yahoo.com>

Hi Treva. My farm sink in Pagosa and the new one I am getting both have two sinks. Without two, you would just use way too much water. My one in Pagosa was porcelain and the new one is stainless. The house is a one story with a walk out basement. 4 bedrooms (1 of them in the basement) and 3 full baths (1 in the basement). The family room, dining and kitchen are all in one area. The island is 8 feet long and has the sink in it. There is a pantry. There is a porch on the front and two in the back, one is wood and would be on the second level due to the house being a walkout and the other is below it, concrete. The house is about the same size as the last two houses I've had...2700. We're going to Louisville in March. I'm anxious for Dan to see it. I know you're enjoying redoing your kitchen and bathroom. I hope Barry's cataract surgery goes well. Got to get back to work. Love, joyce

From: Treva Wheelless [mailto:trevawheelless@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:27 PM
To: Joyce Lindauer
Subject: your house

Wow, only you could do that..I would take years deciding.
Is it a ranch-would love to hear more about it.
Are there exisiting homes or completely new subdivision?
I,m sure you are beyond busy now.
We are going to totally redo the kitchen and both bathrooms.
I am looking at all that stuff myself. However, running around to many places.
Did you like your 1 large sink (in the Pagosa house) instead of 2 bowls?
I am thinking about it as I will replace the existing sink.
I found one by FRANKE that I like. IT's ORK110 fireclay.
It is suppose to be a really good sink.
Barry has an eye surgery on Thursday-similar to cataract but just trying to get rid of his floaters.
Keep in touch. Love you all. Treva

From: "REMS TA Center" <info@remstacenter.org>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 13:13:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: REMS TA Center Twitter and Community of Practice Digest
To: <marianne.burnett@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Recent Discussions in the Community of Practice (CoP)

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Top Tweets from @remstacenter

- [#Schools](#), check out these apps to prepare your students & staff for all threats and hazards and check out our interactive tools to help you create and evaluate your emergency operations plans! <https://rems.ed.gov/EOPinteractivetools.aspx> https://twitter.com/nlm_news/status/949340104606277638
- Spring begins this month! [#Schools](#), are you prepared for spring weather hazards such as floods? Get resources to help you prepare: https://rems.ed.gov/Resources_Hazards_Threats_Natural_Hazards.aspx
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- [#DataPrivacyDay](#) was yesterday! [#EdLeadership](#): What steps are you taking to ensure [#student](#) data privacy? Share


this [@CommonSenseEd](https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social) graphic with [#teachers](#) on protecting student privacy on social media. https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social Follow us & [@OfficeofEdTech](#) for more recommendations! [pic.twitter.com/iJaZu96AN](https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social)


- [#WednesdayWisdom](#) Check out this article published by [@CDCemergency](#) Risk Communications Branch. <https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2018/02/kids-cope/> Caitlyn Lutfy shares lessons learned from displaced PR students + resources educators and others can use to help students cope post-disaster. [@StopBullyingGov](#)
- "Schools with positive school climates were those in which students reported high levels of safety/connectedness, caring relationships with adults, & meaningful student participation, as well as low levels of substance use at school, bullying/discrimination & student delinquency. https://twitter.com/REL_West/status/949383778811744256
- [@edutopia](#) [#EdLeaders](#): Looking for ways to enhance [#schoolclimate](#)? Check out this bingo game card! Share w/ educators to promote [#kindness](#). Spread the love today by checking out resources from [@StopBullyingGov](#) + our Webinar on [#bullying](#) prevention. <https://rems.ed.gov/Bullying2016Webinar.aspx> [#ValentinesDay2018](#) [pic.twitter.com/pXYFp1hqUW](https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social)
- A huge thank you goes out to [@TravelGov](#) for all that they do to help keep U.S. students safe abroad! Find helpful information and resources on their website: <http://travel.state.gov/travelsafety/DOE>
- If your [#school](#) is having a power outage during or after a storm, check out these important tips from [@Readygov](#). <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>
- Check out this report from the U.S. Department of Justice on [#Schoolsafety](#) statistics. It shows that school crime rates are decreasing, school shootings are rare, and traumatic events are common at schools. View the full report here: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/251173.pdf>
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- [#School](#) and [#campus](#) leaders: Join us each month by responding to our monthly [#SchoolSafety](#) and [#CampusSafety](#) Questions of the Month via our Community of Practice! Join now! For [#K12](#): <https://t.co/fAsemTyHri?amp=1>. For [#highered](#): <https://t.co/sh84YiZWbR?amp=1> [pic.twitter.com/7Gr7y9NkWM](https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social)
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- [#FollowFriday](#) [#Schools](#): Follow [@USCERT_gov](#) to learn about the recent Adobe and Cisco updates and fixes, then download our [#cybersecurity](#) fact sheets. K-12: https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Cybersecurity_K-12_Fact_Sheet_508C.PDF Higher ed: https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Cybersecurity_Considerations_for_Higher_ed_Fact_Sheet_508C.pdf
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 <http://rem.ed.gov/>

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 info@remstacenter.org

From: "REMS TA Center" <info@remstacenter.org>
Sent Date: Tue, 3 Apr 2018 13:19:52 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: REMS TA Center Twitter and Community of Practice Digest
To: <sheryl.dugger@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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this [@CommonSenseEd](https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social) graphic with [#teachers](#) on protecting student privacy on social media. https://www.commonsense.org/education/asset/document/social-media-privacy-infographic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social Follow us & [@OfficeofEdTech](#) for more recommendations! pic.twitter.com/iJaZu96AN


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- [#FollowFriday](#) [#Schools](#): Follow [@USCERT_gov](#) to learn about the recent Adobe and Cisco updates and fixes, then download our [#cybersecurity](#) fact sheets. K-12: https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Cybersecurity_K-12_Fact_Sheet_508C.PDF Higher ed: https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Cybersecurity_Considerations_for_Higher_ed_Fact_Sheet_508C.pdf
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 info@remstacenter.org

From: "Angel Ramirez" <cavemencoach21@yahoo.com>
Sent Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2018 21:08:31 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Resource
To: <angel.ramirez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

Attachments: 115154489.pdf (2.81 MB)

<http://content.ebscohost.com/pdf31/pdf/2016/BL0G/01May16/115154489.pdf?T=P&P=AN&K=115154489&S=R&D=a9h&EbscoContent=dGJyMNHX8kSeqLI4xNvgOLCmr1CeqLFSrq24TLaWxWX>

Sent from my iPhone

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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(855) 781-REMS (7367) or info@remstacenter.org.
 @remstacenter  <https://rems.ed.gov>



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>

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Responding to Student Protests and Demonstrations in Schools and School Districts

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From: "Grant Symonds" <g.symonds@lowcountrymontessori.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 06:46:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: School safety

<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@carrizozgrizzlies.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>, <ksumpterdm@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>, To: <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@mpschoools.net>, <frujillo@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@taoschools.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.

Thank you for your consideration on this public health matter.

Sincerely

_____(name)

Future Voter!

From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:08:35 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tips; 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 tips; 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 tips; 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 tips; 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 tips; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Victoria Gonzales" <victoria.gonzales@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 06:18:13 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tips; Repair shop for Paralympics; Planet-friendly Legos
To: "Louriz H.Soto" <louri.soto@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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From: "Newsela Daily" <info@newsela.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2018 05:18:05 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tips; 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 06:10:56 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Some not-so-traditional tips; 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 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: "Will Riley" <willriley999@gmail.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 6 Apr 2018 16:22:29 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Stand for the Second OpEd
To: <adam.amador@carlsbadschools.net>

Parkland Students Don't Speak for Me or My Generation

By Will Riley, Carlsbad High School senior

(word count: 645)

For the past month, Americans have been subjected to wall-to-wall cable news coverage of a well-orchestrated campaign to dismantle the Second Amendment. This campaign, organized and funded by national gun control groups, has exploited a handful of grieving teens from the Parkland, Florida high school shooting tragedy. As a high school senior in Carlsbad who supports gun rights, I am disgusted by how these students and their adult handlers are trying to define my generation. My generation is not anti-Second Amendment. My generation does not agree with retired Justice John Paul Stevens that the Second Amendment should be repealed. In fact, millennials are more pro-gun than our parents are. It's time the media starts hearing from the millions of young Americans who respect the Constitution and recognize that the Second Amendment is fundamental to our protection and safety, as both individuals, and as a nation.

A recent Gallup poll found that 66 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds said they think that concealed carry guns would make the U.S. safer, 10 percentage points higher than the national average of 56 percent. A separate Pew Research Center poll found differences between millennials and the generations before them on two gun control proposals, outlawing "assault-style" weapons and banning magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. Both Republican and Democratic millennials are more conservative on these proposals and less likely to favor them than Generation Xers, baby boomers, and even members of the so-called "silent generation," those born between the mid-1920s and mid-1940s. These Parkland high school students do not speak for my generation.

I am not a hunter. I am not much of a shooter. But this issue is not only about guns. This is a battle for the very heart and soul of our country. My goal is simple. I want to spread awareness that not all of my generation shares in this shortsighted crusade to strike a grievous blow to our nation. That is why I have decided to start this movement, Stand for the Second, and began planning a student walkout paralleling the National Day of Action and March for our Lives.

Rather than focus on the victims of firearms, as the gun control walkout did, our walkout will recognize all the American lives saved each year by firearms. Every year an estimated 1.5 million Americans use a firearm to defend themselves. During a 16 minute walkout, that breaks down to 91 American lives saved during the walkout. We want Americans to know that firearms are overwhelmingly used for good in our country. More importantly, the Constitution guarantees the right of every law abiding American to Keep and Bear Arms. That is what we want to remind people of – our Constitution is still relevant today and the Second Amendment in particular is still sacred.

Currently, my Stand for the Second walkout is expected to draw several hundred students at Carlsbad High School, with a small residual effect causing smaller walkouts in Artesia, Hobbs, and possibly Roswell. However, this is not the vision I want for our movement. I want a nationwide movement to defend the Constitution. Unfortunately, I don't have the benefit of wealthy organizers and funders like the Parkland students enjoyed. It's pretty much just me and my friends trying to get the word out. I am asking everyone who sees this, to consider a Stand for the Second walk out at your high school. Because my generation is so connected on social media, I think our message should be spread on Twitter and Instagram, and whatever other sites you use. You can link to my website on social media to help promote it: standforthesecond.com

My generation has an obligation to define itself and not let ourselves be defined by national gun control groups. This is our opportunity to stand up for the Second Amendment and have our voices heard in this critical national debate.

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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March 15, 2018

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

➔ **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.](#)

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➔ [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

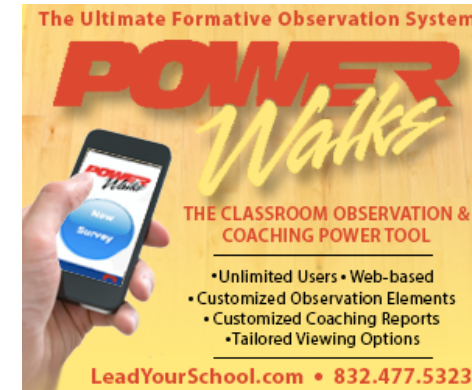


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Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "teresa naggs" <teresa.naggs@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
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Subject: Students stage school walkouts; Group helps poor, rural women; Seizure-detecting rescue dog
To: "Cindy Henderson" <cindy.henderson@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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To: "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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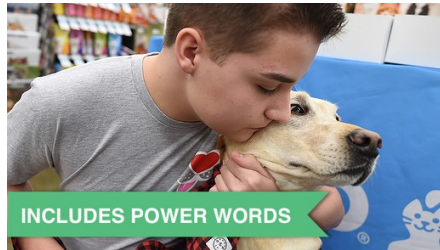
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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2018 05:36:28 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Students Stage Walkouts On Columbine Anniversary To Protest Against Gun Violence
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

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

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."

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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.”

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.”

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements Open for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Comments or

recommendations should be sent to NASSP Director of Advocacy Amanda Karhuse at karhusea@nassp.org by April 26, 2018.

Connect with NASSP:



EDUCATION 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 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.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Syracuse University Expels Fraternity Over Racist Video.

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (4/21, story 6, 0:20, Morgan), DeMarco Morgan reported Syracuse University “permanently expelled” the Tau Theta Tau fraternity Saturday “over an offensive video” that shows members “acting out a racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic oath.” Morgan added that while the students “said it was a joke,”

the school's chancellor criticized the response as "'disgusting' and increased the punishment...from suspension to expulsion."

The [AP](#) (4/22) reports that while the fraternity members say the video was "satire," the "controversy is continuing with the emergence of more video simulating a sexual assault of a disabled person. Chancellor Kent Syverud called the latest video clip of crude behavior at Theta Tau 'appalling and disgusting' in a statement Sunday."

Fraternity Apologizes For Leaked Racist Video, Says Offensive Assertions Meant To Mock Conservatives. The [Washington Post](#) (4/20, Selk) reports leaders of the Tau Theta Tau chapter at Syracuse University on Friday "apologized for a leaked video in which a member swore an oath 'to always have hatred in my heart for' black, Hispanic and Jewish people – each referred to with unprintable slurs," but they also insisted the oath "was not serious" and was rather "a satirical roast of its own members – in particular of 'a conservative Republican' in the frat."

Temple University Suspends Frat After Multiple Reports Of Sexual Assault, Substance Abuse.

[ABC News](#) (4/21, Osborne) reports Temple University in Philadelphia "suspended fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi on Friday after 'multiple credible reports' of sexual assaults, underage drinking and drug use." ABC News says "at least two reports of sexual assaults have been lodged against the fraternity."

Eastern Mennonite University Offers Bachelor's Aviation Program.

The [AP](#) (4/21) reports that Eastern Mennonite University is offering a new program at its Lancaster campus comprising "a bachelor's degree in leadership and organizational management with the option of having an aviation concentration." Students "will earn private and commercial pilot licenses with an instrument rating plus a flight-instructor certificate, and get an internship." The AP reports the program "comes as the nation nears a dire shortage of commercial pilots, predicted to hit in the 2021."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Baltimore Teachers Concerned Online Testing Contributes To Achievement Gaps.](#)
- [Commentary: Rolling Back Obama Discipline Guidance Could Increase Anti-LGBT Discrimination.](#)
- [Survey: Many Female Scientists Inspired By X-Files Character Dana Scully.](#)

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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: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Monday, April 23, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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 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."

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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.”

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.”

FROM NASSP

Teacher Quality and Student Activities Position Statements Open for Comments

The NASSP Board of Directors has stated its intent to adopt the position statements on [Teacher Quality](#) and the [Importance and Accessibility of Student Activities](#). Following a 30-day public comment period, the board will give final approval to the position statement at its July 2018 meeting. Comments or

recommendations should be sent to NASSP Director of Advocacy Amanda Karhuse at karhusea@nassp.org by April 26, 2018.

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EDUCATION 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 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.”

HIGHER EDUCATION

Syracuse University Expels Fraternity Over Racist Video.

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (4/21, story 6, 0:20, Morgan), DeMarco Morgan reported Syracuse University “permanently expelled” the Tau Theta Tau fraternity Saturday “over an offensive video” that shows members “acting out a racist, homophobic, and anti-Semitic oath.” Morgan added that while the students “said it was a joke,”

the school's chancellor criticized the response as "'disgusting' and increased the punishment...from suspension to expulsion."

The [AP](#) (4/22) reports that while the fraternity members say the video was "satire," the "controversy is continuing with the emergence of more video simulating a sexual assault of a disabled person. Chancellor Kent Syverud called the latest video clip of crude behavior at Theta Tau 'appalling and disgusting' in a statement Sunday."

Fraternity Apologizes For Leaked Racist Video, Says Offensive Assertions Meant To Mock Conservatives. The [Washington Post](#) (4/20, Selk) reports leaders of the Tau Theta Tau chapter at Syracuse University on Friday "apologized for a leaked video in which a member swore an oath 'to always have hatred in my heart for' black, Hispanic and Jewish people – each referred to with unprintable slurs," but they also insisted the oath "was not serious" and was rather "a satirical roast of its own members – in particular of 'a conservative Republican' in the frat."

Temple University Suspends Frat After Multiple Reports Of Sexual Assault, Substance Abuse.

[ABC News](#) (4/21, Osborne) reports Temple University in Philadelphia "suspended fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi on Friday after 'multiple credible reports' of sexual assaults, underage drinking and drug use." ABC News says "at least two reports of sexual assaults have been lodged against the fraternity."

Eastern Mennonite University Offers Bachelor's Aviation Program.

The [AP](#) (4/21) reports that Eastern Mennonite University is offering a new program at its Lancaster campus comprising "a bachelor's degree in leadership and organizational management with the option of having an aviation concentration." Students "will earn private and commercial pilot licenses with an instrument rating plus a flight-instructor certificate, and get an internship." The AP reports the program "comes as the nation nears a dire shortage of commercial pilots, predicted to hit in the 2021."

FRIDAY'S LEAD STORIES

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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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To: "Rosemary Carrasco" <rosemary.carrasco@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/16) reports hundreds of teachers in Colorado “converged on the state Capitol on Monday to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay and a stronger retirement fund.” Demonstrators “made so much noise that some state representatives and senators left their chambers to watch the rally. A few gave impromptu speeches in support of the teachers, who took a day off work to attend the annual Colorado Education Association’s Lobby Day.” Educators say low pay and looming pension cuts “will make it impossible for younger educators to remain in the profession for an entire career.”

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eason, Slevin) reports teachers “swarmed the Colorado state Capitol on Monday, shuttering

one suburban Denver school district to demand better salaries, as lawmakers were set to debate a pension reform measure that would cut retirement benefits and take-home pay.” The AP reports on the parallels with teachers in “West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona who have staged strikes or high-profile protests in recent weeks to draw attention to what teachers unions see as a growing crisis in the profession.”

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reports the Colorado Education Association “said it expects more than 500 of the 35,000 teachers and support workers it represents to come to the Colorado General Assembly in Denver to urge legislators to increase education funding and strengthen their retirement plan.” [Chalkbeat](#) (4/16) and the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/16) also cover this story.

Teachers Share Images Of Deteriorating Classrooms, Materials.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Sedgwick, Subscription Publication) reports over 4,200 teachers have responded to a call for reports on “the conditions that a decade of budget cuts has wrought in their schools,” describing “broken laptops, books held together with duct tape,” and having to make “watercolors by soaking old markers.” The article consists of condensed and edited responses from teachers describing overcrowded classes, low pay, and crumbling facilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) covers the Times project, reporting that “in recent weeks, the state of American classrooms and education has been at the forefront of the national conversation. Teachers have been protesting low pay and statewide education budget cuts.”

California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/16, Iasevoli) reports on Girl Scout Mackenzie Bryan, 18, of Paradise, California, who wrote “lesson plans incorporating the hands-on science fun of her childhood for kindergarteners at the school” and was honored with the Gold Award, “the highest achievement given to a Girl Scout.” She wrote “12 kindergarten lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and to the Common Core State Standards.” She worked with teachers and students at Hamilton Elementary where her mother is a guidance counselor on the plans.

Arizona Teachers Call For Walkouts Despite Planned Raise.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Christie) reports teachers in Arizona “say Gov. Doug Ducey’s teacher raise proposal falls short and they’re moving to take a strike vote.” Ducey “last week proposed a 9 percent teacher pay raise this year and 10 percent more by 2020, on top of 1 percent they are getting this year.” However, he “did not address teachers’ other demands — including raises for support staff, a return to pre-Great Recession school funding levels and no more tax cuts until school spending reached the national average.”

Teams Go To FIRST Championship In Detroit.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/16, Busche) reports on the For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology (FIRST) Championship in Detroit next week, noting that teams from Washburn and Patrick Henry high schools in Minneapolis “will be among 1,400 other teams” at the competition. Brynn DeVaan, senior and co-captain of the Washburn team, “estimated that each student on the 30-member Millerbots squad contributed around 300 hours in the past year.” David Sylvestre, lead mentor for Patrick Henry High School’s team, said that “his team has done nearly 10,000 hours of outreach over the past five years” including “promoting and teaching robotics to grade schoolers, middle schoolers and community residents.”

The [Englewood \(OH\) Independent](#) (4/16) reports, “PowerStackers, a FIRST Tech Challenge Dayton/Cincinnati robotics team, is officially headed to the 2017-2018 FTC World Championship” in Detroit. While each team “builds and programs a robot in response to the challenge,” it also “competes in several high-energy tournaments.” For this year’s competition, the teams built “a robot that can move autonomously, stack six-inch foam cubes, and lift a small figurine and place it several feet away, among many other abilities.”

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Hundreds Of Colorado Teachers Rally For Higher Pay, Education Funding.

The [Denver Post](#) (4/16) reports hundreds of teachers in Colorado “converged on the state Capitol on Monday to demand changes in school funding and to lobby for higher teacher pay and a stronger retirement fund.” Demonstrators “made so much noise that some state representatives and senators left their chambers to watch the rally. A few gave impromptu speeches in support of the teachers, who took a day off work to attend the annual Colorado Education Association’s Lobby Day.” Educators say low pay and looming pension cuts “will make it impossible for younger educators to remain in the profession for an entire career.”

The [AP](#) (4/16, Eason, Slevin) reports teachers “swarmed the Colorado state Capitol on Monday, shuttering

one suburban Denver school district to demand better salaries, as lawmakers were set to debate a pension reform measure that would cut retirement benefits and take-home pay.” The AP reports on the parallels with teachers in “West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arizona who have staged strikes or high-profile protests in recent weeks to draw attention to what teachers unions see as a growing crisis in the profession.”

[Reuters](#) (4/16) reports the Colorado Education Association “said it expects more than 500 of the 35,000 teachers and support workers it represents to come to the Colorado General Assembly in Denver to urge legislators to increase education funding and strengthen their retirement plan.” [Chalkbeat](#) (4/16) and the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/16) also cover this story.

Teachers Share Images Of Deteriorating Classrooms, Materials.

The [New York Times](#) (4/16, Sedgwick, Subscription Publication) reports over 4,200 teachers have responded to a call for reports on “the conditions that a decade of budget cuts has wrought in their schools,” describing “broken laptops, books held together with duct tape,” and having to make “watercolors by soaking old markers.” The article consists of condensed and edited responses from teachers describing overcrowded classes, low pay, and crumbling facilities.

[Education Week](#) (4/16) covers the Times project, reporting that “in recent weeks, the state of American classrooms and education has been at the forefront of the national conversation. Teachers have been protesting low pay and statewide education budget cuts.”

California Girl Scout Honored For Work On Kindergarten STEM Lesson Plans.

[Education Week](#) (4/16, Iasevoli) reports on Girl Scout Mackenzie Bryan, 18, of Paradise, California, who wrote “lesson plans incorporating the hands-on science fun of her childhood for kindergarteners at the school” and was honored with the Gold Award, “the highest achievement given to a Girl Scout.” She wrote “12 kindergarten lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and to the Common Core State Standards.” She worked with teachers and students at Hamilton Elementary where her mother is a guidance counselor on the plans.

Arizona Teachers Call For Walkouts Despite Planned Raise.

The [AP](#) (4/16, Christie) reports teachers in Arizona “say Gov. Doug Ducey’s teacher raise proposal falls short and they’re moving to take a strike vote.” Ducey “last week proposed a 9 percent teacher pay raise this year and 10 percent more by 2020, on top of 1 percent they are getting this year.” However, he “did not address teachers’ other demands — including raises for support staff, a return to pre-Great Recession school funding levels and no more tax cuts until school spending reached the national average.”

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Abu Zarin Hussin, a Malaysian firefighter, was propelled to Internet fame after British tabloids published false stories saying he had married his pet snake.

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Trump attorney accuses Stormy Daniels of violating nondisclosure agreement 20 times, claims right to seek \$20 million in damages

Michael Cohen, President Trump's personal attorney, claims he has the right to seek at least \$20 million in damages from porn star Stormy Daniels for allegedly violating a nondisclosure agreement 20 t...

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UMBC proved again that in sports, not even history goes undefeated

No. 16 seeds were 0-135 vs. No. 1s in NCAA men's basketball tournament history. The Retrievers couldn't have ended the streak more emphatically.

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NCAA stunner: No. 16 seed UMBC makes history by knocking out No. 1 Virginia

Maryland Baltimore County Retrievers become first bottom seed ever to beat a top seed, and they do it with authority, 74-54.

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Russia to expel 23 British diplomats, close consulate in escalating row over poisoned ex-spy

The move comes three days after British Prime Minister Theresa May announced the expulsion of 23 Russian diplomats.

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New red flags for Republicans as Democrat Conor Lamb clings to a narrow lead in a race that remains too close to call.

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Gun-trained teacher accidentally discharges firearm in Calif. classroom, injuring student

One student was reportedly treated for injuries that were not life-threatening.

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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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'Students have just had enough:' Walkouts begin across the nation one month after Florida shooting

Students at thousands of schools across the country plan to walk out of class at 10 a.m. Wednesday to protest gun violence and to mark one month since a mass shooting in Florida.

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Winners and losers from the Pennsylvania special election

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Democrats are declaring victory in the special election in a district Trump won by almost 20 points.

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"The pain and anguish that comes from seeing your murdered son's life and legacy treated as a mere political football is beyond comprehension," the

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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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Between Betsy DeVos, Jeff Sessions and Rex Tillerson, SNL sure had a lot to work with this week

The "Saturday Night Live" cold open focused on a week of Trump administration firings.

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United flight had to be diverted because it accidentally had a dog onboard

It was the third dog-related high-profile mishap by United Airlines.

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People in my Brooklyn neighborhood saw the sign and wanted to help. An art dealer had an interesting proposal.

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Trump campaign consultant took data about millions of users without their knowledge

Facebook recently suspended Cambridge Analytica for improperly sharing the information and failing to destroy it after concerns arose in 2015.

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His comments about the former FBI deputy director mirror the language of a banana republic despot.

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I stand with Andrew McCabe

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Trump lawyer's efforts to suppress Stormy Daniels started in 2011

A former porn star close to Daniels describes the deal cut with a celebrity tabloid. It was halted when Trump lawyer Michael Cohen intervened.

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Once-safe Republican districts suddenly in play as Democrats expand the map

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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After his family died, he threatened to kill himself. So the police took his guns.

A controversial warrant allows police to temporarily

confiscate guns from law-abiding — but at-risk — owners. It represents the latest piecemeal attempt to prevent gun violence in the U.S.

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A student was suspended after staying in class during walkouts. Here's what actually happened.

Conservative Twitter says this student was suspended for refusing to participate in his school's walkout. That's not exactly true.

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Why Trump's admission that he made stuff up to Justin Trudeau is particularly bad

It's one thing to make stuff up; it's another to do it like this.

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In fundraising speech, Trump says he made up trade claim in meeting with Justin Trudeau

In Missouri, the president also seemed to threaten to withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea over trade.

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Trump administration sanctions Russian spies,

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The sanctions stand in contrast to President Trump's reluctance to blame the Kremlin for its interference in the 2016 presidential race.

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U.S., France and Germany join Britain in saying Russia likely responsible for chemical attack against former spy

President Trump joined Britain's Theresa May, France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Angela Merkel in a statement pointing to Russia for the poisoning of a former spy living in Britain.

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She found a dating app on her boyfriend's phone. Then she bought a samurai sword.

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And he's Trump's choice to advise him on exactly that subject.

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Mass killer Dylann Roof's sister charged with carrying weapons at S.C. high school

Students at the school became alarmed at her Snapchat post disparaging National Walkout Day, which was being held in response to a mass shootings.

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Trump Cabinet members accused of living large at taxpayer expense

A half-dozen senior officials are now mired in federal investigations over high-end travel and extravagant expenses.

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The real Down syndrome problem: Accepting genocide

Agusta and Lucas, two children with Down syndrome, are examples of “things” that were not “ended.”

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Transcript of Trump’s remarks at fundraiser in Missouri on March 14

President Trump spoke at a fundraiser Wednesday for Republican Senate candidate Josh Hawley, who is taking on Sen. Claire McCaskill (D) in November’s midterm election. The Washington Post obtained an audio recording of Trump’s private remarks at

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"One can't prove that God doesn't exist. But science makes God unnecessary," he said during an interview.

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Here are every team's chances of advancing in the tournament.

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It is the latest in a series of dramatic efforts some officials have made to continue carrying out death sentences.

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Thousands Of Flint Students To Be Screened For Special Education Needs After Lead Scandal.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports that "school children in Flint, Michigan, will receive screening and in-depth health assessments to measure the effects of lead-tainted drinking water on their ability to learn, under a more than \$4 million legal agreement reached on Monday."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports that as many as 30,000 "Flint children who were exposed to lead during the Flint water crisis will be screened." The state will spend \$4.1 million on screening costs, and the defendants will each "provide, for five years, the equivalent of a full-time employee to help with enrollment, screening, assessment, parental consent, collaboration and communication with the registry" for lead

screenings. The settlement, filed Monday in Federal court in Detroit, still needs the court's approval. A hearing is set for Thursday.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (4/9) reports that the settlement involves a case from fall 2016 that "was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Education Law Center and the White and Case law firm against the MDE, Genesee Intermediate School District and Flint Community Schools." The suit alleged that "the educational institutions violated federal civil right laws, including the Disabilities Education Improvement Act and Americans with Disabilities Act." MSU already received \$3.2 million in August from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to develop the registry enabling "anyone exposed to Flint water from April 2014 until October 2015" to sign up for services. The latest settlement announcement provides a path forward "for neuropsychological testing for children whose parents and/or teachers notice potential developmental issues."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/9) reports the latest settlement is "part of a multipronged suit, in which the plaintiffs also are demanding the defendants provide better access to special education services for students who

need them, as well as discontinue what they say is a reliance on disciplinary measures as a way to deal with students with disabilities.”

POLITICS & POLICY

California BOE To Vote On ESSA Compromise Plan.

[EdSource](#) (4/8) reports the California Board of Education is scheduled to vote Thursday on “proposed compromises to the state’s plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will likely approve — if board members agree to the changes.” The article says the crux of the issue could be “how invested board members are in the state plan for school and district improvement that most of them believe was fine as they drafted it last fall.”

As ESSA Implementation Approaches, New Mexico Districts Struggle To Field School Improvement Plans.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/9) reports that the New Mexico Public Education Department has rejected districts’ plans to improve the “four worst schools in the state.” The districts “have until April 11 to come up with better plans, and the department has met with them both — Albuquerque Public Schools and Dulce Public Schools — to give feedback.” The impasse “is early evidence of the Every Student Succeeds Act in action. Under No Child Left Behind, the federal government had a heavy-handed role in mandating turnaround options for failing schools from a set menu of models, but the Every Student Succeeds Act empowers states to take a much more targeted approach, working directly with districts to develop custom turnaround plans that meet a school’s needs.”

Advocates Resist California State Lawmakers’ Push For Home School Reform.

[NPR](#) (4/9, Purper) reports “California is one of the more permissive” states when it comes to home school regulation, as “parents simply have to submit an affidavit with their addresses to register their home as a private school.” Two bills currently “in the California State Assembly would reform home-schooling,” but a provision in one of the bills that “would require the Fire Marshal to inspect home schools once a year” was “met with quick resistance” from home school advocacy groups. Advocates “aren’t just opposed to the idea of home inspections, or teachers being required to have valid credentials — they don’t think any regulation is necessary at all.” In testimony before state lawmakers, researcher and advocate Brian Ray said he “found no statistical significance between a state’s regulation on home schooling and its rate of home school-related child abuse.”

Michigan Governor, State Lawmakers At Odds Over Shared Time Program.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports “Michigan lawmakers — including some who are closely allied with U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — have taken steps in recent years to dramatically expand the shared time program as a legal way to use public dollars to serve students in non-public schools.” Subsequently, the program “has nearly tripled in size in the last seven years, with state costs ballooning from \$48 million in 2011 to more than \$133 million this school year.” Gov. Rick Snyder’s budget proposal would “end shared time classes for kindergarteners” and “put restrictions on the number of shared time classes a district could offer, prohibiting districts from collecting state funds for shared time that go above 5 percent of what they’re receiving for their public school students.” Snyder’s proposals have triggered “sharp opposition from lawmakers who support giving parents options,” including “allies of DeVos, a Michigan philanthropist who has long led the fight for vouchers in her home state.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts Continue Amid Calls For Capital Gains Tax To Fund Education.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports Oklahoma teachers continued protests at the state Capitol Monday calling for “the Republican-dominated legislature to enact a capital gains tax overhaul that educators said could help end a statewide walkout now in its second week.” Teachers “called for increased spending for an education system where inflation-adjusted funding per student dropped by 28.2 percent between 2008 and 2018, the biggest reduction of any state, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.”

[Politico](#) (4/9, Hefling) reports “dozens of schools” remain closed this week “as a massive teacher walkout continues. Students have already been out of classes for a week, state testing is this month and some schools are starting to push back the end of the school year to make up for lost time.” The piece reports that “what teachers really want is for the state legislature to end a tax break that benefits thousands of wealthy Oklahomans, known as the state’s capital gains deduction. That deduction allows certain property, like stock, to be deducted from state income tax. The Oklahoma Education Association, the statewide teachers’ union, says ending the break could provide about \$120 million a year in new money for public education.”

Miami Offering Subsidized Rent In District-Owned Housing.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports on a plan in Miami to “build a middle school in the upscale Brickell neighborhood with apartments on the first floor and classrooms on the upper stories.” If the program is successful, “the next step is to construct a 300-apartment complex next to Phillis Wheatley Elementary (pictured above), located a couple miles north of downtown Miami.”

Missouri Robotics Team Profiled.

The [Columbia \(MO\) Daily Tribune](#) (4/9) reports the Army Ants, a Columbia, Missouri-area robotics team comprised of 31 students “who are home-schooled or come from local high schools and is affiliated with 4-H,” have qualified for the FIRST Robotics “world championship April 18-21 in Houston.” Team mentor Kevin Gillis “said the team has made efforts to recruit under-represented students, including girls and minorities.” The team currently has 10 girls – “double last year’s number” – and “did 27 outreach events, one every other weekend,” last year. That community outreach “resulted in Army Ants receiving the Engineering Inspiration Award at a St. Louis competition March 8-10” and “a \$5,000 grant from NASA to pay for the team’s registration for Houston.” More recently, the Army Ants on Saturday “were demonstrating the 2016 competition robot at the MU Robotics Design Challenge, a competition for elementary and middle school teams in Naka Hall at the University of Missouri.”

PNC Bank Awards Three-Year Sponsorship To The Henry Ford’s STEAM Initiative.

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 05:30:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Thousands Of Flint Students To Be Screened For Special Education Needs After Lead Scandal
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

April 10, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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The advertisement has a purple background. On the left, it says "ELEVATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT" in white, followed by "WITH FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE SCHOOL PLANNERS" and "School Planner" in a white box. On the right is an image of a spiral-bound "2018-2019 Academic Planner" showing a group of students.



REQUEST INFO

Thousands Of Flint Students To Be Screened For Special Education Needs After Lead Scandal.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports that "school children in Flint, Michigan, will receive screening and in-depth health assessments to measure the effects of lead-tainted drinking water on their ability to learn, under a more than \$4 million legal agreement reached on Monday."

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports that as many as 30,000 "Flint children who were exposed to lead during the Flint water crisis will be screened." The state will spend \$4.1 million on screening costs, and the defendants will each "provide, for five years, the equivalent of a full-time employee to help with enrollment, screening, assessment, parental consent, collaboration and communication with the registry" for lead

screenings. The settlement, filed Monday in Federal court in Detroit, still needs the court's approval. A hearing is set for Thursday.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (4/9) reports that the settlement involves a case from fall 2016 that "was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Education Law Center and the White and Case law firm against the MDE, Genesee Intermediate School District and Flint Community Schools." The suit alleged that "the educational institutions violated federal civil right laws, including the Disabilities Education Improvement Act and Americans with Disabilities Act." MSU already received \$3.2 million in August from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to develop the registry enabling "anyone exposed to Flint water from April 2014 until October 2015" to sign up for services. The latest settlement announcement provides a path forward "for neuropsychological testing for children whose parents and/or teachers notice potential developmental issues."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (4/9) reports the latest settlement is "part of a multipronged suit, in which the plaintiffs also are demanding the defendants provide better access to special education services for students who

need them, as well as discontinue what they say is a reliance on disciplinary measures as a way to deal with students with disabilities.”

POLITICS & POLICY

California BOE To Vote On ESSA Compromise Plan.

[EdSource](#) (4/8) reports the California Board of Education is scheduled to vote Thursday on “proposed compromises to the state’s plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will likely approve — if board members agree to the changes.” The article says the crux of the issue could be “how invested board members are in the state plan for school and district improvement that most of them believe was fine as they drafted it last fall.”

As ESSA Implementation Approaches, New Mexico Districts Struggle To Field School Improvement Plans.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/9) reports that the New Mexico Public Education Department has rejected districts’ plans to improve the “four worst schools in the state.” The districts “have until April 11 to come up with better plans, and the department has met with them both — Albuquerque Public Schools and Dulce Public Schools — to give feedback.” The impasse “is early evidence of the Every Student Succeeds Act in action. Under No Child Left Behind, the federal government had a heavy-handed role in mandating turnaround options for failing schools from a set menu of models, but the Every Student Succeeds Act empowers states to take a much more targeted approach, working directly with districts to develop custom turnaround plans that meet a school’s needs.”

Advocates Resist California State Lawmakers’ Push For Home School Reform.

[NPR](#) (4/9, Purper) reports “California is one of the more permissive” states when it comes to home school regulation, as “parents simply have to submit an affidavit with their addresses to register their home as a private school.” Two bills currently “in the California State Assembly would reform home-schooling,” but a provision in one of the bills that “would require the Fire Marshal to inspect home schools once a year” was “met with quick resistance” from home school advocacy groups. Advocates “aren’t just opposed to the idea of home inspections, or teachers being required to have valid credentials — they don’t think any regulation is necessary at all.” In testimony before state lawmakers, researcher and advocate Brian Ray said he “found no statistical significance between a state’s regulation on home schooling and its rate of home school-related child abuse.”

Michigan Governor, State Lawmakers At Odds Over Shared Time Program.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports “Michigan lawmakers — including some who are closely allied with U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — have taken steps in recent years to dramatically expand the shared time program as a legal way to use public dollars to serve students in non-public schools.” Subsequently, the program “has nearly tripled in size in the last seven years, with state costs ballooning from \$48 million in 2011 to more than \$133 million this school year.” Gov. Rick Snyder’s budget proposal would “end shared time classes for kindergarteners” and “put restrictions on the number of shared time classes a district could offer, prohibiting districts from collecting state funds for shared time that go above 5 percent of what they’re receiving for their public school students.” Snyder’s proposals have triggered “sharp opposition from lawmakers who support giving parents options,” including “allies of DeVos, a Michigan philanthropist who has long led the fight for vouchers in her home state.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts Continue Amid Calls For Capital Gains Tax To Fund Education.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports Oklahoma teachers continued protests at the state Capitol Monday calling for “the Republican-dominated legislature to enact a capital gains tax overhaul that educators said could help end a statewide walkout now in its second week.” Teachers “called for increased spending for an education system where inflation-adjusted funding per student dropped by 28.2 percent between 2008 and 2018, the biggest reduction of any state, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.”

[Politico](#) (4/9, Hefling) reports “dozens of schools” remain closed this week “as a massive teacher walkout continues. Students have already been out of classes for a week, state testing is this month and some schools are starting to push back the end of the school year to make up for lost time.” The piece reports that “what teachers really want is for the state legislature to end a tax break that benefits thousands of wealthy Oklahomans, known as the state’s capital gains deduction. That deduction allows certain property, like stock, to be deducted from state income tax. The Oklahoma Education Association, the statewide teachers’ union, says ending the break could provide about \$120 million a year in new money for public education.”

Miami Offering Subsidized Rent In District-Owned Housing.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports on a plan in Miami to “build a middle school in the upscale Brickell neighborhood with apartments on the first floor and classrooms on the upper stories.” If the program is successful, “the next step is to construct a 300-apartment complex next to Phillis Wheatley Elementary (pictured above), located a couple miles north of downtown Miami.”

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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As ESSA Implementation Approaches, New Mexico Districts Struggle To Field School Improvement Plans.

The [Seventy Four](#) (4/9) reports that the New Mexico Public Education Department has rejected districts' plans to improve the "four worst schools in the state." The districts "have until April 11 to come up with better plans, and the department has met with them both — Albuquerque Public Schools and Dulce Public Schools — to give feedback." The impasse "is early evidence of the Every Student Succeeds Act in action. Under No Child Left Behind, the federal government had a heavy-handed role in mandating turnaround options for failing schools from a set menu of models, but the Every Student Succeeds Act empowers states to take a much more targeted approach, working directly with districts to develop custom turnaround plans that meet a school's needs."

Advocates Resist California State Lawmakers' Push For Home School Reform.

[NPR](#) (4/9, Purper) reports "California is one of the more permissive" states when it comes to home school regulation, as "parents simply have to submit an affidavit with their addresses to register their home as a private school." Two bills currently "in the California State Assembly would reform home-schooling," but a provision in one of the bills that "would require the Fire Marshal to inspect home schools once a year" was "met with quick resistance" from home school advocacy groups. Advocates "aren't just opposed to the idea of home inspections, or teachers being required to have valid credentials — they don't think any regulation is necessary at all." In testimony before state lawmakers, researcher and advocate Brian Ray said he "found no statistical significance between a state's regulation on home schooling and its rate of home school-related child abuse."

Michigan Governor, State Lawmakers At Odds Over Shared Time Program.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports "Michigan lawmakers — including some who are closely allied with U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — have taken steps in recent years to dramatically expand the shared time program as a legal way to use public dollars to serve students in non-public schools." Subsequently, the program "has nearly tripled in size in the last seven years, with state costs ballooning from \$48 million in 2011 to more than \$133 million this school year." Gov. Rick Snyder's budget proposal would "end shared time classes for kindergarteners" and "put restrictions on the number of shared time classes a district could offer, prohibiting districts from collecting state funds for shared time that go above 5 percent of what they're receiving for their public school students." Snyder's proposals have triggered "sharp opposition from lawmakers who support giving parents options," including "allies of DeVos, a Michigan philanthropist who has long led the fight for vouchers in her home state."

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DIGITAL LEARNING

ED Tech Firm Connexeo Receives \$110 Million In Latest Round Of Financing.

The [Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\) Business Journal](#) (4/9, Subscription Publication) reports education-technology company Connexeo closed on \$110 million in growth-equity financing to expand thanks to private equity firm Great Hill Partners, which led the round of funding. According to the Business Journal, Connexeo “makes administrative and payments software for schools and community groups like parent teacher organizations.” Connexeo “would up in Minnedota through its acquisition of Bloomington-based RevTrak, a maker of payments software for the K-12 education market.”

HIGHER EDUCATION



Howard Releases Report Detailing Financial Aid Misappropriation.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/9, Douglas-Gabriel) reports that Howard University officials released a report on Monday saying “six former employees misappropriated \$369,000 in financial aid from 2011 to 2016, revealing for the first time the scope of the scandal that helped ignite more than a week of student protests.” The Post notes that the scandal and ensuing investigation “led to the firing of half a dozen employees last year. What began as a routine internal review of the financial aid office in August 2016 resulted in the hiring of a forensic accounting firm months later, after a consultant grew suspicious about the awarding and distribution of university aid.”

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (4/9) reports the document indicates that “the six employees fired last year from Howard University were ‘inappropriately awarded and/or received’ roughly \$369,000 from 2011 to 2016” and that “Howard’s own investigation into what went wrong is still underway. The report makes clear that last year’s firings were for misappropriating university financial aid, not federal aid. It’s not known yet if there were any problems involving federal money.” [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/9) also reports.

Harvard Questions DOJ’s Intervention In Lawsuit Over Asian-American Applications.

[Politico](#) (4/9, Gerstein) reports in its “Under The Radar” blog that Harvard University “says something’s fishy about the Justice Department’s entry last week into a long-running civil suit accusing the prestigious school of discriminating against Asian-American applicants.” In a letter on Monday to the federal judge overseeing the suit,

Harvard attorney William Lee “described as ‘perplexing’ and ‘entirely unnecessary’ the Trump administration’s unusual filing Friday urging robust public access to key legal briefs that are set to be filed soon in the case. ‘The Department’s belated interest in this case, and its submission on this confidentiality issue in particular, cannot help but give pause,’ wrote Lee, a partner with law firm Wilmer Hale.” Lee said the Justice Department “already has the key materials related to the lawsuit after demanding them as part of an investigation officials launched last year into Harvard’s admissions practices.”

Educators, Experts Discuss Hispanic Representation In STEM Fields At HACU Forum.

[Diverse Education](#) (4/9) reports “educators and thought leaders from Hispanic Serving Institutions to advance the organization’s legislative agenda” gathered for the 23rd Annual National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education, hosted by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Discussions “focused on ways to increase Hispanic representation in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics sector, advocacy suggestions for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and other efforts to increase federal investment in Hispanic higher education and HSI.” In opening remarks, HACU president and chief executive Dr. Antonio R. Flores made “a declaration that HSIs ‘need and deserve’ greater support from members of Congress across the country.” He also “praised the federal omnibus spending bill that approved a National Science Foundation grant supporting undergraduate STEM education at HSIs,” noting that the increased funding has been a longtime HACU goal that “would help prepare the new wave of Hispanic workers preparing to compete in an economy with advanced technology.”

Study: Technology, Distance Leave Millions Of Americans In Education “Desert.”

The [Hechinger Report](#)’s (4/9) Matt Krupnick examines how distance and technological barriers “hinder the college aspirations of a surprising number of rural Americans.” An Urban Institute [study](#) found roughly three million Americans “live more than 25 miles from a college or university and lack the sufficient internet speeds to take online courses.” Nearly “12 percent of Native Americans and indigenous Alaskans live in these so-called education deserts,” and they are “16 percentage points less likely to attend college than Americans who live close to college campuses, and even less likely to complete it.” Some colleges are trying to reach “students who live in nearby education deserts.” North Dakota State University “tries to send counselors across the state to reach students in remote areas, but limited funding makes it more efficient to visit metropolitan areas.” Others, like the University of Montana, “are using more online outreach to attract rural students, but that strategy only works when a family has reliable internet access.”

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **[Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.](#)**
- **[After Extending Session Through Weekend, Kansas Legislature Passes \\$522 Million School Funding Boost.](#)**
- **[WPost A1: Elementary Schools Increasingly Offering Courses On Proper Internet Use.](#)**
- **[WSJournal: New Jersey Governor’s Plan To Fund Community College With New Taxes Is Misguided.](#)**

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 05:30:24 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Thousands Of Flint Students To Be Screened For Special Education Needs After Lead Scandal
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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HIGHER EDUCATION



Howard Releases Report Detailing Financial Aid Misappropriation.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/9, Douglas-Gabriel) reports that Howard University officials released a report on Monday saying “six former employees misappropriated \$369,000 in financial aid from 2011 to 2016, revealing for the first time the scope of the scandal that helped ignite more than a week of student protests.” The Post notes that the scandal and ensuing investigation “led to the firing of half a dozen employees last year. What began as a routine internal review of the financial aid office in August 2016 resulted in the hiring of a forensic accounting firm months later, after a consultant grew suspicious about the awarding and distribution of university aid.”

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (4/9) reports the document indicates that “the six employees fired last year from Howard University were ‘inappropriately awarded and/or received’ roughly \$369,000 from 2011 to 2016” and that “Howard’s own investigation into what went wrong is still underway. The report makes clear that last year’s firings were for misappropriating university financial aid, not federal aid. It’s not known yet if there were any problems involving federal money.” [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (4/9) also reports.

Harvard Questions DOJ’s Intervention In Lawsuit Over Asian-American Applications.

[Politico](#) (4/9, Gerstein) reports in its “Under The Radar” blog that Harvard University “says something’s fishy about the Justice Department’s entry last week into a long-running civil suit accusing the prestigious school of discriminating against Asian-American applicants.” In a letter on Monday to the federal judge overseeing the suit,

Harvard attorney William Lee “described as ‘perplexing’ and ‘entirely unnecessary’ the Trump administration’s unusual filing Friday urging robust public access to key legal briefs that are set to be filed soon in the case. ‘The Department’s belated interest in this case, and its submission on this confidentiality issue in particular, cannot help but give pause,’ wrote Lee, a partner with law firm Wilmer Hale.” Lee said the Justice Department “already has the key materials related to the lawsuit after demanding them as part of an investigation officials launched last year into Harvard’s admissions practices.”

Educators, Experts Discuss Hispanic Representation In STEM Fields At HACU Forum.

[Diverse Education](#) (4/9) reports “educators and thought leaders from Hispanic Serving Institutions to advance the organization’s legislative agenda” gathered for the 23rd Annual National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education, hosted by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Discussions “focused on ways to increase Hispanic representation in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics sector, advocacy suggestions for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and other efforts to increase federal investment in Hispanic higher education and HSI.” In opening remarks, HACU president and chief executive Dr. Antonio R. Flores made “a declaration that HSIs ‘need and deserve’ greater support from members of Congress across the country.” He also “praised the federal omnibus spending bill that approved a National Science Foundation grant supporting undergraduate STEM education at HSIs,” noting that the increased funding has been a longtime HACU goal that “would help prepare the new wave of Hispanic workers preparing to compete in an economy with advanced technology.”

Study: Technology, Distance Leave Millions Of Americans In Education “Desert.”

The [Hechinger Report](#)’s (4/9) Matt Krupnick examines how distance and technological barriers “hinder the college aspirations of a surprising number of rural Americans.” An Urban Institute [study](#) found roughly three million Americans “live more than 25 miles from a college or university and lack the sufficient internet speeds to take online courses.” Nearly “12 percent of Native Americans and indigenous Alaskans live in these so-called education deserts,” and they are “16 percentage points less likely to attend college than Americans who live close to college campuses, and even less likely to complete it.” Some colleges are trying to reach “students who live in nearby education deserts.” North Dakota State University “tries to send counselors across the state to reach students in remote areas, but limited funding makes it more efficient to visit metropolitan areas.” Others, like the University of Montana, “are using more online outreach to attract rural students, but that strategy only works when a family has reliable internet access.”

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- [WSJournal: New Jersey Governor’s Plan To Fund Community College With New Taxes Is Misguided.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 05:30:22 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Thousands Of Flint Students To Be Screened For Special Education Needs After Lead Scandal
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

April 10, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

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TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts Continue Amid Calls For Capital Gains Tax To Fund Education.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports Oklahoma teachers continued protests at the state Capitol Monday calling for “the Republican-dominated legislature to enact a capital gains tax overhaul that educators said could help end a statewide walkout now in its second week.” Teachers “called for increased spending for an education system where inflation-adjusted funding per student dropped by 28.2 percent between 2008 and 2018, the biggest reduction of any state, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.”

[Politico](#) (4/9, Hefling) reports “dozens of schools” remain closed this week “as a massive teacher walkout continues. Students have already been out of classes for a week, state testing is this month and some schools are starting to push back the end of the school year to make up for lost time.” The piece reports that “what teachers really want is for the state legislature to end a tax break that benefits thousands of wealthy Oklahomans, known as the state’s capital gains deduction. That deduction allows certain property, like stock, to be deducted from state income tax. The Oklahoma Education Association, the statewide teachers’ union, says ending the break could provide about \$120 million a year in new money for public education.”

Miami Offering Subsidized Rent In District-Owned Housing.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports on a plan in Miami to “build a middle school in the upscale Brickell neighborhood with apartments on the first floor and classrooms on the upper stories.” If the program is successful, “the next step is to construct a 300-apartment complex next to Phillis Wheatley Elementary (pictured above), located a couple miles north of downtown Miami.”

Missouri Robotics Team Profiled.

The [Columbia \(MO\) Daily Tribune](#) (4/9) reports the Army Ants, a Columbia, Missouri-area robotics team comprised of 31 students “who are home-schooled or come from local high schools and is affiliated with 4-H,” have qualified for the FIRST Robotics “world championship April 18-21 in Houston.” Team mentor Kevin Gillis “said the team has made efforts to recruit under-represented students, including girls and minorities.” The team currently has 10 girls – “double last year’s number” – and “did 27 outreach events, one every other weekend,” last year. That community outreach “resulted in Army Ants receiving the Engineering Inspiration Award at a St. Louis competition March 8-10” and “a \$5,000 grant from NASA to pay for the team’s registration for Houston.” More recently, the Army Ants on Saturday “were demonstrating the 2016 competition robot at the MU Robotics Design Challenge, a competition for elementary and middle school teams in Naka Hall at the University of Missouri.”

PNC Bank Awards Three-Year Sponsorship To The Henry Ford’s STEAM Initiative.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports PNC Bank awarded a three-year, \$210,000 sponsorship that “will help The Henry Ford provide preschool programming in STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.” PNC Bank has also “committed \$108,000 for field trips and a monthly program for preschoolers called PNC Tinkering for Tots,” and “will provide more than 1,000 young students per year with field trips to The Henry Ford, which includes the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village.”

Tennessee To Cut TNReady Testing To Reduce Burden On Teachers.

The [Tennessean](#) (4/9) reports Tennessee education officials are cutting two of the state’s required TNReady tests “in an attempt to reduce the testing burden on students and teachers.” Education Commissioner Candice

McQueen's assessment task force voted to drop chemistry and English tests generally taken by juniors.

New York State Officials Weigh New Arts Assessment As Alternative Graduation Pathway.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/9) reports "New York state's top policymakers" convened on Monday for "a discussion about how to test students' knowledge in areas such as visual arts, music and theater" as "part of New York's broader effort to expand graduation options and could provide a roadmap for state officials as they try to create testing options that stretch beyond multiple choice bubble tests." State officials maintain that "new graduation options, such as an arts assessment, are necessary" not only "to ensure that students can demonstrate their skills and knowledge in multiple ways on their path towards earning a diploma," but also to "inspire more arts education in schools." Critics, however, "worry that graduation requirements are being watered down," as students with disabilities, for example, are not required to "pass any Regents exams in order to graduate." Furthermore, Education Trust-NY found, "black and low-income students may be tracked into less rigorous or more career-focused paths as the state expands graduation requirements."

New York Students To Begin Common Core Testing.

The [AP](#) (4/8) reported New York students will begin "the first round of annual Common Core testing this week," with "English language arts assessments for public school students in grades 3-8" slated to begin Wednesday. The state "reduced the number of testing days for each subject from three days to two and made other changes in response to opposition that's led large numbers of students to opt out of the high-stakes assessments in recent years." High Achievement New York and other groups that support the assessments "are urging parents to have their children take the tests, calling them a tool to track student progress and identify and close achievement gaps." Allies for Public Education and other groups opposed to the assessments, meanwhile, argue that "they force schools to focus too much on test prep."

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OPERATIONS

Charter Advocacy Group Drops Lawsuits Against LAUSD.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/9, Blume) reports the California Charter Schools Association "last week announced that it would end two long-running lawsuits in which it was seeking more classroom space and construction money from the Los Angeles school district." The Times says the move "reflects better relations between charter schools and the L.A. Unified School District. But the move also suggests that the litigation, which already contributed to significant gains for area charters, was unlikely to produce much more."

Hurricane-Hit Texas Districts Still Struggling To Recover.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports that at least "10,000 students enrolled in a different school district in Texas because of [Hurricane] Harvey and at least 34,000 became homeless," according to the Texas Education Agency. Because of "significant under reporting in the first round of data collection," however, "those totals don't accurately reflect the

student populations, according to guidance issued to Texas school districts in December.” Meanwhile, for those districts “directly in the path of Harvey,” reopening constituted “an uplifting milestone” – and “only the beginning of a long road to recovery.” Aransas County Independent School District, for example, “was hit with \$55 million in damages, while Port Aransas ISD sustained \$12.5 million in damages.” Worsening “matters, dips in enrollment and property values, two main factors that determine school districts’ funding, leave these districts with an uncertain financial future.”

New York City’s New Schools Chancellor Launches Classroom Tour.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/9, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports New York City schools chancellor Richard Carranza began his classroom tour on Monday to highlight Mayor Bill de Blasio’s education agenda, which has focused heavily on expanding access to college and early childhood education opportunities. The Journal says that Carranza quickly embraced those initiatives, but he must also address a slew of other daunting issues, such as overcrowding, low test scores, achievement gaps, and persistent segregation.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/9) says unlike many previous chancellors, Carranza is stretching his five-borough tour “out all week” instead of in one day. Chalkbeat says the tour is “no small feat: It’s a challenging week for school visits, because elementary and middle schools will be administering state testing starting on Wednesday.” Along the way, Carranza answered questions from reporters, who were invited by the city Education Department “to tag along for the new schools chief’s first day.” Along the way, Carranza “was mostly quiet during the initial classroom visits,” but he answered questions from the reporters. When questioned “about the city’s homelessness crisis – roughly one in 10 students live in temporary housing – Carranza said he is interested in talking about the problem with advocates from around the city.” He also “said he is interested in addressing the city’s achievement gap, and mentioned school segregation by name – something both the mayor and former-Chancellor Fariña had avoided.”

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SCHOOL FINANCE

After Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Boost, Supreme Court Has Next Move.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports in continued coverage that the Kansas state legislature over the weekend passed “a \$534 million increase in school funding over the next five years” and Gov. Jeff Colyer is expected to sign the measure. “Now the state’s supreme court will have to decide if that amount of money is enough for the state’s school system to provide an ‘adequate’ education, as the state’s constitution mandates. The court gave the state until the end of April or risk having the state’s school system shut down.” The article reports the court commissioned a study this year predicting that “the state would have to come up with between \$1.7 billion and \$2 billion over the next five years in order to provide an adequate education. The study concluded that \$400 million would merely

maintain current achievement levels, while increasing the high school graduation rate. A quarter of the state's students today does not meet the state's standards."

The [Wyandotte Daily \(KS\)](#) (4/9) reports lawmakers may have to wait months to know whether the bill will satisfy the court's standards, and "if it falls short, the Kansas Supreme Court could call them back to Topeka this summer with yet another ultimatum to send even more money to local districts." Meanwhile, attorneys for the state will in the coming weeks be preparing "briefs to the Kansas Supreme Court arguing this money is enough. Lawmakers, meanwhile, will wrangle over collecting online sales taxes to help cover the cost."

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/9) reports the state Department of Education announced Monday that the new school funding plan has "an \$80 million error." State Rep. Fred Patton (R) "said the error is tied to the way local option budgets are calculated as a portion of the state aid. He said the plan was supposed to add about \$525 million in funding for public schools over the next five years but failed to include some funding for the upcoming school year that was added in legislation passed last year." However, "charts produced by KSDE show a difference of \$79.7 million in general state aid between the approved and intended versions of Senate Bill 423."

In a separate article, the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/9) reports opponents of the bill "couldn't stop the momentum behind a plan to phase in an increase of more than \$500 million in annual public school funding, but Senate President Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, R-Overland Park, preached of a financial reckoning two years from now and compared the surge in spending to 2012 tax cuts that proved to be a disaster for the state's budget."

SAFETY & SECURITY

New Jersey Lawmakers Hear School Security Concerns At Public Hearing.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/9, Burney) reports nearly two dozen speakers signed up to address New Jersey lawmakers "who wanted to hear from stakeholders on Monday about school security." During the hearing at the Camden County College campus in Cherry Hill, Candace Beverly, 11, of Bordentown Township, pleaded with lawmakers "to put an end to the terror and the fear" and make New Jersey schools safer. The girl, accompanied by her mother, "asked lawmakers to support a bill approved by the Assembly in June that would require schools to train students on how to interact with police. She also asked for more mental health awareness for students, a suggestion echoed by others during the hearing." Cherry Hill, which has about 11,300 students in grades K-12, "plans to arm its four campus officers for the 2018-19 school year and hire five additional armed officers."

Maryland General Assembly Passes School Safety Bill.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to improve school safety "less than a month after a shooting at a high school in southern Maryland left two students dead." The bill would require public high schools "to have either a school resource officer or plans for adequate law enforcement coverage by the upcoming school year." Middle and elementary schools "would need to have the plans in place for the school year that begins in 2018." State lawmakers "already have set aside about \$41 million in the budget to make school safety improvements. The bill sets aside another \$10 million annually in future years to help pay for the policing component."

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Sent Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2018 05:30:22 -0600 (MDT)
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The [Seventy Four](#) (4/9) reports that the New Mexico Public Education Department has rejected districts’ plans to improve the “four worst schools in the state.” The districts “have until April 11 to come up with better plans, and the department has met with them both — Albuquerque Public Schools and Dulce Public Schools — to give feedback.” The impasse “is early evidence of the Every Student Succeeds Act in action. Under No Child Left Behind, the federal government had a heavy-handed role in mandating turnaround options for failing schools from a set menu of models, but the Every Student Succeeds Act empowers states to take a much more targeted approach, working directly with districts to develop custom turnaround plans that meet a school’s needs.”

Advocates Resist California State Lawmakers’ Push For Home School Reform.

[NPR](#) (4/9, Purper) reports “California is one of the more permissive” states when it comes to home school regulation, as “parents simply have to submit an affidavit with their addresses to register their home as a private school.” Two bills currently “in the California State Assembly would reform home-schooling,” but a provision in one of the bills that “would require the Fire Marshal to inspect home schools once a year” was “met with quick resistance” from home school advocacy groups. Advocates “aren’t just opposed to the idea of home inspections, or teachers being required to have valid credentials — they don’t think any regulation is necessary at all.” In testimony before state lawmakers, researcher and advocate Brian Ray said he “found no statistical significance between a state’s regulation on home schooling and its rate of home school-related child abuse.”

Michigan Governor, State Lawmakers At Odds Over Shared Time Program.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (4/9) reports “Michigan lawmakers — including some who are closely allied with U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — have taken steps in recent years to dramatically expand the shared time program as a legal way to use public dollars to serve students in non-public schools.” Subsequently, the program “has nearly tripled in size in the last seven years, with state costs ballooning from \$48 million in 2011 to more than \$133 million this school year.” Gov. Rick Snyder’s budget proposal would “end shared time classes for kindergarteners” and “put restrictions on the number of shared time classes a district could offer, prohibiting districts from collecting state funds for shared time that go above 5 percent of what they’re receiving for their public school students.” Snyder’s proposals have triggered “sharp opposition from lawmakers who support giving parents options,” including “allies of DeVos, a Michigan philanthropist who has long led the fight for vouchers in her home state.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Oklahoma Teacher Walkouts Continue Amid Calls For Capital Gains Tax To Fund Education.

[Reuters](#) (4/9) reports Oklahoma teachers continued protests at the state Capitol Monday calling for “the Republican-dominated legislature to enact a capital gains tax overhaul that educators said could help end a statewide walkout now in its second week.” Teachers “called for increased spending for an education system where inflation-adjusted funding per student dropped by 28.2 percent between 2008 and 2018, the biggest reduction of any state, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.”

[Politico](#) (4/9, Hefling) reports “dozens of schools” remain closed this week “as a massive teacher walkout continues. Students have already been out of classes for a week, state testing is this month and some schools are starting to push back the end of the school year to make up for lost time.” The piece reports that “what teachers really want is for the state legislature to end a tax break that benefits thousands of wealthy Oklahomans, known as the state’s capital gains deduction. That deduction allows certain property, like stock, to be deducted from state income tax. The Oklahoma Education Association, the statewide teachers’ union, says ending the break could provide about \$120 million a year in new money for public education.”

Miami Offering Subsidized Rent In District-Owned Housing.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports on a plan in Miami to “build a middle school in the upscale Brickell neighborhood with apartments on the first floor and classrooms on the upper stories.” If the program is successful, “the next step is to construct a 300-apartment complex next to Phillis Wheatley Elementary (pictured above), located a couple miles north of downtown Miami.”

Missouri Robotics Team Profiled.

The [Columbia \(MO\) Daily Tribune](#) (4/9) reports the Army Ants, a Columbia, Missouri-area robotics team comprised of 31 students “who are home-schooled or come from local high schools and is affiliated with 4-H,” have qualified for the FIRST Robotics “world championship April 18-21 in Houston.” Team mentor Kevin Gillis “said the team has made efforts to recruit under-represented students, including girls and minorities.” The team currently has 10 girls – “double last year’s number” – and “did 27 outreach events, one every other weekend,” last year. That community outreach “resulted in Army Ants receiving the Engineering Inspiration Award at a St. Louis competition March 8-10” and “a \$5,000 grant from NASA to pay for the team’s registration for Houston.” More recently, the Army Ants on Saturday “were demonstrating the 2016 competition robot at the MU Robotics Design Challenge, a competition for elementary and middle school teams in Naka Hall at the University of Missouri.”

PNC Bank Awards Three-Year Sponsorship To The Henry Ford’s STEAM Initiative.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports PNC Bank awarded a three-year, \$210,000 sponsorship that “will help The Henry Ford provide preschool programming in STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.” PNC Bank has also “committed \$108,000 for field trips and a monthly program for preschoolers called PNC Tinkering for Tots,” and “will provide more than 1,000 young students per year with field trips to The Henry Ford, which includes the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village.”

Tennessee To Cut TNReady Testing To Reduce Burden On Teachers.

The [Tennessean](#) (4/9) reports Tennessee education officials are cutting two of the state’s required TNReady tests “in an attempt to reduce the testing burden on students and teachers.” Education Commissioner Candice

McQueen's assessment task force voted to drop chemistry and English tests generally taken by juniors.

New York State Officials Weigh New Arts Assessment As Alternative Graduation Pathway.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/9) reports "New York state's top policymakers" convened on Monday for "a discussion about how to test students' knowledge in areas such as visual arts, music and theater" as "part of New York's broader effort to expand graduation options and could provide a roadmap for state officials as they try to create testing options that stretch beyond multiple choice bubble tests." State officials maintain that "new graduation options, such as an arts assessment, are necessary" not only "to ensure that students can demonstrate their skills and knowledge in multiple ways on their path towards earning a diploma," but also to "inspire more arts education in schools." Critics, however, "worry that graduation requirements are being watered down," as students with disabilities, for example, are not required to "pass any Regents exams in order to graduate." Furthermore, Education Trust-NY found, "black and low-income students may be tracked into less rigorous or more career-focused paths as the state expands graduation requirements."

New York Students To Begin Common Core Testing.

The [AP](#) (4/8) reported New York students will begin "the first round of annual Common Core testing this week," with "English language arts assessments for public school students in grades 3-8" slated to begin Wednesday. The state "reduced the number of testing days for each subject from three days to two and made other changes in response to opposition that's led large numbers of students to opt out of the high-stakes assessments in recent years." High Achievement New York and other groups that support the assessments "are urging parents to have their children take the tests, calling them a tool to track student progress and identify and close achievement gaps." Allies for Public Education and other groups opposed to the assessments, meanwhile, argue that "they force schools to focus too much on test prep."

Advertisement



OPERATIONS

Charter Advocacy Group Drops Lawsuits Against LAUSD.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/9, Blume) reports the California Charter Schools Association "last week announced that it would end two long-running lawsuits in which it was seeking more classroom space and construction money from the Los Angeles school district." The Times says the move "reflects better relations between charter schools and the L.A. Unified School District. But the move also suggests that the litigation, which already contributed to significant gains for area charters, was unlikely to produce much more."

Hurricane-Hit Texas Districts Still Struggling To Recover.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports that at least "10,000 students enrolled in a different school district in Texas because of [Hurricane] Harvey and at least 34,000 became homeless," according to the Texas Education Agency. Because of "significant under reporting in the first round of data collection," however, "those totals don't accurately reflect the

student populations, according to guidance issued to Texas school districts in December.” Meanwhile, for those districts “directly in the path of Harvey,” reopening constituted “an uplifting milestone” – and “only the beginning of a long road to recovery.” Aransas County Independent School District, for example, “was hit with \$55 million in damages, while Port Aransas ISD sustained \$12.5 million in damages.” Worsening “matters, dips in enrollment and property values, two main factors that determine school districts’ funding, leave these districts with an uncertain financial future.”

New York City’s New Schools Chancellor Launches Classroom Tour.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/9, Brody, Subscription Publication) reports New York City schools chancellor Richard Carranza began his classroom tour on Monday to highlight Mayor Bill de Blasio’s education agenda, which has focused heavily on expanding access to college and early childhood education opportunities. The Journal says that Carranza quickly embraced those initiatives, but he must also address a slew of other daunting issues, such as overcrowding, low test scores, achievement gaps, and persistent segregation.

[Chalkbeat](#) (4/9) says unlike many previous chancellors, Carranza is stretching his five-borough tour “out all week” instead of in one day. Chalkbeat says the tour is “no small feat: It’s a challenging week for school visits, because elementary and middle schools will be administering state testing starting on Wednesday.” Along the way, Carranza answered questions from reporters, who were invited by the city Education Department “to tag along for the new schools chief’s first day.” Along the way, Carranza “was mostly quiet during the initial classroom visits,” but he answered questions from the reporters. When questioned “about the city’s homelessness crisis – roughly one in 10 students live in temporary housing – Carranza said he is interested in talking about the problem with advocates from around the city.” He also “said he is interested in addressing the city’s achievement gap, and mentioned school segregation by name – something both the mayor and former-Chancellor Fariña had avoided.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

ED Tech Firm Connexeo Receives \$110 Million In Latest Round Of Financing.

The [Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\) Business Journal](#) (4/9, Subscription Publication) reports education-technology company Connexeo closed on \$110 million in growth-equity financing to expand thanks to private equity firm Great Hill Partners, which led the round of funding. According to the Business Journal, Connexeco “makes administrative and payments software for schools and community groups like parent teacher organizations.” Connexeco “would up in Minnedota through its acquisition of Bloomington-based RevTrak, a maker of payments software for the K-12 education market.”

SCHOOL FINANCE

After Kansas Legislature Passes School Funding Boost, Supreme Court Has Next Move.

[Education Week](#) (4/9) reports in continued coverage that the Kansas state legislature over the weekend passed “a \$534 million increase in school funding over the next five years” and Gov. Jeff Colyer is expected to sign the measure. “Now the state’s supreme court will have to decide if that amount of money is enough for the state’s school system to provide an ‘adequate’ education, as the state’s constitution mandates. The court gave the state until the end of April or risk having the state’s school system shut down.” The article reports the court commissioned a study this year predicting that “the state would have to come up with between \$1.7 billion and \$2 billion over the next five years in order to provide an adequate education. The study concluded that \$400 million would merely

maintain current achievement levels, while increasing the high school graduation rate. A quarter of the state's students today does not meet the state's standards."

The [Wyandotte Daily \(KS\)](#) (4/9) reports lawmakers may have to wait months to know whether the bill will satisfy the court's standards, and "if it falls short, the Kansas Supreme Court could call them back to Topeka this summer with yet another ultimatum to send even more money to local districts." Meanwhile, attorneys for the state will in the coming weeks be preparing "briefs to the Kansas Supreme Court arguing this money is enough. Lawmakers, meanwhile, will wrangle over collecting online sales taxes to help cover the cost."

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/9) reports the state Department of Education announced Monday that the new school funding plan has "an \$80 million error." State Rep. Fred Patton (R) "said the error is tied to the way local option budgets are calculated as a portion of the state aid. He said the plan was supposed to add about \$525 million in funding for public schools over the next five years but failed to include some funding for the upcoming school year that was added in legislation passed last year." However, "charts produced by KSDE show a difference of \$79.7 million in general state aid between the approved and intended versions of Senate Bill 423."

In a separate article, the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (4/9) reports opponents of the bill "couldn't stop the momentum behind a plan to phase in an increase of more than \$500 million in annual public school funding, but Senate President Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, R-Overland Park, preached of a financial reckoning two years from now and compared the surge in spending to 2012 tax cuts that proved to be a disaster for the state's budget."

SAFETY & SECURITY

New Jersey Lawmakers Hear School Security Concerns At Public Hearing.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (4/9, Burney) reports nearly two dozen speakers signed up to address New Jersey lawmakers "who wanted to hear from stakeholders on Monday about school security." During the hearing at the Camden County College campus in Cherry Hill, Candace Beverly, 11, of Bordentown Township, pleaded with lawmakers "to put an end to the terror and the fear" and make New Jersey schools safer. The girl, accompanied by her mother, "asked lawmakers to support a bill approved by the Assembly in June that would require schools to train students on how to interact with police. She also asked for more mental health awareness for students, a suggestion echoed by others during the hearing." Cherry Hill, which has about 11,300 students in grades K-12, "plans to arm its four campus officers for the 2018-19 school year and hire five additional armed officers."

Maryland General Assembly Passes School Safety Bill.

The [AP](#) (4/9) reports the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to improve school safety "less than a month after a shooting at a high school in southern Maryland left two students dead." The bill would require public high schools "to have either a school resource officer or plans for adequate law enforcement coverage by the upcoming school year." Middle and elementary schools "would need to have the plans in place for the school year that begins in 2018." State lawmakers "already have set aside about \$41 million in the budget to make school safety improvements. The bill sets aside another \$10 million annually in future years to help pay for the policing component."

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [After Extending Session Through Weekend, Kansas Legislature Passes \\$522 Million School Funding Boost.](#)

- [ESSA Student Funding Pilot Not Being Used For School Choice.](#)
- [Oklahoma Teachers Call For Increased Funding, Enter Second Week Of Walkouts.](#)
- [Sociology Professor: School Infrastructure Is In Dire Need Of Repair.](#)
- [WPost A1: Elementary Schools Increasingly Offering Courses On Proper Internet Use.](#)

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From: "NASSP Principals Update" <PrincipalUpdate@nassp.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 05:28:45 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Eric Spencer

Thursday, February 22, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

Advertisement



Inspector General's Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, Perez) reports that a district audit analyzed by Chicago Public Schools Inspector General's office found "that thousands of students were improperly enrolled in hundreds of elementary schools last year because of loopholes, confusion over policies, or intentional disregard of rules." The report also found that "some schools used 'cherry-picking' to favor certain students," including some that "specifically weeded out kids with histories of poor attendance." Chicago Public Schools "said it would continue to review enrollment data to identify potential concerns."

[WTTW-TV](#) Chicago (2/21) says the issues typically "reflected students who were admitted to schools outside their

neighborhood option without going through" the district's Office of Access and Enrollment or "improperly leapfrogged other students on school waiting lists." The report "made nearly a dozen recommendations to the Board of Education to resolve these issues" but "did not recommend any specific discipline against principals or schools."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/21, FitzPatrick) provides further details and examples from the analysis.

Virginia Lawmakers Consider Recess Bill.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Mattingly) reports the Virginia Senate has passed a bill authorizing "state school boards to include unstructured recess time for elementary schools aimed at developing teamwork, social skills and overall fitness." Local school boards are currently required to allot a set amount of classroom time each year.

This bill would allow school boards to count recess as instructional time.

More States Are Looking To Physical Education To Boost Academic Performance.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mongeau) reports that a growing number of politicians and educators have started to heed “research and decided that to improve academic performance, they must do something about their students’ physical fitness as well.” The Hechinger Report says that “at least 14 state legislatures considered new laws in 2016 that would increase the amount of physical education or recess schools were required to offer or raise the bar for qualifications for physical education teachers.” Florida and Rhode Island now require 20 minutes of recess time each day for elementary school students. Additionally, some school districts “that have added more physical activity to their daily schedules in the hope of improving academic performance have also seen measurable changes.”

Maryland Lawmakers Consider Bill Requiring Schools To Teach Sexual Consent.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Chandler) reports that a Maryland education subcommittee approved a bill that would require public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of sexual “consent” and respect for personal boundaries. If the law is passed, schools would be required to introduce the concept of consent at least once in middle school and once in high school. Local school boards could decide how new curriculum requirements would be implemented in age-appropriate ways, according to the article.

Commentary Explores Why School Systems Become Engulfed In Cheating Scandals.

Stephanie Jones, assistant professor of education, Grinnell College, writes in [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (2/21) that the cheating scandals, like the one involving Atlanta Public Schools, continue to happen because a “number of forces create environments where cheating seems a viable option to some.” Jones, a former APS teacher, says that no school wants to be labeled as “deficient or underperforming,” nor do parents want to send their children to schools with poor test scores. Teacher and administrative evaluations and financial compensation are tied to test scores, “even though the research states that incentive-based compensations have no impact on student achievement.” Jones also criticizes rapid turnover in school personnel, which causes teachers to be under constant threat of “restructuring.”

Oregon House Approves Bill Making Class Sizes Part Of Teacher Contracts.

The [Oregonian](#) (2/21) reports the Oregon House advanced a measure Tuesday requiring school boards and teachers unions to agree on their district’s class size when negotiating teacher contracts. The measure now heads to the Senate for debate.

Oklahoma Educators Consider Walkout To Demand Pay Raise.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Murphy) says Oklahoma educators “are mulling an organized walkout” after the State House on Monday passed a bill “to further cut public schools after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise.” Residents of Bartlesville, a town about 45 miles north of Tulsa, “packed a school board meeting,” after which Bartlesville Superintendent Chuck McCauley “said initial reaction” for the walkout “has been ‘overwhelmingly positive.’” Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest “said talks about a work stoppage are ongoing among representatives from various groups representing rural districts, school boards, administrators, and teachers.”

Texas Governor Directs TEA To Publish List Of Districts That Haven’t Passed Safety Audits.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/21, McGaughy) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) “says he wants to publish the names of Texas school districts that haven’t completed state-mandated

safety checks.” The paper adds that Commissioner Mike Morath “issued a statement saying he’s directed Texas Education Agency staff to begin full implementation of Abbott’s directives. ... Any school that has not completed its safety audit within 45 days should be listed online and in a news release from the TEA, Abbott said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Zelinski) reports Abbott “directed the Texas Education Agency on Wednesday to ensure that schools and districts throughout the state are up to date on the latest strategies to protect students from attacks like the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. And the governor is threatening to essentially publicly shame those that aren’t.” The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/21) also covers this story.

Security Officer Overhears Threat, Thwarts High School Attack In California.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Horton) reports that authorities say “an alert security officer at a Southern California high school helped thwart a potential shooting Friday.” El Camino High School security officer Marino Chavez told a news conference that he “overheard a 17-year-old student say he was going to launch an attack within three weeks.” He said he “stopped and questioned the student, who claimed it was a joke,” but Los Angeles County Sheriff’s investigators “detained the student and issued a search warrant of his home,” seizing “two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with about 90 rifle magazines each capable of holding 30 rounds, though they could not say how many were loaded at the time.” An AR-15 was used by the gunman in Parkland, Fla.

Threats Disrupt Classes At Two Florida Schools.

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (2/21) reports that threats at two Manatee County, Florida schools “disrupted classes Wednesday.” Manatee High School was in “shelter in place” status following a Snapchat post made outside campus that the Bradenton Police Department deemed to be threatening in nature. Earlier in the day, a lockdown at Southeast High School was lifted just after noon. The campus was put on lockdown after a “message was found written on a restroom wall Wednesday morning. The school was put on lockdown while deputies investigated.”

Armed Principal Who Detained Campus Gunman Opposes Arming Teachers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Saul, Subscription Publication) reports that Joel Myrick, the former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi, who “survived a school shooting – after loading his Colt .45 pistol, then chasing and detaining the suspect at gunpoint – says the idea is misguided.” Said Myrick, “Teachers have to teach, and that’s what they should be doing. ... 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.”

Social Media Threat Prompts School Lockdown In Minnesota.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Pheifer) reports that social media posts threatening a school shooting prompted students and staff in Orono public schools in Minnesota “to barricade doors with chairs, metal cabinets and desks Wednesday,” while “outside the four-school campus, snowplows and police cars blocked access to roads leading to the schools.” According to Police Chief Correy Farinok, police “were notified at 10:57 a.m. of threats on Twitter and Facebook that a shooting would happen at noon.” Farinok said that “a male student was arrested about 4:15 p.m. pending felony charges of terroristic threats,” and a second male student is a “person of interest,” but has not been arrested.

Colorado Democrats Defeat Columbine Survivor’s Bill To Allow Concealed Carry In Schools.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Richardson) reports that Colorado Democrats on Wednesday defeated a measure “to remove restrictions on concealed-carry in K-12 public schools.” The bill, which was introduced by House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a sophomore at Columbine High School during the 1999 massacre, was defeated “on a 6-3

party-line vote after six hours of testimony before the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.”

Plaintiffs Appeals Philadelphia School District Discrimination Case Decision.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (2/21, Murphy) reports that plaintiffs are appealing a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas decision to reject their case against the Philadelphia School District for violating the state’s Human Relations Act. The case considers whether the Act “protects students from peer discrimination that results from District negligence.” If the appeal is granted, it “may set a precedent that makes it easier for families seeking recompense for discriminatory abuse in school.”

FROM NASSP

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EDUCATION POLICY

Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors.

As coverage of the nation’s response to the Florida school shooting continues, several major outlets are covering a White House listening session held by President Trump for survivors of school shootings and loved ones of victims. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, lead story, 3:55, Glor) reported on the “outpouring of grief and anger at the White House” where “President Trump invited Americans touched by gun violence to a listening session.” Trump “said he would listen and then do something, and he heard new ideas, including gun control measures he and Congress, mostly on the Republican side, have long resisted.” The segment shows impassioned comments from Andrew Pollack, the father of a girl killed in last week’s school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and from Sam Zeif, the friend of another victim.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, lead story, 7:50, Muir) reported Trump mostly listened during the meeting, during which he spoke about the idea of having school personnel carry weapons. ABC reported Trump “vowed to improve the background check system, and then he said that he is, quote, looking very strongly at raising the age of purchase. As you know, right now, you just need to be 18 to buy an AR-15 assault weapon. He is considering raising that age to 21. That is something that may put him right up against the NRA, the NRA is already out with a statement opposing that.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:50, Guthrie) reported Parkland survivors and “other victims of gun violence did not waste their moment. One by one, they delivered powerful statements to the President while

outside the White House, protesters gathered.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports Pollack “made an impassioned plea to President Trump on Wednesday at the White House to act quickly to protect children in the country’s schools.” The Times quotes Trump saying at the beginning of the session, “We’re going to do something about this horrible situation,” adding that he said “his administration would be ‘very strong on background checks’ of those wishing to purchase guns, and put ‘a very strong emphasis on the mental health of somebody.’” The Times reports the meeting “began with a recitation of somber statements and vows to act quickly” but “became emotional when Mr. Pollack took the microphone, venting raw anger and grief.” The [AP](#) (2/20) reports those attending the meeting “appealed to President Donald Trump on Wednesday to set politics aside and protect America’s school children from the scourge of gun violence. Trump listened intently to the raw emotion and pledged action, including the possibility of arming teachers.” The AP reports that Trump “suggested he supported allowing some teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons to be ready for intruders. But largely he listened.” The AP notes that in addition to students and parents from Parkland, “also present were parents of students killed in massacres at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.”

Trump Focuses On Arming Educators, Sparking Debate. [McClatchy](#) (2/21, Kumar) reports that during the meeting, Trump “embraced arming educators to stop mass shootings,” saying this suggestion and “others calling for a ban on assault-type weapons and instituting airport-like security perimeters at schools, dominated” the session.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit) reports that Trump said “that arming teachers and posting gun-toting veterans in schools could deter or stop school shooters...during an emotional meeting that included Vice President Pence, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and school-shooting survivors and families who had lost children to gun violence.” Trump’s “most pointed and specific remarks came when he spoke about adding security to schools by arming teachers and posting gun-equipped veterans.” The Post reports the idea “got a warm reception among some parents, but was met with swift backlash from teachers’ groups nationwide.” The piece quotes National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia saying, “Bringing more guns into our schools does nothing to protect our students and educators from gun violence. Our students need more books, art and music programs, nurses and school counselors; they do not need more guns in their classrooms.”

Students Take Action To Demand Gun Control Measures. Kerry Sanders reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, story 2, 2:20, Guthrie) reported that 100 survivors of the Stoneman Douglas shooting were joined by “thousands of other students today marching on the Florida capitol, demanding lawmakers restrict the sale of assault weapons.” Dan Harris reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, story 2, 3:15, Muir) that the students’ “initial optimism curdled into frustration as they complained about what they viewed as a lack of straight answers from lawmakers.” Under the headline, “Florida Students Began With Optimism. Then They Spoke To Lawmakers,” the [New York Times](#) (2/21, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication) reports on the students’ efforts to lobby Florida lawmakers. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) says the students “got a real-life lesson in the perils of high expectations” as they “met with state legislators to discuss their promise of stricter gun laws and left disappointed that the progress that appeared likely would only be incremental.”

Adriana Diaz said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 2, 1:15, Glor) that the students “end[ed] the day by meeting with Republican Governor Rick Scott. Now, bipartisan legislation is in the works that would raise the minimum age for buying an assault weapon to 21 and provide more funding for mental health in schools. That could be introduced as early as tomorrow.” The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) also reports on the students’ efforts in Tallahassee, as does the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (2/21).

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit, Larimer) reports students “walked out of their schools Wednesday” in districts around the country “amid a mounting call for action.” The wave of walkouts “came in the wake of last week’s massacre in Parkland, Fla., in which 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day. Following the mass shooting, grieving students have garnered national attention as they organized

and spoke out about stronger gun control laws.”

Texas District Superintendent Faces Backlash After Threatening To Punish Students For Walkouts. The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Rosenberg) reports Curtis Rhodes, superintendent of the school district in Needville, Texas, “is drawing harsh criticism after issuing a written threat Tuesday to suspend any students who take part in demonstrations about gun violence after the school shooting in Florida last week.” Rhodes’ warning “touched off an outcry,” while “constitutional scholars described Rhodes’s threats as a blatant violation of free-speech rights.” [USA Today](#) (2/21, Cummings) reports Rhodes “threatened that students who participate in ‘any type of protest or awareness’ will be suspended for three days.” Rhodes’ position “contrasts with other schools that have encouraged student action.”

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Twenty State AGs Urge ED To Rebuff ACICS' Efforts To Regain Favor.

A handful of media outlets are reporting that the attorneys general of 20 states are calling on ED to reject the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools' application to regain its status as a department-recognized accreditor. [NJBIZ \(NJ\)](#) (2/21) reports that the states are "opposing an attempt by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools to regain its status as a nationally recognized accreditor." The agency "lost its national recognition in 2016 due to its 'pervasive noncompliance' with federal law and oversight failures regarding fraud by predatory for-profit schools." The [Murray \(KY\) Ledger & Times](#) (2/22), the [Mebane \(NC\) Enterprise](#) (2/21), and [Pacific Business News \(HI\)](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication) also cover this story.

Texas University Leaders Express Interest In Performance-Based Funding In Legislative Hearing.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Ellis) reports Texas university presidents told a joint legislative hearing on Wednesday that they would consider a "so-called performance-based system" that has lately grown more popular around the nation. The plan would give colleges and universities "extra dollars if they graduate low-income students or students who were not prepared academically when they first entered college." Campus presidents and lawmakers "also discussed funding disparities between the University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems and other state schools."

Higher Learning Commission To Decide On Purdue Global Accreditation Thursday.

The [Lafayette \(IN\) Journal and Courier](#) (2/21, Bangert) reports that Higher Learning Commission trustees are scheduled to vote on Thursday about whether "the rebranded online Purdue Global," which is seeking to buy for-profit Kaplan University, "is up to accreditation standards." A commission spokesman said that Purdue, Kaplan, "and critics of the deal will have to wait up to two weeks to know how the Higher Learning Commission decides." Purdue Vice Provost Frank Dooley said that, if accredited, Purdue Global "could be ready to go in four to six weeks."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Armed Police To Become More Regular Presence At Schools Across New Jersey.](#)
- [In Wake Of Florida School Shooting, Trump Moves To Ban Bump Stocks.](#)

- [ED Seeking Comment On Student Loan Bankruptcy Standards.](#)

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Sent Date: Thu, 22 Feb 2018 05:28:45 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors
To: <jana.smith@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Principal's Update



Good morning Jana Smith

Thursday, February 22, 2018

NATIONAL EDUCATION TRENDS

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Inspector General's Report Finds High Rate Of Admissions Problems Among Chicago Schools.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, Perez) reports that a district audit analyzed by Chicago Public Schools Inspector General's office found "that thousands of students were improperly enrolled in hundreds of elementary schools last year because of loopholes, confusion over policies, or intentional disregard of rules." The report also found that "some schools used 'cherry-picking' to favor certain students," including some that "specifically weeded out kids with histories of poor attendance." Chicago Public Schools "said it would continue to review enrollment data to identify potential concerns."

[WTTW-TV](#) Chicago (2/21) says the issues typically "reflected students who were admitted to schools outside their

neighborhood option without going through" the district's Office of Access and Enrollment or "improperly leapfrogged other students on school waiting lists." The report "made nearly a dozen recommendations to the Board of Education to resolve these issues" but "did not recommend any specific discipline against principals or schools."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/21, FitzPatrick) provides further details and examples from the analysis.

Virginia Lawmakers Consider Recess Bill.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/21, Mattingly) reports the Virginia Senate has passed a bill authorizing "state school boards to include unstructured recess time for elementary schools aimed at developing teamwork, social skills and overall fitness." Local school boards are currently required to allot a set amount of classroom time each year.

This bill would allow school boards to count recess as instructional time.

More States Are Looking To Physical Education To Boost Academic Performance.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (2/21, Mongeau) reports that a growing number of politicians and educators have started to heed “research and decided that to improve academic performance, they must do something about their students’ physical fitness as well.” The Hechinger Report says that “at least 14 state legislatures considered new laws in 2016 that would increase the amount of physical education or recess schools were required to offer or raise the bar for qualifications for physical education teachers.” Florida and Rhode Island now require 20 minutes of recess time each day for elementary school students. Additionally, some school districts “that have added more physical activity to their daily schedules in the hope of improving academic performance have also seen measurable changes.”

Maryland Lawmakers Consider Bill Requiring Schools To Teach Sexual Consent.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Chandler) reports that a Maryland education subcommittee approved a bill that would require public schools to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of sexual “consent” and respect for personal boundaries. If the law is passed, schools would be required to introduce the concept of consent at least once in middle school and once in high school. Local school boards could decide how new curriculum requirements would be implemented in age-appropriate ways, according to the article.

Commentary Explores Why School Systems Become Engulfed In Cheating Scandals.

Stephanie Jones, assistant professor of education, Grinnell College, writes in [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (2/21) that the cheating scandals, like the one involving Atlanta Public Schools, continue to happen because a “number of forces create environments where cheating seems a viable option to some.” Jones, a former APS teacher, says that no school wants to be labeled as “deficient or underperforming,” nor do parents want to send their children to schools with poor test scores. Teacher and administrative evaluations and financial compensation are tied to test scores, “even though the research states that incentive-based compensations have no impact on student achievement.” Jones also criticizes rapid turnover in school personnel, which causes teachers to be under constant threat of “restructuring.”

Oregon House Approves Bill Making Class Sizes Part Of Teacher Contracts.

The [Oregonian](#) (2/21) reports the Oregon House advanced a measure Tuesday requiring school boards and teachers unions to agree on their district’s class size when negotiating teacher contracts. The measure now heads to the Senate for debate.

Oklahoma Educators Consider Walkout To Demand Pay Raise.

The [AP](#) (2/21, Murphy) says Oklahoma educators “are mulling an organized walkout” after the State House on Monday passed a bill “to further cut public schools after lawmakers failed to reach a deal on tax increases that would have given teachers a \$5,000 pay raise.” Residents of Bartlesville, a town about 45 miles north of Tulsa, “packed a school board meeting,” after which Bartlesville Superintendent Chuck McCauley “said initial reaction” for the walkout “has been ‘overwhelmingly positive.’” Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest “said talks about a work stoppage are ongoing among representatives from various groups representing rural districts, school boards, administrators, and teachers.”

Texas Governor Directs TEA To Publish List Of Districts That Haven’t Passed Safety Audits.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/21, McGaughy) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) “says he wants to publish the names of Texas school districts that haven’t completed state-mandated

safety checks.” The paper adds that Commissioner Mike Morath “issued a statement saying he’s directed Texas Education Agency staff to begin full implementation of Abbott’s directives. ... Any school that has not completed its safety audit within 45 days should be listed online and in a news release from the TEA, Abbott said.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Zelinski) reports Abbott “directed the Texas Education Agency on Wednesday to ensure that schools and districts throughout the state are up to date on the latest strategies to protect students from attacks like the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. And the governor is threatening to essentially publicly shame those that aren’t.” The [Texas Tribune](#) (2/21) also covers this story.

Security Officer Overhears Threat, Thwarts High School Attack In California.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Horton) reports that authorities say “an alert security officer at a Southern California high school helped thwart a potential shooting Friday.” El Camino High School security officer Marino Chavez told a news conference that he “overheard a 17-year-old student say he was going to launch an attack within three weeks.” He said he “stopped and questioned the student, who claimed it was a joke,” but Los Angeles County Sheriff’s investigators “detained the student and issued a search warrant of his home,” seizing “two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with about 90 rifle magazines each capable of holding 30 rounds, though they could not say how many were loaded at the time.” An AR-15 was used by the gunman in Parkland, Fla.

Threats Disrupt Classes At Two Florida Schools.

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (2/21) reports that threats at two Manatee County, Florida schools “disrupted classes Wednesday.” Manatee High School was in “shelter in place” status following a Snapchat post made outside campus that the Bradenton Police Department deemed to be threatening in nature. Earlier in the day, a lockdown at Southeast High School was lifted just after noon. The campus was put on lockdown after a “message was found written on a restroom wall Wednesday morning. The school was put on lockdown while deputies investigated.”

Armed Principal Who Detained Campus Gunman Opposes Arming Teachers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Saul, Subscription Publication) reports that Joel Myrick, the former assistant principal at a high school in Mississippi, who “survived a school shooting – after loading his Colt .45 pistol, then chasing and detaining the suspect at gunpoint – says the idea is misguided.” Said Myrick, “Teachers have to teach, and that’s what they should be doing. ... 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.”

Social Media Threat Prompts School Lockdown In Minnesota.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/21, Pheifer) reports that social media posts threatening a school shooting prompted students and staff in Orono public schools in Minnesota “to barricade doors with chairs, metal cabinets and desks Wednesday,” while “outside the four-school campus, snowplows and police cars blocked access to roads leading to the schools.” According to Police Chief Correy Farinok, police “were notified at 10:57 a.m. of threats on Twitter and Facebook that a shooting would happen at noon.” Farinok said that “a male student was arrested about 4:15 p.m. pending felony charges of terroristic threats,” and a second male student is a “person of interest,” but has not been arrested.

Colorado Democrats Defeat Columbine Survivor’s Bill To Allow Concealed Carry In Schools.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/21, Richardson) reports that Colorado Democrats on Wednesday defeated a measure “to remove restrictions on concealed-carry in K-12 public schools.” The bill, which was introduced by House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, a sophomore at Columbine High School during the 1999 massacre, was defeated “on a 6-3

party-line vote after six hours of testimony before the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.”

Plaintiffs Appeals Philadelphia School District Discrimination Case Decision.

The [Philadelphia Public Schools Notebook](#) (2/21, Murphy) reports that plaintiffs are appealing a Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas decision to reject their case against the Philadelphia School District for violating the state’s Human Relations Act. The case considers whether the Act “protects students from peer discrimination that results from District negligence.” If the appeal is granted, it “may set a precedent that makes it easier for families seeking recompense for discriminatory abuse in school.”

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EDUCATION POLICY

Trump Holds Listening Session With School Shooting Survivors.

As coverage of the nation’s response to the Florida school shooting continues, several major outlets are covering a White House listening session held by President Trump for survivors of school shootings and loved ones of victims. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, lead story, 3:55, Glor) reported on the “outpouring of grief and anger at the White House” where “President Trump invited Americans touched by gun violence to a listening session.” Trump “said he would listen and then do something, and he heard new ideas, including gun control measures he and Congress, mostly on the Republican side, have long resisted.” The segment shows impassioned comments from Andrew Pollack, the father of a girl killed in last week’s school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and from Sam Zeif, the friend of another victim.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, lead story, 7:50, Muir) reported Trump mostly listened during the meeting, during which he spoke about the idea of having school personnel carry weapons. ABC reported Trump “vowed to improve the background check system, and then he said that he is, quote, looking very strongly at raising the age of purchase. As you know, right now, you just need to be 18 to buy an AR-15 assault weapon. He is considering raising that age to 21. That is something that may put him right up against the NRA, the NRA is already out with a statement opposing that.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, lead story, 2:50, Guthrie) reported Parkland survivors and “other victims of gun violence did not waste their moment. One by one, they delivered powerful statements to the President while

outside the White House, protesters gathered.”

The [New York Times](#) (2/21, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports Pollack “made an impassioned plea to President Trump on Wednesday at the White House to act quickly to protect children in the country’s schools.” The Times quotes Trump saying at the beginning of the session, “We’re going to do something about this horrible situation,” adding that he said “his administration would be ‘very strong on background checks’ of those wishing to purchase guns, and put ‘a very strong emphasis on the mental health of somebody.’” The Times reports the meeting “began with a recitation of somber statements and vows to act quickly” but “became emotional when Mr. Pollack took the microphone, venting raw anger and grief.” The [AP](#) (2/20) reports those attending the meeting “appealed to President Donald Trump on Wednesday to set politics aside and protect America’s school children from the scourge of gun violence. Trump listened intently to the raw emotion and pledged action, including the possibility of arming teachers.” The AP reports that Trump “suggested he supported allowing some teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons to be ready for intruders. But largely he listened.” The AP notes that in addition to students and parents from Parkland, “also present were parents of students killed in massacres at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.”

Trump Focuses On Arming Educators, Sparking Debate. [McClatchy](#) (2/21, Kumar) reports that during the meeting, Trump “embraced arming educators to stop mass shootings,” saying this suggestion and “others calling for a ban on assault-type weapons and instituting airport-like security perimeters at schools, dominated” the session.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit) reports that Trump said “that arming teachers and posting gun-toting veterans in schools could deter or stop school shooters...during an emotional meeting that included Vice President Pence, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and school-shooting survivors and families who had lost children to gun violence.” Trump’s “most pointed and specific remarks came when he spoke about adding security to schools by arming teachers and posting gun-equipped veterans.” The Post reports the idea “got a warm reception among some parents, but was met with swift backlash from teachers’ groups nationwide.” The piece quotes National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia saying, “Bringing more guns into our schools does nothing to protect our students and educators from gun violence. Our students need more books, art and music programs, nurses and school counselors; they do not need more guns in their classrooms.”

Students Take Action To Demand Gun Control Measures. Kerry Sanders reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/21, story 2, 2:20, Guthrie) reported that 100 survivors of the Stoneman Douglas shooting were joined by “thousands of other students today marching on the Florida capitol, demanding lawmakers restrict the sale of assault weapons.” Dan Harris reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/21, story 2, 3:15, Muir) that the students’ “initial optimism curdled into frustration as they complained about what they viewed as a lack of straight answers from lawmakers.” Under the headline, “Florida Students Began With Optimism. Then They Spoke To Lawmakers,” the [New York Times](#) (2/21, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication) reports on the students’ efforts to lobby Florida lawmakers. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) says the students “got a real-life lesson in the perils of high expectations” as they “met with state legislators to discuss their promise of stricter gun laws and left disappointed that the progress that appeared likely would only be incremental.”

Adriana Diaz said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/21, story 2, 1:15, Glor) that the students “end[ed] the day by meeting with Republican Governor Rick Scott. Now, bipartisan legislation is in the works that would raise the minimum age for buying an assault weapon to 21 and provide more funding for mental health in schools. That could be introduced as early as tomorrow.” The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (2/21, Klas, Koh) also reports on the students’ efforts in Tallahassee, as does the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (2/21).

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Balingit, Larimer) reports students “walked out of their schools Wednesday” in districts around the country “amid a mounting call for action.” The wave of walkouts “came in the wake of last week’s massacre in Parkland, Fla., in which 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day. Following the mass shooting, grieving students have garnered national attention as they organized

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The [Bloomington \(IN\) Herald-Times](#) (2/21) reports that ED's Office of Civil Rights has closed "four Title IX sexual violence complaints against Indiana University that all began more than a year ago" having "determined the university did not mishandle the cases." OCR "sent letters to the four complainants regarding the outcome of the investigations Tuesday. The same day, IU Provost Lauren Robel signed a resolution agreement regarding an Office for Civil Rights compliance review, signaling the impending conclusion of an examination that began nearly four years ago." The [AP](#) (2/21) reports OCR "determined whether the university's Bloomington campus promptly and effectively responded to

reports of sexual misconduct beginning in March 2014."

Twenty State AGs Urge ED To Rebuff ACICS' Efforts To Regain Favor.

A handful of media outlets are reporting that the attorneys general of 20 states are calling on ED to reject the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools' application to regain its status as a department-recognized accreditor. [NJBIZ \(NJ\)](#) (2/21) reports that the states are "opposing an attempt by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools to regain its status as a nationally recognized accreditor." The agency "lost its national recognition in 2016 due to its 'pervasive noncompliance' with federal law and oversight failures regarding fraud by predatory for-profit schools." The [Murray \(KY\) Ledger & Times](#) (2/22), the [Mebane \(NC\) Enterprise](#) (2/21), and [Pacific Business News \(HI\)](#) (2/21, Subscription Publication) also cover this story.

Texas University Leaders Express Interest In Performance-Based Funding In Legislative Hearing.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/21, Ellis) reports Texas university presidents told a joint legislative hearing on Wednesday that they would consider a "so-called performance-based system" that has lately grown more popular around the nation. The plan would give colleges and universities "extra dollars if they graduate low-income students or students who were not prepared academically when they first entered college." Campus presidents and lawmakers "also discussed funding disparities between the University of Texas and Texas A&M Systems and other state schools."

Higher Learning Commission To Decide On Purdue Global Accreditation Thursday.

The [Lafayette \(IN\) Journal and Courier](#) (2/21, Bangert) reports that Higher Learning Commission trustees are scheduled to vote on Thursday about whether "the rebranded online Purdue Global," which is seeking to buy for-profit Kaplan University, "is up to accreditation standards." A commission spokesman said that Purdue, Kaplan, "and critics of the deal will have to wait up to two weeks to know how the Higher Learning Commission decides." Purdue Vice Provost Frank Dooley said that, if accredited, Purdue Global "could be ready to go in four to six weeks."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [Armed Police To Become More Regular Presence At Schools Across New Jersey.](#)
- [In Wake Of Florida School Shooting, Trump Moves To Ban Bump Stocks.](#)

- [ED Seeking Comment On Student Loan Bankruptcy Standards.](#)

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From: "Twitter" <info@twitter.com>
Sent Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2018 20:10:29 -0700 (MST)
Subject: Vicki Chavez Tweeted: RT @Chavez1919: Marlene Padrone, Deming High principal, sharing words of wisdom with our Spanish Spelling Bee participants. ...
To: "NMAESP" <markbarela@nmaesp.org>



Your Highlights



Vicki Chavez
@VickiChavezNM

RT @Chavez1919: Marlene Padrone, Deming High principal, sharing words of wisdom with our Spanish Spelling Bee participants. <https://t.co/nL...>



Education Week
@educationweek

.@PoliticsK12: Betsy DeVos in Florida: Arming Well-Trained Staff Should Be Option for Schools [#edpolitics](#)

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U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos traveled to Parkland, Fla., Wednesday to meet with st... [more](#)
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2



8

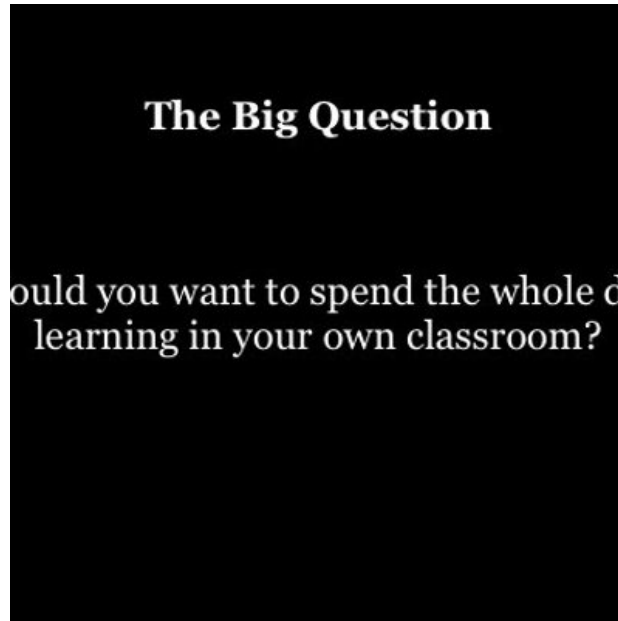


10



Cara Malone
@MaloneCara

RT @gcouros: Your Best "Classroom Management" Strategy
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Another unhappy reaction to the @BetsyDeVosED visit to Marjory Stoneman Douglas from a student.
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JoAnn Bartoletti
@BartolettiNASSP

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Subject: Video Footage Shows Officer Standing Outside Parkland School
To: <eric.spencer@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Eric Spencer

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Female African-American Astronaut Launches Initiative To Encourage Agricultural Science.

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/15, Pittman) says Dr. Mae Jemison, "the first African-American woman in space," is collaborating with National 4-H Council CEO Jennifer Sirangelo on an initiative "to encourage kids of all ages and backgrounds to pursue agricultural science." Jemison said that she and Sirangelo have "set out to change" the idea that agricultural science "can sound intimidating."

Survey: Helping Children With Homework Does Little To Boost Test Scores.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/15) reports that according to a "recent global survey" conducted by the London-based Varkey Foundation, students "whose parents help a lot with their homework may not perform any better on standardized tests than those who do it all by themselves." The survey "found one-quarter of parents worldwide spend seven or more hours a week helping their children with homework." The article breaks down some of the data by country, and reports that "analysts rarely found a correlation between increased parental involvement and better test scores, which raises a question: Should parents be helping with homework at all, and if so, what is the optimal amount of involvement?"

Denver Teachers' Strike Becomes Less Imminent.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/15, Asmar) reports that "the prospect of a strike" by Denver's teachers' union "is less imminent" than before, even though the union and Denver school district "failed to reach a deal on an overhaul of the district's pay-for-performance system." This is partly because district officials "agreed to the union's request to extend the current pay-for-performance agreement" until January 2019, "making teacher pay raises more likely." Chalkbeat adds that nonetheless, "the union did not take the threat of a strike completely off the table."

Arizona Teachers' Movement Protests Low Pay, Teacher Shortage.

[USA Today](#) (3/15, Castle) reports that "thousands of Arizona teachers and education advocates" participated last week in a movement called #RedForEd, "wearing red to protest the low pay they say has contributed to a shortage of qualified teachers in the state." The article says the movement came "in response to West Virginia teachers striking for higher pay," and provides data on how Arizona teacher salaries compare to other states.

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EDUCATION POLICY

Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports, “Indianapolis, Puerto Rico, and three other school districts have applied to join the Every Student Succeeds Act’s weighted student-funding pilot” in which “districts can combine federal, state, and local dollars into a single funding stream tied to individual students.” Students with special needs “would carry with them more money than other students.” The program is intended to provide “equitable funding for all student groups,” but “the Trump administration is particularly excited about the pilot because it could in theory help school districts develop public school choice programs.”

School Choice Plays Role At Texas Polls.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (3/15, Subscription Publication) reports the debate over school choice “played out at polls across the state this month and will continue in runoff contests on May 22.” The piece reports that public school teachers opposed to school choice and backers of the policy “ended the March 2 Texas House primaries in a draw. Both sides are now focused on at least five GOP runoffs for Texas House seats in districts from San Antonio to North Texas.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Senate Bill.

[NBC News](#) (3/16, Fuchs) reports on its website about opposition from the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), an organization founded “to aid refugees from southeast Asia,” to Connecticut’s SB 359, which “calls for prohibiting the disaggregation of data unless required by federal law or done across the entire student population.” SEARAC Executive Director Quyen Dinh said in a written testimony, “Collecting data by ethnicity allows our students to be seen at the K-12 level so that interventions by policy makers and educators can be tailored to stop these inequities from growing.” The article provides further background on the proposed bill.

Baltimore Officials To Vote On Technology Contract.

[WBAL-TV](#) Baltimore (3/15) says Baltimore County school officials will vote Tuesday night “for a second time” on a \$140 million contract “designed to keep technology in the classroom.” The vote was originally scheduled a few weeks ago, but was “put on hold.” The article provides differing viewpoints on the contract.

Startup Raises Venture Capital To Create Own Operating System.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/15, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports on the startup Kiddom Inc., whose founder, Ahsan Rizvi, was formerly with the US Overseas Private Investment Corp (OPIC) and is currently seeking to solicit teacher buy-in for his program, along with the venture capital he has already raised. The school is also trying to respond to the call by some investors for public school districts to have their own operating system by gathering and analyzing its own data measuring student progress.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Cooper Union Aims To Provide Tuition-Free Education In 10 Years.

The [New York Times](#) (3/15, Chen, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art announced Thursday that it hoped to make the college tuition-free again for all undergraduates in 10 years.” The board of trustees approved a plan Wednesday under which “Cooper Union would begin increasing tuition scholarships in two years, and aim to provide full tuition in 10.”

Rubio Proposes Changing Higher Education Act To Weaken Confucius Institutes, Foreign Gifts.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (3/15, Redden) says Sen. Marco Rubio “has proposed adding provisions to a forthcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that would make colleges’ eligibility for some federal funding conditional upon the closure” of their Confucius Institutes. Rubio “also proposed introducing language” to the Act “that would require colleges to report any foreign gift of \$50,000 or more to the secretary of education, and require them to count in-kind gifts and services from foreign donors toward that threshold.”

Ten Percent Of Members Of Congress Cary Student Loan Debt.

The [Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (3/15) reports that according to Roll Call’s Wealth of Congress project, “one in 10 lawmakers” in Congress “still hold student loan debt, either personally or for a family member. Fifty-three members listed a combined \$1.8 million in student loans on their financial disclosures.” The piece quotes Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL) saying, “I still owe \$75,000 and understand the great responsibility of repayment. I value education and believe having the ability to attend a top law school was an essential part of my success.”

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [High School Students Across Nation Demonstrate In Support Of Gun Control.](#)
- [House Passes School Safety Bill 407-10.](#)
- [Louisiana Seeks To Help Teachers Access “Essential” OERs.](#)
- [California Governor’s Community College Funding Proposal Comes Under Scrutiny.](#)

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Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 05:36:27 -0600 (MDT)
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The [Benton County \(MO\) Enterprise](#) (3/15) says a Missouri 4-H Robotics team called the "Synthesizers" placed second in the qualification rounds at the Inaugural FIRST Heartland Regional Robotics Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. The team also "received an award for being the highest seeded rookie at the event," and will advance to the World Championships in Houston in April.

Female African-American Astronaut Launches Initiative To Encourage Agricultural Science.

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/15, Pittman) says Dr. Mae Jemison, "the first African-American woman in space," is collaborating with National 4-H Council CEO Jennifer Sirangelo on an initiative "to encourage kids of all ages and backgrounds to pursue agricultural science." Jemison said that she and Sirangelo have "set out to change" the idea that agricultural science "can sound intimidating."

Survey: Helping Children With Homework Does Little To Boost Test Scores.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/15) reports that according to a "recent global survey" conducted by the London-based Varkey Foundation, students "whose parents help a lot with their homework may not perform any better on standardized tests than those who do it all by themselves." The survey "found one-quarter of parents worldwide spend seven or more hours a week helping their children with homework." The article breaks down some of the data by country, and reports that "analysts rarely found a correlation between increased parental involvement and better test scores, which raises a question: Should parents be helping with homework at all, and if so, what is the optimal amount of involvement?"

Denver Teachers' Strike Becomes Less Imminent.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/15, Asmar) reports that "the prospect of a strike" by Denver's teachers' union "is less imminent" than before, even though the union and Denver school district "failed to reach a deal on an overhaul of the district's pay-for-performance system." This is partly because district officials "agreed to the union's request to extend the current pay-for-performance agreement" until January 2019, "making teacher pay raises more likely." Chalkbeat adds that nonetheless, "the union did not take the threat of a strike completely off the table."

Arizona Teachers' Movement Protests Low Pay, Teacher Shortage.

[USA Today](#) (3/15, Castle) reports that "thousands of Arizona teachers and education advocates" participated last week in a movement called #RedForEd, "wearing red to protest the low pay they say has contributed to a shortage of qualified teachers in the state." The article says the movement came "in response to West Virginia teachers striking for higher pay," and provides data on how Arizona teacher salaries compare to other states.

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EDUCATION POLICY

Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports, “Indianapolis, Puerto Rico, and three other school districts have applied to join the Every Student Succeeds Act’s weighted student-funding pilot” in which “districts can combine federal, state, and local dollars into a single funding stream tied to individual students.” Students with special needs “would carry with them more money than other students.” The program is intended to provide “equitable funding for all student groups,” but “the Trump administration is particularly excited about the pilot because it could in theory help school districts develop public school choice programs.”

School Choice Plays Role At Texas Polls.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (3/15, Subscription Publication) reports the debate over school choice “played out at polls across the state this month and will continue in runoff contests on May 22.” The piece reports that public school teachers opposed to school choice and backers of the policy “ended the March 2 Texas House primaries in a draw. Both sides are now focused on at least five GOP runoffs for Texas House seats in districts from San Antonio to North Texas.”

DIGITAL LEARNING

Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Senate Bill.

[NBC News](#) (3/16, Fuchs) reports on its website about opposition from the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), an organization founded “to aid refugees from southeast Asia,” to Connecticut’s SB 359, which “calls for prohibiting the disaggregation of data unless required by federal law or done across the entire student population.” SEARAC Executive Director Quyen Dinh said in a written testimony, “Collecting data by ethnicity allows our students to be seen at the K-12 level so that interventions by policy makers and educators can be tailored to stop these inequities from growing.” The article provides further background on the proposed bill.

Baltimore Officials To Vote On Technology Contract.

[WBAL-TV](#) Baltimore (3/15) says Baltimore County school officials will vote Tuesday night “for a second time” on a \$140 million contract “designed to keep technology in the classroom.” The vote was originally scheduled a few weeks ago, but was “put on hold.” The article provides differing viewpoints on the contract.

Startup Raises Venture Capital To Create Own Operating System.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/15, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports on the startup Kiddom Inc., whose founder, Ahsan Rizvi, was formerly with the US Overseas Private Investment Corp (OPIC) and is currently seeking to solicit teacher buy-in for his program, along with the venture capital he has already raised. The school is also trying to respond to the call by some investors for public school districts to have their own operating system by gathering and analyzing its own data measuring student progress.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Cooper Union Aims To Provide Tuition-Free Education In 10 Years.

The [New York Times](#) (3/15, Chen, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art announced Thursday that it hoped to make the college tuition-free again for all undergraduates in 10 years.” The board of trustees approved a plan Wednesday under which “Cooper Union would begin increasing tuition scholarships in two years, and aim to provide full tuition in 10.”

Rubio Proposes Changing Higher Education Act To Weaken Confucius Institutes, Foreign Gifts.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (3/15, Redden) says Sen. Marco Rubio “has proposed adding provisions to a forthcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that would make colleges’ eligibility for some federal funding conditional upon the closure” of their Confucius Institutes. Rubio “also proposed introducing language” to the Act “that would require colleges to report any foreign gift of \$50,000 or more to the secretary of education, and require them to count in-kind gifts and services from foreign donors toward that threshold.”

Ten Percent Of Members Of Congress Cary Student Loan Debt.

The [Roll Call \(DC\)](#) (3/15) reports that according to Roll Call’s Wealth of Congress project, “one in 10 lawmakers” in Congress “still hold student loan debt, either personally or for a family member. Fifty-three members listed a combined \$1.8 million in student loans on their financial disclosures.” The piece quotes Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL) saying, “I still owe \$75,000 and understand the great responsibility of repayment. I value education and believe having the ability to attend a top law school was an essential part of my success.”

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [High School Students Across Nation Demonstrate In Support Of Gun Control.](#)
- [House Passes School Safety Bill 407-10.](#)
- [Louisiana Seeks To Help Teachers Access “Essential” OERs.](#)
- [California Governor’s Community College Funding Proposal Comes Under Scrutiny.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 05:40:48 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary
To: <greg.rodriguez@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Greg Rodriguez

March 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ "announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety." Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, "No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence." Sessions "will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions' "proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications." Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, "It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you." Sessions also "sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding 'swift and aggressive' prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications."

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also "offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also "reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would 'effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession' of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday." However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), "neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump's plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions's actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law."

Advertisement

POLITICS & POLICY

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne Community Schools "saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools." FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that "it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources."

TEACHING & LEARNING

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which "has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome." In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was "pleased with the content of the memo," with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials "are glad to know that PARCC's days are numbered," as "it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey's classrooms."

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that "it's a little more complicated" than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to "promptly jettison" PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot "just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served," NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie's administration had a "desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests

under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its “Meet the Masters” program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program “has been held after school locally once a week.” The Arts Commission financed the program’s “curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists.” The “Meet the Masters” program “has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website,” but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children “participated in the program when the family was living in California.”

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams “the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called ‘Aqua Adventure.’” Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday’s event, explained that not a competition, as “FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students ‘exposed to a very simple programming concept.’”

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana’s state legislative session, state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

OPERATIONS

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

Researchers Examine How Principals Influence Student Achievement.

[Education Week](#) (3/12, Allensworth) guest columnist Elaine Allensworth, the Lewis-Sebring Director of the University

of Chicago Consortium on School Research, and Holly Hart, the survey director at the consortium, outlined their mixed-methods [study](#) of Chicago Public Schools aimed at determining “firsthand what principals in schools with improving learning gains were doing that principals in schools without improving learning gains were not.” The researchers found “principals primarily influenced student learning by fostering strong learning climates in their schools,” and that “teacher leadership was a critical mechanism through which principals achieved this.” Additionally, Allensworth and Hart write, they “found other principal-led aspects of school organization that are associated with improving schools--such as teachers’ professional development, program alignment, and engagement with parents--matter for student achievement to the extent that they facilitate a strong school climate,” which they define as a “safe, supportive” environment with “high, consistent, and clear expectations for students.” The authors note their research was supported by an ED Institute of Education Sciences grant awarded to the University of Chicago.

DCPS To Operate All-Girl School Revoked Of Charter.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Stein) reports Excel Academy Public Charter School “will finish this semester as a charter school and reopen as a D.C. Public Schools campus at the start of the academic year.” In January, the DC Public Charter School Board voted to strip Excel, “the city’s only all-girls public school,” of its charter, “saying that students were lagging behind their peers and that the school was showing scant evidence of improvement.” The Post says it remains “unclear how many administrators and teachers will remain through the transition,” but its roughly 700 students “will be allowed to re-enroll.” Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s DC chapter, “said the inclusion of an all-girls campus in the traditional school system does not change the organization’s stance on publicly funded single-gender schools.” The Post notes after DCPS opened the all-male Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in 2016, the ACLU “slammed the city for operating a single-gender school.”

Virginia District Superintendent To Merge Cabinet Positions.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/12) reports Richmond Public Schools superintendent Jason Kamras said Monday that he plans to merge three administrative cabinet positions, “cutting the total number of Cabinet posts from nine to six” and resulting “in an annual savings of \$207,000, he said.” In a recent interview, Kamras explained, “There’s a deficit of trust right now in the city. Part of what I hope to do is to rebuild that trust by showing that we can be good stewards of money.” Last month, Richmond School Board members unanimously voted “to waive School Board policy related to the posting of job vacancies for Cabinet-level jobs.” Kamras “is not retaining the Cabinet he inherited,” but “new members have not yet been publicly identified and have not taken over their roles; the current members continue to serve in their posts.”

Brooks: School Improvements Achieved Through Great Principals.

[New York Times](#) (3/12, Brooks, Subscription Publication) columnist David Brooks says marked improvements in Chicago Public Schools’ graduation rates, two- and four-year college enrollment, and national test scores “are proof that demography is not destiny, that bad things happening in a neighborhood do not have to determine student outcomes.” Brooks notes CPS has “a tradition of excellent leadership from school heads, from Arne Duncan to Janice Jackson, and the obsessive, energetic drive of Mayor Rahm Emanuel,” who, after a 2012 strike, helped lead an effort to “put special emphasis on one thing: principals.” According to Brooks, “structural change and increasing teacher quality don’t get you very far without a strong principal.” Successful principals, Brooks concludes, share “character traits they embody and spread: energy, trustworthiness, honesty, optimism, determination.”

Local SEIU Members To Vote On Potential Los Angeles School Strike.

[City News Service \(CA\)](#) (3/12) reports that members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 began voting Monday on whether or not to authorize a strike at the Los Angeles Unified School District. The union expects voting to continue through March 23, and “union officials said if the workers authorize a strike, a walkout could potentially occur during the current school year.” The vote comes in the middle of contract talks between the district and union workers, who fill roles including “district cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, [and] special education assistants.” The article notes that LAUSD chief labor negotiator Najeeb Khoury “said the district values the union as a ‘labor partner’ and has ‘engaged in economically responsible bargaining, which means we must make proposals that take into account our structural deficit.’”

SCHOOL FINANCE

New York State Officials Discuss Forthcoming Changes To Education Spending Disclosure.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/12, Disare) reports the New York state Board of Regents convened Monday to discuss forthcoming changes to how the state reports education spending. New York “publicly reports how much money flows from the state to each district,” but under federal law, districts must “explain how they take that money and divide it among individual schools.” Advocates are hoping the change “will create greater transparency,” but some at Monday’s meeting expressed concern that it “would become an administrative burden on schools.” Several state Regents also “raised concerns” that “reported funds will only include federal, state and local money,” excluding “non-governmental sources of funding, particularly in New York City where parent-teacher associations can raise extraordinary sums of additional money.” Others cautioned “that while these changes will expose funding disparities, they will not force districts to make changes to funding distribution.”

Utah State Lawmakers Pass Compromise Tax Hike Bill To Full Chamber Debate.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Wood) reported that in a 12-1 vote on late Wednesday, the Utah state House Political Subdivisions Committee passed HJR20, which “would place a non-binding question on the November ballot, letting voters indicate their support for a gas tax increase of 10 cents per gallon.” The bill, the result of a state legislative compromise, would put the gas tax question before voters instead of the Our Schools Now ballot initiative, “which is aimed at getting voter approval to enact an income and sales tax hike to boost annual school funding by more than \$700 million.” The Tribune wrote, “If the first public debate in the Utah Legislature was any indication,” the legislative compromise “appears poised for passage in the waning hours of the 2018 session.” In fact, Wednesday’s vote was preceded by “unanimously supportive testimony by members of the public.”

Express-News Decries Texas State Legislature For Inactivity On Public School Finance Reform.

A [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/12) editorial laments that Texas leaders have “little to show by the way of public school finance reform as we approach the second anniversary of a Texas Supreme Court ruling that found the system deeply flawed but constitutional.” The Express-News says it “expected state leaders to get moving quickly on improving the antiquated public school finance system after the May 2016 ruling,” but state lawmakers instead “spent more time debating the merits of a bathroom bill than it did tackling the decades-old problem.” The Express-News says since 2006, “more than 685 tax ratification elections have been held among the 1,018 Texas public school districts that impose a property tax,” reflecting how the “foot dragging” has forced a growing number of districts “to seek tax increases to balance their budgets.” Meanwhile, the “state’s share of public school funding has slowly dwindled over the last decade,” and “it is expected to keep going lower.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

DeVos Touts Administration's School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC's "Today" to promote "the Trump administration's plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn't be 'appropriate.'" Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie "what percentage of teachers should be armed," DeVos replied, "I don't have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it's appropriate." Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, "I don't think that would be appropriate and I don't think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it."

Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by "assault-style" weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, "The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis." Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, "Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners."

DeVos was asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, "What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective," DeVos said, "I don't have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where it's appropriate." Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, "I don't think that would be appropriate. And I don't think anybody would agree that would be." DeVos added, "This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to "harden the schools," DeVos said, "That's one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state." DeVos added that "there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a

‘disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.’”

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration’s school safety plan includes “the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration’s ‘Rethink School Discipline’ policies.” The announcement sparked concern among “school safety, civil rights and teachers’ advocates,” who “say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn’t discriminate against minority and disabled students.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos’ history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission “will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms.” The Times quotes DeVos saying, “Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps.”

Congress Proposes Contrasting School Safety Bills.

[Education Week](#) (3/12) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, congressional Republicans “want to focus on school-safety initiatives, not gun control.” The House and Senate are both pushing bills called the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act that are broadly similar, but there are “a few key areas where the bills aren’t the same.” The article contrasts the two plans.

[ABC News](#) (3/12, Phelps) reports President Trump is “set to endorse formally” the STOP School Violence Act and the “FIX NICS Bill, which calls for making improvements to the nation’s background check system.”

Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 “in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level.” The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address “keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students “are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day in a way that won’t cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence.” Local students “say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took.” However, “three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems.” Also reporting are [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer “spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton,” and on August 14, “the first day of school for the

district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response team if a shooter enters a building." The Post adds that "in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators' permission," and that "after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach."

Teachers Report Feeling "Hyper-Aware" Of Possibility Of Threats After Parkland.

[NBC News](#) (3/12) reports that Sylvania, Ohio high school teacher Dan Greenberg says "he's hyper-aware of the possibility of more school shootings" in a way that he was not before the Parkland massacre. The attack "has left an indelible uneasiness among teachers and students across the country — and a determination to bring a sense of safety back to the classroom."

Iowa District Debates Training Students To Fight Back.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (3/12) reports that administrators in Ames, Iowa have revisited how they are preparing for potential active shooter attacks, and that the debate is centered on whether to train students "to fight back" in such a scenario. The district already puts staff through ALICE Training, which "stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate." The 'C' in this acronym, for 'counter,' is controversial, because it means training people to fight back if a person with a gun enters their classroom." The article notes that ED "has supported teaching adults the fight method, but not students."

FBI: Over 100 School Threats In Louisiana Since Parkland Shootings.

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports the FBI and Louisiana state police said on Monday that in the month since the Parkland massacre, "authorities have investigated at least 106 threats of violence in or near schools in Louisiana." This report came "as the University of New Orleans was reopening its campus following the arrest of a suspect in one such threat."

Parents, Officials Express Concerns About Indiana Bullying Prevention System.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports on "large discrepancies" in Indiana state data on school bullying which "officials and parents worried" that schools are failing to report many bullying incidents to the state as required by a five-year-old law. "Last academic year, Indiana schools reported more than 4,500 instances of bullying — a number parents say barely scratches the surface, and officials acknowledge is likely inaccurate."

Family Of Alabama School Shooting Victim Calls For Reform.

The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was "killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances."

SPECIAL NEEDS

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking "to

devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that under Sweeney’s plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be “paid for by a corporate-tax” increase. However, it’s unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, “I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education.” He added, “Every district has this problem.” He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.](#)
- [DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.](#)
- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 05:40:48 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Ron Singleton

March 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ "announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety." Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, "No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence." Sessions "will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions' "proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications." Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, "It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you." Sessions also "sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding 'swift and aggressive' prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications."

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also "offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also "reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would 'effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession' of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday." However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), "neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump's plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions's actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law."

Advertisement

POLITICS & POLICY

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne Community Schools "saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools." FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that "it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources."

TEACHING & LEARNING

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which "has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome." In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was "pleased with the content of the memo," with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials "are glad to know that PARCC's days are numbered," as "it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey's classrooms."

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that "it's a little more complicated" than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to "promptly jettison" PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot "just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served," NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie's administration had a "desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests

under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its “Meet the Masters” program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program “has been held after school locally once a week.” The Arts Commission financed the program’s “curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists.” The “Meet the Masters” program “has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website,” but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children “participated in the program when the family was living in California.”

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams “the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called ‘Aqua Adventure.’” Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday’s event, explained that not a competition, as “FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students ‘exposed to a very simple programming concept.’”

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana’s state legislative session, state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

OPERATIONS

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

Researchers Examine How Principals Influence Student Achievement.

[Education Week](#) (3/12, Allensworth) guest columnist Elaine Allensworth, the Lewis-Sebring Director of the University

of Chicago Consortium on School Research, and Holly Hart, the survey director at the consortium, outlined their mixed-methods [study](#) of Chicago Public Schools aimed at determining “firsthand what principals in schools with improving learning gains were doing that principals in schools without improving learning gains were not.” The researchers found “principals primarily influenced student learning by fostering strong learning climates in their schools,” and that “teacher leadership was a critical mechanism through which principals achieved this.” Additionally, Allensworth and Hart write, they “found other principal-led aspects of school organization that are associated with improving schools--such as teachers’ professional development, program alignment, and engagement with parents--matter for student achievement to the extent that they facilitate a strong school climate,” which they define as a “safe, supportive” environment with “high, consistent, and clear expectations for students.” The authors note their research was supported by an ED Institute of Education Sciences grant awarded to the University of Chicago.

DCPS To Operate All-Girl School Revoked Of Charter.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Stein) reports Excel Academy Public Charter School “will finish this semester as a charter school and reopen as a D.C. Public Schools campus at the start of the academic year.” In January, the DC Public Charter School Board voted to strip Excel, “the city’s only all-girls public school,” of its charter, “saying that students were lagging behind their peers and that the school was showing scant evidence of improvement.” The Post says it remains “unclear how many administrators and teachers will remain through the transition,” but its roughly 700 students “will be allowed to re-enroll.” Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s DC chapter, “said the inclusion of an all-girls campus in the traditional school system does not change the organization’s stance on publicly funded single-gender schools.” The Post notes after DCPS opened the all-male Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in 2016, the ACLU “slammed the city for operating a single-gender school.”

Virginia District Superintendent To Merge Cabinet Positions.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/12) reports Richmond Public Schools superintendent Jason Kamras said Monday that he plans to merge three administrative cabinet positions, “cutting the total number of Cabinet posts from nine to six” and resulting “in an annual savings of \$207,000, he said.” In a recent interview, Kamras explained, “There’s a deficit of trust right now in the city. Part of what I hope to do is to rebuild that trust by showing that we can be good stewards of money.” Last month, Richmond School Board members unanimously voted “to waive School Board policy related to the posting of job vacancies for Cabinet-level jobs.” Kamras “is not retaining the Cabinet he inherited,” but “new members have not yet been publicly identified and have not taken over their roles; the current members continue to serve in their posts.”

Brooks: School Improvements Achieved Through Great Principals.

[New York Times](#) (3/12, Brooks, Subscription Publication) columnist David Brooks says marked improvements in Chicago Public Schools’ graduation rates, two- and four-year college enrollment, and national test scores “are proof that demography is not destiny, that bad things happening in a neighborhood do not have to determine student outcomes.” Brooks notes CPS has “a tradition of excellent leadership from school heads, from Arne Duncan to Janice Jackson, and the obsessive, energetic drive of Mayor Rahm Emanuel,” who, after a 2012 strike, helped lead an effort to “put special emphasis on one thing: principals.” According to Brooks, “structural change and increasing teacher quality don’t get you very far without a strong principal.” Successful principals, Brooks concludes, share “character traits they embody and spread: energy, trustworthiness, honesty, optimism, determination.”

Local SEIU Members To Vote On Potential Los Angeles School Strike.

[City News Service \(CA\)](#) (3/12) reports that members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 began voting Monday on whether or not to authorize a strike at the Los Angeles Unified School District. The union expects voting to continue through March 23, and “union officials said if the workers authorize a strike, a walkout could potentially occur during the current school year.” The vote comes in the middle of contract talks between the district and union workers, who fill roles including “district cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, [and] special education assistants.” The article notes that LAUSD chief labor negotiator Najeeb Khoury “said the district values the union as a ‘labor partner’ and has ‘engaged in economically responsible bargaining, which means we must make proposals that take into account our structural deficit.’”

SCHOOL FINANCE

New York State Officials Discuss Forthcoming Changes To Education Spending Disclosure.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/12, Disare) reports the New York state Board of Regents convened Monday to discuss forthcoming changes to how the state reports education spending. New York “publicly reports how much money flows from the state to each district,” but under federal law, districts must “explain how they take that money and divide it among individual schools.” Advocates are hoping the change “will create greater transparency,” but some at Monday’s meeting expressed concern that it “would become an administrative burden on schools.” Several state Regents also “raised concerns” that “reported funds will only include federal, state and local money,” excluding “non-governmental sources of funding, particularly in New York City where parent-teacher associations can raise extraordinary sums of additional money.” Others cautioned “that while these changes will expose funding disparities, they will not force districts to make changes to funding distribution.”

Utah State Lawmakers Pass Compromise Tax Hike Bill To Full Chamber Debate.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Wood) reported that in a 12-1 vote on late Wednesday, the Utah state House Political Subdivisions Committee passed HJR20, which “would place a non-binding question on the November ballot, letting voters indicate their support for a gas tax increase of 10 cents per gallon.” The bill, the result of a state legislative compromise, would put the gas tax question before voters instead of the Our Schools Now ballot initiative, “which is aimed at getting voter approval to enact an income and sales tax hike to boost annual school funding by more than \$700 million.” The Tribune wrote, “If the first public debate in the Utah Legislature was any indication,” the legislative compromise “appears poised for passage in the waning hours of the 2018 session.” In fact, Wednesday’s vote was preceded by “unanimously supportive testimony by members of the public.”

Express-News Decries Texas State Legislature For Inactivity On Public School Finance Reform.

A [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/12) editorial laments that Texas leaders have “little to show by the way of public school finance reform as we approach the second anniversary of a Texas Supreme Court ruling that found the system deeply flawed but constitutional.” The Express-News says it “expected state leaders to get moving quickly on improving the antiquated public school finance system after the May 2016 ruling,” but state lawmakers instead “spent more time debating the merits of a bathroom bill than it did tackling the decades-old problem.” The Express-News says since 2006, “more than 685 tax ratification elections have been held among the 1,018 Texas public school districts that impose a property tax,” reflecting how the “foot dragging” has forced a growing number of districts “to seek tax increases to balance their budgets.” Meanwhile, the “state’s share of public school funding has slowly dwindled over the last decade,” and “it is expected to keep going lower.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

DeVos Touts Administration's School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC's "Today" to promote "the Trump administration's plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn't be 'appropriate.'" Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie "what percentage of teachers should be armed," DeVos replied, "I don't have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it's appropriate." Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, "I don't think that would be appropriate and I don't think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it."

Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by "assault-style" weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, "The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis." Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, "Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners."

DeVos was asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, "What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective," DeVos said, "I don't have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where it's appropriate." Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, "I don't think that would be appropriate. And I don't think anybody would agree that would be." DeVos added, "This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to "harden the schools," DeVos said, "That's one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state." DeVos added that "there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a

‘disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.’”

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration’s school safety plan includes “the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration’s ‘Rethink School Discipline’ policies.” The announcement sparked concern among “school safety, civil rights and teachers’ advocates,” who “say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn’t discriminate against minority and disabled students.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos’ history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission “will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms.” The Times quotes DeVos saying, “Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps.”

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Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 “in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level.” The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address “keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students “are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day in a way that won’t cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence.” Local students “say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took.” However, “three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems.” Also reporting are [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer “spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton,” and on August 14, “the first day of school for the

district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response team if a shooter enters a building." The Post adds that "in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators' permission," and that "after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach."

Teachers Report Feeling "Hyper-Aware" Of Possibility Of Threats After Parkland.

[NBC News](#) (3/12) reports that Sylvania, Ohio high school teacher Dan Greenberg says "he's hyper-aware of the possibility of more school shootings" in a way that he was not before the Parkland massacre. The attack "has left an indelible uneasiness among teachers and students across the country — and a determination to bring a sense of safety back to the classroom."

Iowa District Debates Training Students To Fight Back.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (3/12) reports that administrators in Ames, Iowa have revisited how they are preparing for potential active shooter attacks, and that the debate is centered on whether to train students "to fight back" in such a scenario. The district already puts staff through ALICE Training, which "stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate." The 'C' in this acronym, for 'counter,' is controversial, because it means training people to fight back if a person with a gun enters their classroom." The article notes that ED "has supported teaching adults the fight method, but not students."

FBI: Over 100 School Threats In Louisiana Since Parkland Shootings.

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports the FBI and Louisiana state police said on Monday that in the month since the Parkland massacre, "authorities have investigated at least 106 threats of violence in or near schools in Louisiana." This report came "as the University of New Orleans was reopening its campus following the arrest of a suspect in one such threat."

Parents, Officials Express Concerns About Indiana Bullying Prevention System.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports on "large discrepancies" in Indiana state data on school bullying which "officials and parents worried" that schools are failing to report many bullying incidents to the state as required by a five-year-old law. "Last academic year, Indiana schools reported more than 4,500 instances of bullying — a number parents say barely scratches the surface, and officials acknowledge is likely inaccurate."

Family Of Alabama School Shooting Victim Calls For Reform.

The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was "killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances."

SPECIAL NEEDS

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking "to

devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that under Sweeney’s plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be “paid for by a corporate-tax” increase. However, it’s unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, “I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education.” He added, “Every district has this problem.” He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.](#)
- [DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.](#)
- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)

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Subject: West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary
To: <cindy.romero@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

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Good morning Cindy Romero

March 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ "announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety." Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, "No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence." Sessions "will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions' "proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications." Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, "It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you." Sessions also "sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding 'swift and aggressive' prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications."

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also "offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also "reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would 'effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession' of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday." However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), "neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump's plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions's actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law."

Advertisement

POLITICS & POLICY

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne Community Schools "saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools." FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that "it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources."

TEACHING & LEARNING

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which "has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome." In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was "pleased with the content of the memo," with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials "are glad to know that PARCC's days are numbered," as "it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey's classrooms."

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that "it's a little more complicated" than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to "promptly jettison" PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot "just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served," NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie's administration had a "desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests

under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its “Meet the Masters” program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program “has been held after school locally once a week.” The Arts Commission financed the program’s “curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists.” The “Meet the Masters” program “has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website,” but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children “participated in the program when the family was living in California.”

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams “the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called ‘Aqua Adventure.’” Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday’s event, explained that not a competition, as “FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students ‘exposed to a very simple programming concept.’”

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana’s state legislative session, state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

OPERATIONS

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

Researchers Examine How Principals Influence Student Achievement.

[Education Week](#) (3/12, Allensworth) guest columnist Elaine Allensworth, the Lewis-Sebring Director of the University

of Chicago Consortium on School Research, and Holly Hart, the survey director at the consortium, outlined their mixed-methods [study](#) of Chicago Public Schools aimed at determining “firsthand what principals in schools with improving learning gains were doing that principals in schools without improving learning gains were not.” The researchers found “principals primarily influenced student learning by fostering strong learning climates in their schools,” and that “teacher leadership was a critical mechanism through which principals achieved this.” Additionally, Allensworth and Hart write, they “found other principal-led aspects of school organization that are associated with improving schools--such as teachers’ professional development, program alignment, and engagement with parents--matter for student achievement to the extent that they facilitate a strong school climate,” which they define as a “safe, supportive” environment with “high, consistent, and clear expectations for students.” The authors note their research was supported by an ED Institute of Education Sciences grant awarded to the University of Chicago.

DCPS To Operate All-Girl School Revoked Of Charter.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Stein) reports Excel Academy Public Charter School “will finish this semester as a charter school and reopen as a D.C. Public Schools campus at the start of the academic year.” In January, the DC Public Charter School Board voted to strip Excel, “the city’s only all-girls public school,” of its charter, “saying that students were lagging behind their peers and that the school was showing scant evidence of improvement.” The Post says it remains “unclear how many administrators and teachers will remain through the transition,” but its roughly 700 students “will be allowed to re-enroll.” Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s DC chapter, “said the inclusion of an all-girls campus in the traditional school system does not change the organization’s stance on publicly funded single-gender schools.” The Post notes after DCPS opened the all-male Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in 2016, the ACLU “slammed the city for operating a single-gender school.”

Virginia District Superintendent To Merge Cabinet Positions.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/12) reports Richmond Public Schools superintendent Jason Kamras said Monday that he plans to merge three administrative cabinet positions, “cutting the total number of Cabinet posts from nine to six” and resulting “in an annual savings of \$207,000, he said.” In a recent interview, Kamras explained, “There’s a deficit of trust right now in the city. Part of what I hope to do is to rebuild that trust by showing that we can be good stewards of money.” Last month, Richmond School Board members unanimously voted “to waive School Board policy related to the posting of job vacancies for Cabinet-level jobs.” Kamras “is not retaining the Cabinet he inherited,” but “new members have not yet been publicly identified and have not taken over their roles; the current members continue to serve in their posts.”

Brooks: School Improvements Achieved Through Great Principals.

[New York Times](#) (3/12, Brooks, Subscription Publication) columnist David Brooks says marked improvements in Chicago Public Schools’ graduation rates, two- and four-year college enrollment, and national test scores “are proof that demography is not destiny, that bad things happening in a neighborhood do not have to determine student outcomes.” Brooks notes CPS has “a tradition of excellent leadership from school heads, from Arne Duncan to Janice Jackson, and the obsessive, energetic drive of Mayor Rahm Emanuel,” who, after a 2012 strike, helped lead an effort to “put special emphasis on one thing: principals.” According to Brooks, “structural change and increasing teacher quality don’t get you very far without a strong principal.” Successful principals, Brooks concludes, share “character traits they embody and spread: energy, trustworthiness, honesty, optimism, determination.”

Local SEIU Members To Vote On Potential Los Angeles School Strike.

[City News Service \(CA\)](#) (3/12) reports that members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 began voting Monday on whether or not to authorize a strike at the Los Angeles Unified School District. The union expects voting to continue through March 23, and “union officials said if the workers authorize a strike, a walkout could potentially occur during the current school year.” The vote comes in the middle of contract talks between the district and union workers, who fill roles including “district cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, [and] special education assistants.” The article notes that LAUSD chief labor negotiator Najeeb Khoury “said the district values the union as a ‘labor partner’ and has ‘engaged in economically responsible bargaining, which means we must make proposals that take into account our structural deficit.’”

SCHOOL FINANCE

New York State Officials Discuss Forthcoming Changes To Education Spending Disclosure.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/12, Disare) reports the New York state Board of Regents convened Monday to discuss forthcoming changes to how the state reports education spending. New York “publicly reports how much money flows from the state to each district,” but under federal law, districts must “explain how they take that money and divide it among individual schools.” Advocates are hoping the change “will create greater transparency,” but some at Monday’s meeting expressed concern that it “would become an administrative burden on schools.” Several state Regents also “raised concerns” that “reported funds will only include federal, state and local money,” excluding “non-governmental sources of funding, particularly in New York City where parent-teacher associations can raise extraordinary sums of additional money.” Others cautioned “that while these changes will expose funding disparities, they will not force districts to make changes to funding distribution.”

Utah State Lawmakers Pass Compromise Tax Hike Bill To Full Chamber Debate.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Wood) reported that in a 12-1 vote on late Wednesday, the Utah state House Political Subdivisions Committee passed HJR20, which “would place a non-binding question on the November ballot, letting voters indicate their support for a gas tax increase of 10 cents per gallon.” The bill, the result of a state legislative compromise, would put the gas tax question before voters instead of the Our Schools Now ballot initiative, “which is aimed at getting voter approval to enact an income and sales tax hike to boost annual school funding by more than \$700 million.” The Tribune wrote, “If the first public debate in the Utah Legislature was any indication,” the legislative compromise “appears poised for passage in the waning hours of the 2018 session.” In fact, Wednesday’s vote was preceded by “unanimously supportive testimony by members of the public.”

Express-News Decries Texas State Legislature For Inactivity On Public School Finance Reform.

A [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/12) editorial laments that Texas leaders have “little to show by the way of public school finance reform as we approach the second anniversary of a Texas Supreme Court ruling that found the system deeply flawed but constitutional.” The Express-News says it “expected state leaders to get moving quickly on improving the antiquated public school finance system after the May 2016 ruling,” but state lawmakers instead “spent more time debating the merits of a bathroom bill than it did tackling the decades-old problem.” The Express-News says since 2006, “more than 685 tax ratification elections have been held among the 1,018 Texas public school districts that impose a property tax,” reflecting how the “foot dragging” has forced a growing number of districts “to seek tax increases to balance their budgets.” Meanwhile, the “state’s share of public school funding has slowly dwindled over the last decade,” and “it is expected to keep going lower.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

DeVos Touts Administration's School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC's "Today" to promote "the Trump administration's plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn't be 'appropriate.'" Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie "what percentage of teachers should be armed," DeVos replied, "I don't have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it's appropriate." Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, "I don't think that would be appropriate and I don't think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it."

Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by "assault-style" weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, "The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis." Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, "Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners."

DeVos was asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, "What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective," DeVos said, "I don't have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where it's appropriate." Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, "I don't think that would be appropriate. And I don't think anybody would agree that would be." DeVos added, "This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to "harden the schools," DeVos said, "That's one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state." DeVos added that "there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a

‘disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.’”

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration’s school safety plan includes “the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration’s ‘Rethink School Discipline’ policies.” The announcement sparked concern among “school safety, civil rights and teachers’ advocates,” who “say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn’t discriminate against minority and disabled students.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos’ history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission “will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms.” The Times quotes DeVos saying, “Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps.”

Congress Proposes Contrasting School Safety Bills.

[Education Week](#) (3/12) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, congressional Republicans “want to focus on school-safety initiatives, not gun control.” The House and Senate are both pushing bills called the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act that are broadly similar, but there are “a few key areas where the bills aren’t the same.” The article contrasts the two plans.

[ABC News](#) (3/12, Phelps) reports President Trump is “set to endorse formally” the STOP School Violence Act and the “FIX NICS Bill, which calls for making improvements to the nation’s background check system.”

Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 “in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level.” The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address “keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students “are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day in a way that won’t cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence.” Local students “say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took.” However, “three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems.” Also reporting are [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer “spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton,” and on August 14, “the first day of school for the

district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response team if a shooter enters a building." The Post adds that "in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators' permission," and that "after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach."

Teachers Report Feeling "Hyper-Aware" Of Possibility Of Threats After Parkland.

[NBC News](#) (3/12) reports that Sylvania, Ohio high school teacher Dan Greenberg says "he's hyper-aware of the possibility of more school shootings" in a way that he was not before the Parkland massacre. The attack "has left an indelible uneasiness among teachers and students across the country — and a determination to bring a sense of safety back to the classroom."

Iowa District Debates Training Students To Fight Back.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (3/12) reports that administrators in Ames, Iowa have revisited how they are preparing for potential active shooter attacks, and that the debate is centered on whether to train students "to fight back" in such a scenario. The district already puts staff through ALICE Training, which "stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate." The 'C' in this acronym, for 'counter,' is controversial, because it means training people to fight back if a person with a gun enters their classroom." The article notes that ED "has supported teaching adults the fight method, but not students."

FBI: Over 100 School Threats In Louisiana Since Parkland Shootings.

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports the FBI and Louisiana state police said on Monday that in the month since the Parkland massacre, "authorities have investigated at least 106 threats of violence in or near schools in Louisiana." This report came "as the University of New Orleans was reopening its campus following the arrest of a suspect in one such threat."

Parents, Officials Express Concerns About Indiana Bullying Prevention System.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports on "large discrepancies" in Indiana state data on school bullying which "officials and parents worried" that schools are failing to report many bullying incidents to the state as required by a five-year-old law. "Last academic year, Indiana schools reported more than 4,500 instances of bullying — a number parents say barely scratches the surface, and officials acknowledge is likely inaccurate."

Family Of Alabama School Shooting Victim Calls For Reform.

The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was "killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances."

SPECIAL NEEDS

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking "to

devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that under Sweeney’s plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be “paid for by a corporate-tax” increase. However, it’s unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, “I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education.” He added, “Every district has this problem.” He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.](#)
- [DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.](#)
- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 05:40:48 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary
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 13, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

DOJ Unveils School Safety Proposals.

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Icsman) reports DOJ "announced Monday its plans to prioritize giving grants to local and state law enforcement agencies that plan to hire more officers in an attempt to improve school safety." Attorney General Sessions said in a statement, "No child should have to fear going to school or walking the streets of their neighborhood. ... Today, I am directing the Department of Justice to take a number of new steps that will help make schools and the American people safer from the threat of gun violence." Sessions "will also encourage each state to make sure local law enforcement is reporting to state-run databases that the FBI accesses during background checks. Right now, reporting that information is voluntary on the part of states."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Mordock) says Sessions' "proposals include holding federal agencies accountable for failing to update the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; ordering the FBI to identify states that are not reporting arrests to state databases and more aggressive prosecution of individuals who lie on gun applications." Said Sessions, in a letter to FBI Director Wray, "It is essential that relevant mental health determinations by state and local officers are accessible to the NICS system. ... We cannot allow an individual who is prohibited from possessing firearms to pass a background check simply because the information was not made available to you." Sessions also "sent a letter to US Attorneys across the country demanding 'swift and aggressive' prosecution of people who lie on their firearm applications."

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gerstein) reports DOJ is also "offering up to \$1 million in emergency grant funding to Broward County and other jurisdictions that responded to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida, last month."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/13, Cohen) reports DOJ also "reiterated that it has submitted a proposed regulation to the Office of Management and Budget that would 'effectively ban the manufacture, sale or possession' of bump stocks – an announcement made Saturday." However, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Horwitz), "neither the Justice Department initiatives nor Trump's plan contain significant proposals to change gun laws. Instead, Sessions's actions enhance existing programs and call for more aggressively enforcing current law."

Advertisement

POLITICS & POLICY

NASBE, CCSO Say States Are Exceeding ESSA's Requirements.

In commentary for the [Seventy Four](#) (3/12), Kristen J. Amundson, president and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education, and Carissa Miller, interim executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, write about the work their organizations have done with states in drafting their ESSA plans, saying that the states are taking advantage of the law's flexibility and requirement that states "move from a compliance mentality, asking only what the law allows, to asking what will improve schools for all kids." The writers say states are "not only meeting ESSA requirements but, in many cases, moving beyond them to realize a better vision of education for all students."

Indiana State DOE Report Examines School Voucher Program.

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports the Indiana state Department of Education released a report that found state spending on the school voucher program increased "to \$153 million for the 2017-18 academic year and helped more than 35,000 students attend private secular and religious schools." The report found participation in the program increased by 3.4 percent in the current school year, and that "the number of students who are using vouchers and have never attended an Indiana public school" reached a record high. It also "estimated financial losses for public school districts based on the number of students living within district boundaries who attend voucher schools." Fort Wayne Community Schools "saw the highest financial hit, more than \$20 million, among Indiana public schools." FWCS school board president Julie Hollingsworth lamented that "it is easy to see that public school districts are being asked to do more with fewer resources."

TEACHING & LEARNING

New Jersey Launches Plan To Replace PARCC Assessment.

The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (3/12) reports that last week, the New Jersey state Department of Education released guidance detailing its plans to replace the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, which "has been criticized by many educators and school districts since its implementation four years ago as overly burdensome." In a March 6 memo, acting state Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet confirmed the assessment will be administered this year because it is logistically too late to shift to another exam, but added that the state DOE will form an advisory group and meet with stakeholders from every county to devise a plan. The New Jersey Education Association was "pleased with the content of the memo," with president Marie Blistan saying that NJEA officials "are glad to know that PARCC's days are numbered," as "it was a poorly planned, poorly executed fiasco that undermined real teaching and learning in New Jersey's classrooms."

In an editorial, [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/12) cautions that "it's a little more complicated" than what Gov. Phil Murphy portrayed when he vowed to "promptly jettison" PARCC after taking office. New Jersey cannot "just decide to drop standardized student assessments entirely; laws require that it have some form of testing to evaluate how students are being served," NJMG says. It that former Gov. Chris Christie's administration had a "desire to denigrate public schools, and the PARCC exams, with far lower passing rates than predecessor tests

under the guise of raising the academic bar,” but his successor, Murphy, “brings a different, more supportive perspective.” While Murphy’s reevaluation may end “without major changes,” NJMG says it imagines PARCC’s replacement “will be a more reasonable assessment of student performance.” Yet, NJMG cautions, “that can’t just mean making it easier.”

Washington Arts Commission Brings Art Program To Local Elementary School.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (3/12) reports the Mount Vernon Arts Commission in Washington recently brought its “Meet the Masters” program to Jefferson Elementary School. For the last two months, the program “has been held after school locally once a week.” The Arts Commission financed the program’s “curricula, which includes art supplies so students can re-create the work of famous artists.” The “Meet the Masters” program “has existed since the mid-1980s, according to its website,” but it was introduced to the Arts Commission by Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau, whose own children “participated in the program when the family was living in California.”

Michigan Elementary School Hosts Expo To Introduce STEM To Young Students.

The [Midland \(MI\) Daily News](#) (3/12) reports Central Park Elementary School in Michigan hosted the Great Lakes Bay Region FIRST LEGO League Jr. Expo on Saturday, granting more than 100 students on 17 teams “the chance to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts with a challenge called ‘Aqua Adventure.’” Each team received a trophy and all students were awarded medals. Bob Lipscomb, the IT project manager at Nexteer Automotive, which sponsored Saturday’s event, explained that not a competition, as “FIRST LEGO League Jr. is geared toward K-3 students, and aims to build interest in STEM and get young students ‘exposed to a very simple programming concept.’”

Indiana State Lawmaker Abandons Plan To Let Schools Hire Unlicensed Teachers.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports that on Monday, three days before the end of Indiana’s state legislative session, state Sen. Andy Zay said “he plans to strip out the language that would have allowed schools to hire unlicensed teachers to fill up to 10 percent of their teaching positions.” Zay explained that “even without the unlicensed teacher language, there are still tools in the bill available to schools looking to address the teacher shortage.” The provision was controversial, and state teacher agencies, including the Indiana Federation of Teachers, argued “that salary increases for all teachers would be more effective in addressing pipeline concerns than extra pay for a few select classes of teachers.” The search “for creative solutions to the teaching shortage has been a priority of the department and Jennifer McCormick, the state superintendent of public instruction.”

Minneapolis Public Schools, Teachers Union Reach Tentative Contract Agreement.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Ed Graff sent a letter to district staff and obtained by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/11) revealing that the negotiators for the district and Minneapolis Federation of Teachers “broke a deadlock that followed numerous talks over 10 months” and reached a tentative contract agreement. In the letter, Graff said “that he is pleased the district found a way to honor teachers with the realities of building a financially sustainable future for the district.” The MFT’s executive board will review the tentative deal on Tuesday and publicly reveal the details if its teachers approve it in a vote scheduled for March 29 and 30. The Tribune notes MPS “is wrestling with a \$33 million budget deficit for the 2018-19 school year and decreasing enrollment,” while MFT “is pushing for pay raises, smaller class sizes and a \$15 minimum wage for all employees.”

Tulsa Teachers Protest In Anticipation Of Possible Statewide Walkout.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/12) reports Tulsa Public Schools, the second-largest district in Oklahoma, protested Monday “to ‘work the contract,’ an effort to not work beyond the seven hours and 50 minutes required of them by their contract.” The “teachers’ unified front” was aimed at building momentum for a statewide teacher walkout that the Oklahoma Education Association threatened last week “if the Oklahoma Legislature doesn’t fund a teacher pay raise and increase common education funding by April 1.” In a Facebook post, TPS superintendent Deborah Gist said if the OEA calls for the walkout, it “will be extraordinarily difficult for our teachers – they are deeply committed to your children and want only what is best for them academically, personally, and socially.” She added, “Your teachers are taking this job action because your children matter, and they deserve a well-funded public education system where their teachers can afford to stay long enough to see them graduate.”

Transgender Teachers Discuss Efforts To Combat Bullying, Facilitate Gender Diversity Awareness.

[NPR](#)’s (3/12) “NPR Ed” said as gender diversity awareness grows, “schools in particular have been a battleground for gender rights.” Citing interviews with 15 individuals and a “survey of dozens more trans and gender-nonconforming educators around the country,” NPR says that teachers “are becoming more visible, more active, more organized.” Many trans teachers told NPR that “they were bullied as students, and they feel that their work in the classroom can be, quite literally, a matter of life and death.” They recalled having few role models in their youth – “largely in the 1980s and 1990s” – and that school in particular “was not always an accepting space.” Those teachers are now “marching, writing lesson plans, changing the signs on bathroom doors and, alongside their students, pushing colleagues and school administrators and elected officials to improve awareness of gender issues.”

OPERATIONS

West Virginia Governor Fires Education And The Arts Secretary.

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Cerbin) reports that after West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Gayle Manchin “called politics on a bill that would terminate her department,” Gov. Jim Justice fired her. In a Monday statement, Manchin, the state’s former first lady, wrote, “In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote.” Justice subsequently released a statement accusing Manchin of introducing politics to the issue and disregarding instructions from his chief of staff to refrain from commenting on the issue.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (3/12) reports Justice fired Manchin after she “sent out a news release in which she offered to ‘resign to remove any political pressure.’” In Justice’s statement, he said, “She was told that we accepted her resignation, she refused, and we terminated her.” After being informed of the governor’s decision, Manchin “said her earlier offer to resign was contingent on being able to ‘sit down and work out how we can resolve this in a responsible, compassionate way if he wanted to dissolve the Cabinet.’”

The [AP](#) (3/12) reports that under the bill, the department’s agencies, which “include Culture and History, Public Broadcasting, the Center for Professional Development, the Library Commission, Rehabilitation Services and Volunteer West Virginia,” would “either be absorbed by other departments or continue as separate agencies within the executive branch.” The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (3/12) also covers this story.

Researchers Examine How Principals Influence Student Achievement.

[Education Week](#) (3/12, Allensworth) guest columnist Elaine Allensworth, the Lewis-Sebring Director of the University

of Chicago Consortium on School Research, and Holly Hart, the survey director at the consortium, outlined their mixed-methods [study](#) of Chicago Public Schools aimed at determining “firsthand what principals in schools with improving learning gains were doing that principals in schools without improving learning gains were not.” The researchers found “principals primarily influenced student learning by fostering strong learning climates in their schools,” and that “teacher leadership was a critical mechanism through which principals achieved this.” Additionally, Allensworth and Hart write, they “found other principal-led aspects of school organization that are associated with improving schools--such as teachers’ professional development, program alignment, and engagement with parents--matter for student achievement to the extent that they facilitate a strong school climate,” which they define as a “safe, supportive” environment with “high, consistent, and clear expectations for students.” The authors note their research was supported by an ED Institute of Education Sciences grant awarded to the University of Chicago.

DCPS To Operate All-Girl School Revoked Of Charter.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Stein) reports Excel Academy Public Charter School “will finish this semester as a charter school and reopen as a D.C. Public Schools campus at the start of the academic year.” In January, the DC Public Charter School Board voted to strip Excel, “the city’s only all-girls public school,” of its charter, “saying that students were lagging behind their peers and that the school was showing scant evidence of improvement.” The Post says it remains “unclear how many administrators and teachers will remain through the transition,” but its roughly 700 students “will be allowed to re-enroll.” Monica Hopkins-Maxwell, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union’s DC chapter, “said the inclusion of an all-girls campus in the traditional school system does not change the organization’s stance on publicly funded single-gender schools.” The Post notes after DCPS opened the all-male Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in 2016, the ACLU “slammed the city for operating a single-gender school.”

Virginia District Superintendent To Merge Cabinet Positions.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/12) reports Richmond Public Schools superintendent Jason Kamras said Monday that he plans to merge three administrative cabinet positions, “cutting the total number of Cabinet posts from nine to six” and resulting “in an annual savings of \$207,000, he said.” In a recent interview, Kamras explained, “There’s a deficit of trust right now in the city. Part of what I hope to do is to rebuild that trust by showing that we can be good stewards of money.” Last month, Richmond School Board members unanimously voted “to waive School Board policy related to the posting of job vacancies for Cabinet-level jobs.” Kamras “is not retaining the Cabinet he inherited,” but “new members have not yet been publicly identified and have not taken over their roles; the current members continue to serve in their posts.”

Brooks: School Improvements Achieved Through Great Principals.

[New York Times](#) (3/12, Brooks, Subscription Publication) columnist David Brooks says marked improvements in Chicago Public Schools’ graduation rates, two- and four-year college enrollment, and national test scores “are proof that demography is not destiny, that bad things happening in a neighborhood do not have to determine student outcomes.” Brooks notes CPS has “a tradition of excellent leadership from school heads, from Arne Duncan to Janice Jackson, and the obsessive, energetic drive of Mayor Rahm Emanuel,” who, after a 2012 strike, helped lead an effort to “put special emphasis on one thing: principals.” According to Brooks, “structural change and increasing teacher quality don’t get you very far without a strong principal.” Successful principals, Brooks concludes, share “character traits they embody and spread: energy, trustworthiness, honesty, optimism, determination.”

Local SEIU Members To Vote On Potential Los Angeles School Strike.

[City News Service \(CA\)](#) (3/12) reports that members of the Service Employees International Union Local 99 began voting Monday on whether or not to authorize a strike at the Los Angeles Unified School District. The union expects voting to continue through March 23, and “union officials said if the workers authorize a strike, a walkout could potentially occur during the current school year.” The vote comes in the middle of contract talks between the district and union workers, who fill roles including “district cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, [and] special education assistants.” The article notes that LAUSD chief labor negotiator Najeeb Khoury “said the district values the union as a ‘labor partner’ and has ‘engaged in economically responsible bargaining, which means we must make proposals that take into account our structural deficit.’”

SCHOOL FINANCE

New York State Officials Discuss Forthcoming Changes To Education Spending Disclosure.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/12, Disare) reports the New York state Board of Regents convened Monday to discuss forthcoming changes to how the state reports education spending. New York “publicly reports how much money flows from the state to each district,” but under federal law, districts must “explain how they take that money and divide it among individual schools.” Advocates are hoping the change “will create greater transparency,” but some at Monday’s meeting expressed concern that it “would become an administrative burden on schools.” Several state Regents also “raised concerns” that “reported funds will only include federal, state and local money,” excluding “non-governmental sources of funding, particularly in New York City where parent-teacher associations can raise extraordinary sums of additional money.” Others cautioned “that while these changes will expose funding disparities, they will not force districts to make changes to funding distribution.”

Utah State Lawmakers Pass Compromise Tax Hike Bill To Full Chamber Debate.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, Wood) reported that in a 12-1 vote on late Wednesday, the Utah state House Political Subdivisions Committee passed HJR20, which “would place a non-binding question on the November ballot, letting voters indicate their support for a gas tax increase of 10 cents per gallon.” The bill, the result of a state legislative compromise, would put the gas tax question before voters instead of the Our Schools Now ballot initiative, “which is aimed at getting voter approval to enact an income and sales tax hike to boost annual school funding by more than \$700 million.” The Tribune wrote, “If the first public debate in the Utah Legislature was any indication,” the legislative compromise “appears poised for passage in the waning hours of the 2018 session.” In fact, Wednesday’s vote was preceded by “unanimously supportive testimony by members of the public.”

Express-News Decries Texas State Legislature For Inactivity On Public School Finance Reform.

A [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/12) editorial laments that Texas leaders have “little to show by the way of public school finance reform as we approach the second anniversary of a Texas Supreme Court ruling that found the system deeply flawed but constitutional.” The Express-News says it “expected state leaders to get moving quickly on improving the antiquated public school finance system after the May 2016 ruling,” but state lawmakers instead “spent more time debating the merits of a bathroom bill than it did tackling the decades-old problem.” The Express-News says since 2006, “more than 685 tax ratification elections have been held among the 1,018 Texas public school districts that impose a property tax,” reflecting how the “foot dragging” has forced a growing number of districts “to seek tax increases to balance their budgets.” Meanwhile, the “state’s share of public school funding has slowly dwindled over the last decade,” and “it is expected to keep going lower.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

DeVos Touts Administration's School Safety Plan On Morning Shows.

[Politico](#) (3/12, Emma) reports Education Secretary Betsy DeVos appeared on NBC's "Today" to promote "the Trump administration's plan to arm school staff, but said a gun in every classroom wouldn't be 'appropriate.'" Asked by co-anchor Savannah Guthrie "what percentage of teachers should be armed," DeVos replied, "I don't have a percentage. It should only be those capable and qualified and only in places where it's appropriate." Asked whether every classroom should have an armed adult, DeVos replied, "I don't think that would be appropriate and I don't think anybody would agree that would be. ... The point is that schools should have this tool if they choose to use the tool. ... Nobody should be mandated to do it."

Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) why the school safety proposal does not include raising the age to by "assault-style" weapons from 18 to 21 since the President specifically said he supported it, DeVos said, "The plan is a first step in a more lengthy process. And the proposals that the President has put forward really encompass a lot of things that are supported on a broad bipartisan basis." Asked again why it is not included in the proposal given the President professed support, DeVos said, "Everything is on the table. And the commission that is being formed that I will lead, is looking at this issue, along with a number of other issues. The point being that we have to get much broader than just talking about guns and a gun issue, where camps go into their corners."

DeVos was asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (3/12) about the idea of arming teachers. Asked, "What percentage of teachers at schools would need to be armed in your mind to be effective," DeVos said, "I don't have a percentage. It should be those who are capable and qualified and only in place where it's appropriate." Asked if there would be an armed teacher in every classroom, DeVos said, "I don't think that would be appropriate. And I don't think anybody would agree that would be." DeVos added, "This is an issue that is best decided by local communities and by states. It is not going to be appropriate in every location. But it is going to be appropriate in some places, like Texas has determined and Polk County, Florida has determined."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (3/12) if the ultimate goal is to "harden the schools," DeVos said, "That's one of the opportunities we have and one of the responsibilities we have, frankly. We have many other venues in our country that are kept safe and schools have to be a part of that equation as well. And, every state and every community is going to do this slightly differently, but we are going to advance ways in which schools can be made safer for students and which works for each community and for each state." DeVos added that "there are pieces of legislation before Congress today that can take significant steps in the right direction. Background checks, the Stop Violence Act. They have broad bipartisan support. And the President wants to see Congress act now, take these steps today and then let's look at what we can do as next steps beyond that."

[The Hill](#) (3/12, Shelbourne) reports DeVos said on Today "that she does not think teachers should carry assault-style weapons as part of the Trump administration's push to harden schools." The Hill quotes DeVos saying, "I don't think assault weapons in schools, carried by any school personnel, is the appropriate thing. But again this is an issue that I think is best decided at the local level by communities and by states." [Newsweek](#) (3/12, Difazio) also covers this story.

School Safety Commission Will Weigh Repealing Obama School Discipline Rules.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Boyer) reports that "Trump's new federal commission on school safety will consider repealing an Obama administration policy that discourages expelling or suspending unruly students due to concerns that such disciplinary actions unfairly target minorities." The Obama-era directive "advised school districts that disciplinary policies could constitute 'unlawful discrimination' under federal civil rights law if they resulted in a

‘disproportionate and unjustified effect on students of a particular race.’”

[USA Today](#) (3/12, Toppo) reports the Trump Administration’s school safety plan includes “the announcement of a new Federal Commission on School Safety, led by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. It will consider, among other issues, repealing the Obama administration’s ‘Rethink School Discipline’ policies.” The announcement sparked concern among “school safety, civil rights and teachers’ advocates,” who “say protecting schools from outside gunmen is an entirely different job from the day-to-day effort to manage school discipline so it doesn’t discriminate against minority and disabled students.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/12, Subscription Publication) reports DeVos’ history of opposing federal gun control and of criticizing school discipline policies as lenient could foreshadow how she will move forward in leading the school safety panel. The Journal notes that under DeVos, ED has appeared to be moving toward reversing the Obama-era discipline policies.

In a separate article, the [Washington Times](#) (3/12, Persons) reports that DeVos said on Fox News Monday morning that the commission “will take a look at increasing the age requirement to purchase all firearms.” The Times quotes DeVos saying, “Everything is on the table, and part of the job of this commission will be to study that and see if that is advanced ultimately as a recommendation in next steps.”

Congress Proposes Contrasting School Safety Bills.

[Education Week](#) (3/12) reports that in the wake of the Parkland massacre, congressional Republicans “want to focus on school-safety initiatives, not gun control.” The House and Senate are both pushing bills called the Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act that are broadly similar, but there are “a few key areas where the bills aren’t the same.” The article contrasts the two plans.

[ABC News](#) (3/12, Phelps) reports President Trump is “set to endorse formally” the STOP School Violence Act and the “FIX NICS Bill, which calls for making improvements to the nation’s background check system.”

Students Around Country Planning Walkout Wednesday, Again On April 20.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/12) reports students across the country are expected to walk out of classes on March 14 and April 20 “in response to school shootings. The walkouts, which aim to honor the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School massacres, are stirring some controversy and confusion at a local level.” The paper relates the debate over how administrators should address “keeping students safe while not quashing their First Amendment rights.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/12, Lewis) reports on lingering controversy in Fort Bend County, Texas, where students “are still finalizing plans to honor the 17 students and teachers gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine’s Day in a way that won’t cross the line that their superintendent drew last month when he made national headlines for threatening to suspend students who walk out of class in protest of gun violence.” Local students “say they understand the firm stance — called unconstitutional by some civil rights groups — that Superintendent Curtis Rhodes took.” However, “three civil rights organizations, the Texas ACLU, Texas Civil Rights Project and Texas Appleseed, sent a letter saying his comments raised constitutional problems.” Also reporting are [WRC-TV Washington](#) (3/12), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (3/12), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/12), and [Chalkbeat](#) (3/12).

WPost Analysis Examines Armed Staff In Ohio Schools.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Heim) reports from Riverside, OH that 32 safes were installed last summer “spread out among the four elementary schools, the two middle schools, the high school and the administration building of the Mad River Local Schools district...on the outskirts of Dayton,” and on August 14, “the first day of school for the

district's 3,900 students, each safe contained the centerpiece of the district's new security plan: a semiautomatic pistol and a removable magazine loaded with bullets." The weapons, "paid for with money from the district's operating budget, are for teachers and staffers who have volunteered and trained to be part of the school's response team if a shooter enters a building." The Post adds that "in 10 states, schools allow teachers and staff members to be armed, with administrators' permission," and that "after the shooting that took 17 lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month, pressure is increasing to expand that approach."

Teachers Report Feeling "Hyper-Aware" Of Possibility Of Threats After Parkland.

[NBC News](#) (3/12) reports that Sylvania, Ohio high school teacher Dan Greenberg says "he's hyper-aware of the possibility of more school shootings" in a way that he was not before the Parkland massacre. The attack "has left an indelible uneasiness among teachers and students across the country — and a determination to bring a sense of safety back to the classroom."

Iowa District Debates Training Students To Fight Back.

The [Hechinger Report](#) (3/12) reports that administrators in Ames, Iowa have revisited how they are preparing for potential active shooter attacks, and that the debate is centered on whether to train students "to fight back" in such a scenario. The district already puts staff through ALICE Training, which "stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate." The 'C' in this acronym, for 'counter,' is controversial, because it means training people to fight back if a person with a gun enters their classroom." The article notes that ED "has supported teaching adults the fight method, but not students."

FBI: Over 100 School Threats In Louisiana Since Parkland Shootings.

The [AP](#) (3/11) reports the FBI and Louisiana state police said on Monday that in the month since the Parkland massacre, "authorities have investigated at least 106 threats of violence in or near schools in Louisiana." This report came "as the University of New Orleans was reopening its campus following the arrest of a suspect in one such threat."

Parents, Officials Express Concerns About Indiana Bullying Prevention System.

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/12) reports on "large discrepancies" in Indiana state data on school bullying which "officials and parents worried" that schools are failing to report many bullying incidents to the state as required by a five-year-old law. "Last academic year, Indiana schools reported more than 4,500 instances of bullying — a number parents say barely scratches the surface, and officials acknowledge is likely inaccurate."

Family Of Alabama School Shooting Victim Calls For Reform.

The [AP](#) (3/11, Moench) reports that Shenise Abercrombie, the aunt of Courtlin Arrington, who was "killed by a fellow student at an Alabama high school last week is calling for school safety reform and action against gun violence. ... Abercrombie said her family wants to work with the city to make Birmingham schools safer. She suggested more security officers and increased searches at school entrances."

SPECIAL NEEDS

NJ Senate President Proposes Funding For Special-Education Programs.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/12) reports that New Jersey state Senate President Stephen Sweeney (D-Gloucester) is seeking "to

devote the bulk of a proposed education funding increase next year to special education.” The article notes that under Sweeney’s plan, state funds going towards special-education costs would be “paid for by a corporate-tax” increase. However, it’s unclear if Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) will endorse the plan. John Donahue, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, said, “I have been asked, if the state could provide school districts with additional support, where would you put it? My answer is special education.” He added, “Every district has this problem.” He noted that districts typically spend around 22% of their budget on special education, an increase from around 13% for the 2006-2007 school year.

MONDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [DeVos To Chair School Safety Panel As Trump Releases School Safety Plan.](#)
- [DeVos Makes Case For School Choice.](#)
- [Oklahoma Braces For Possible State-Wide Teacher Walkout.](#)
- [WPost A1: DC School Scandals Show Focus On Data Sidelined Education.](#)
- [Alaska Elementary School Experiments With “Screen-Free” Week.](#)

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From: "SP&M Weekly Update" <SchoolPlanning&Mgmt@1105direct.com>
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[Chiefs for Change Announces Its Third Cohort of Future Chiefs](#)

In the News

[When Chicago Cut Down on Suspensions, Students Saw Test Scores and Attendance Rise](#)

Matt Barnum – Chalkbeat – March 13, 2018

Chicago – As school districts across the country have cut back on suspensions, critics claimed that the changes have led to chaos in the classroom. But there's been remarkably little hard evidence either for or against that view. That's why a new study of Chicago Public Schools is so significant.

[A Custodian Takes Advantage of National School Walkout and Steals \\$180 From](#)

Students' Book Bags

Mercedes Leguizamon and Tine Burnside – CNN – March 16, 2018

Columbia, S.C. – While students in a South Carolina school participated in the National School Walkout this week, a custodian helped herself to their cash, police said. The incident occurred at Richland Northeast High School on Wednesday.

Construction Project News

Moore County Prepares for New School Construction

The "Area I Elementary School" was announced and enjoyed a groundbreaking ceremony recently in Moore County, N.C. The new school, slated to open around August of 2019 will provide much needed space for the growing district.

[» Read More](#)

Wedgeworth K-8 Mandarin Immersion School Project Underway

Hacienda La Puente USD has awarded PBK Architects the new Wedgeworth K-8 Mandarin Immersion School project. Hacienda La Puente USD is one of the largest suburban school districts in California, encompassing more than 19,000 students. The District's leadership anticipates that Wedgeworth will stand as a marquee school for the community.

[» Read More](#)

Also of Interest

Weathering the Storm

John Rome, Jr.

In the world of school facility management, it's not a question of if a disaster will affect your system, it's a question of when... and how often. The most effective school facility managers are able to recognize potential threats and put plans in place to prevent/mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from these unfortunate events.

E-rate Delays and Denials 'Unjust,' According to EducationSuperHighway

By Dian Schaffhauser

It appears that some schools are caught in an E-rate funding slowdown so worrisome, EducationSuperHighway was compelled to create a dedicated website to track the scale of the problem. "Delays and Denials" provides what the non-profit calls a status report on the number of days school districts are now waiting "to discover the fate of their fiber projects" and the likelihood that their applications will be denied.

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March 16, 2018

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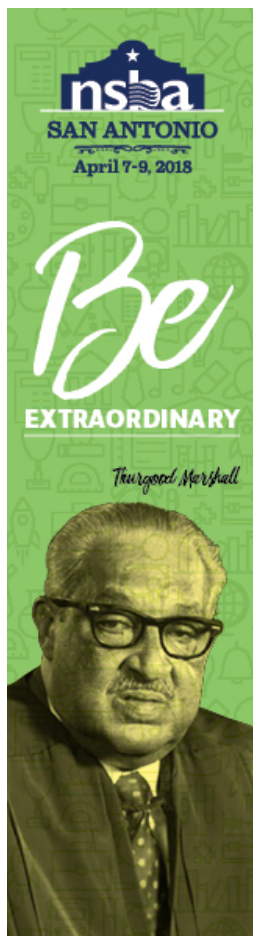
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Video Footage Shows Officer Standing Outside Parkland School.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/15, Berman) says new video footage of the Parkland, Florida high school shooting released Thursday by the Broward County Sheriff's Office showed officer Scot Peterson "standing outside a school building while the massacre unfolded inside." Peterson, whose "behavior during and after" the shooting was criticized by Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel after Peterson failed to rush into the building to confront the gunman, "has defended his response to the shooting by arguing that he believed the gunfire was coming from outside, rather than inside, a school building." The [New York Times](#) (3/15, Mazzei, Subscription Publication) provides similar coverage.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/15, story 4, 2:10, Holt) said that Peterson "is seen running, getting into a golf cart." The report showed a student saying, "That was his job to go into the building when there is a shooting. That's what angered me, that he wasn't there doing his job." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/15, story 6, 0:30, Muir) said the video showed Peterson "outside the school for 27 minutes as 17 people were being shot and killed."

Parkland Shooter Investigation Offers Opportunity To Explore Question Of "Why." In a 2,200-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (3/15, Wan, Berman) says the fact that the suspected shooter in the Parkland, Florida school shooting remains alive presents "an unusual opportunity" for investigators to answer the question that "nags at survivors and families": Why? The article provides background on the investigation into the 2012 shootings in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, and cites the views of others who have probed the motivations behind perpetrators of mass shootings.



POLITICS & POLICY

Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, Other Districts Express Interest In ESSA Funding Pilot.

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports, "Indianapolis, Puerto Rico, and three other school districts have applied to join the Every Student Succeeds Act's weighted student-funding pilot" in which "districts can combine federal, state, and local dollars into a single funding stream tied to individual students." Students with special needs "would carry with them more money than other students." The program is intended to provide "equitable funding for all student groups," but "the Trump administration is particularly excited about the pilot because it could in theory help school districts develop public school choice programs."

School Choice Plays Role At Texas Polls.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (3/15, Subscription Publication) reports the debate over school choice "played

out at polls across the state this month and will continue in runoff contests on May 22.” The piece reports that public school teachers opposed to school choice and backers of the policy “ended the March 2 Texas House primaries in a draw. Both sides are now focused on at least five GOP runoffs for Texas House seats in districts from San Antonio to North Texas.”

TEACHING & LEARNING

Survey: Helping Children With Homework Does Little To Boost Test Scores.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/15) reports that according to a “recent global survey” conducted by the London-based Varkey Foundation, students “whose parents help a lot with their homework may not perform any better on standardized tests than those who do it all by themselves.” The survey “found one-quarter of parents worldwide spend seven or more hours a week helping their children with homework.” The article breaks down some of the data by country, and reports that “analysts rarely found a correlation between increased parental involvement and better test scores, which raises a question: Should parents be helping with homework at all, and if so, what is the optimal amount of involvement?”

Missouri Robotics Team Advances To World Championship.

The [Benton County \(MO\) Enterprise](#) (3/15) says a Missouri 4-H Robotics team called the “Synthesizers” placed second in the qualification rounds at the Inaugural FIRST Heartland Regional Robotics Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. The team also “received an award for being the highest seeded rookie at the event,” and will advance to the World Championships in Houston in April.

Female African-American Astronaut Launches Initiative To Encourage Agricultural Science.

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/15, Pittman) says Dr. Mae Jemison, “the first African-American woman in space,” is collaborating with National 4-H Council CEO Jennifer Sirangelo on an initiative “to encourage kids of all ages and backgrounds to pursue agricultural science.” Jemison said that she and Sirangelo have “set out to change” the idea that agricultural science “can sound intimidating.”

Denver Teachers’ Strike Becomes Less Imminent.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/15, Asmar) reports that “the prospect of a strike” by Denver’s teachers’ union “is less imminent” than before, even though the union and Denver school district “failed to reach a deal on an overhaul of the district’s pay-for-performance system.” This is partly because district officials “agreed to the union’s request to extend the current pay-for-performance agreement” until January 2019, “making teacher pay raises more likely.” Chalkbeat adds that nonetheless, “the union did not take the threat of a strike completely off the table.”

Arizona Teachers’ Movement Protests Low Pay, Teacher Shortage.

[USA Today](#) (3/15, Castle) reports that “thousands of Arizona teachers and education advocates” participated last week in a movement called #RedForEd, “wearing red to protest the low pay they say has contributed to a shortage of qualified teachers in the state.” The article says the movement came “in response to West Virginia teachers striking for higher pay,” and provides data on how Arizona teacher salaries compare to other states.

OPERATIONS

New York City Audit Finds Educators Allowed Homeless Students To Miss School.

[Chalkbeat](#) (3/15, Zimmerman) says a “scathing audit” issued Thursday by New York Comptroller Scott Stringer found “education officials have allowed many of New York City’s homeless students to miss large swaths of school without required intervention from city personnel.” The article names two other “key findings” from the audit: that “in 92 percent of the cases examined, the education department had not reached out after a student living in a shelter failed to show up for school,” and that the “staffers who oversee students in shelters have average caseloads of nearly 300 students.”

Maryland Senate Considers Bills On School Construction.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (3/15, Baker) says the Maryland Senate budgeting committee considered this week two proposals meant to “streamline the process for school construction.” One of the bills was heard Tuesday in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; the other is “set to be heard Thursday.”

Fariña Says She “Loved” Her Job.

[Education Week](#) (3/15, Superville) reports that outgoing New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña told the paper: “Everyone thought I was crazy when I un-retired to take this job... . The reality is that I have loved it, and I have loved it because I know that I have made a difference in the lives of children in this city.” Fariña also said in the interview, “This is the best job I’ve ever had,” and she “discussed ways that districts can improve English-learner education.”

Maryland District Bans Confederate Flag, Swastika.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that the Carroll County, Maryland Board of Education “has implemented a policy banning the Confederate battle flag and swastikas from all schools and school-sponsored events” after having “reviewed the policy on displaying symbols of ‘hatred and intolerance’ Wednesday, and it went into effect Thursday.”

After Ousting Superintendent, Flint Board Names Former Emergency Manager.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (3/14) reports the school board in Flint, Michigan has named Gregory Weatherspoon, the “former emergency manager for Highland Park and Muskegon Heights schools,” as the interim superintendent for Flint Community Schools. The move came the day after the board placed Superintendent Bilal Tawwab on administrative leave. The [AP](#) (3/15) also covers this story.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Southeast Asian Refugee Group Opposes Connecticut Student Data Bill.

[NBC News](#) (3/16, Fuchs) reports on its website about opposition from the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), an organization founded “to aid refugees from southeast Asia,” to Connecticut’s SB 359, which “calls for prohibiting the disaggregation of data unless required by federal law or done across the entire student population.” SEARAC Executive Director Quyen Dinh said in a written testimony, “Collecting data by ethnicity allows our students to be seen at the K-12 level so that interventions by policy makers and educators can be tailored to stop these inequities from growing.” The article provides further background on the proposed bill.

Baltimore Officials To Vote On Technology Contract.

[WBAL-TV](#) Baltimore (3/15) says Baltimore County school officials will vote Tuesday night “for a second time” on a \$140 million contract “designed to keep technology in the classroom.” The vote was originally scheduled a few weeks ago, but was “put on hold.” The article provides differing viewpoints on the contract.

Startup Raises Venture Capital To Create Own Operating System.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/15, Davis, Subscription Publication) reports on the startup Kiddom Inc., whose founder, Ahsan Rizvi, was formerly with the US Overseas Private Investment Corp (OPIC) and is currently seeking to solicit teacher buy-in for his program, along with the venture capital he has already raised. The school is also trying to respond to the call by some investors for public school districts to have their own operating system by gathering and analyzing its own data measuring student progress.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Attorney: Philadelphia Citizens Must Fight For Adequate Education Funding.

Public Interest Law Center attorney Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg argues in a [Philly \(PA\)](#) (3/15) op-ed that “in education, money matters.” Urevick-Ackelsberg cites examples of the “devastation” brought to Philadelphia as a result of underfunding for education, and asserts that “only Philadelphians can save Philadelphia” from state lawmakers who argue in favor of efficiencies and state responsibilities. Philadelphians should “hold on to the recent gains” they have acquired in tax increases, which the author says “will not provide the growth that Philadelphia students deserve,” but “will at least ensure that the recent gains we have made are preserved.”

Oklahoma Rep. Says Land Officer Revenue Can Be Used To Fund Teacher Bonuses.

The [Enid \(OK\) News & Eagle](#) (3/15, Stecklein) reports that Oklahoma Rep. Tom Gann is arguing that “it would be possible to give teachers annual bonuses using interest generated by a multibillion-dollar trust that’s managed by the state’s Commissioners of the Land Office.” The article provides further detail on Gann’s position.

Maryland Senate Passes Budget With \$200 Million Education Boost.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/15, Chason, Wiggins) reports a \$44.5 billion budget bill cleared the Maryland Senate on Thursday with a provision “that allocates \$200 million in new education funding, using additional tax revenue that state residents are expected to pay as a result of changes in the federal tax code.” The bill “restored more than \$110 million that was cut by Hogan, including \$10 million for school safety grants, \$5 million for violence-prevention initiatives and more than \$20 million for providers serving the elderly and children in foster care.”

SAFETY & SECURITY

Wisconsin Governor Proposes \$100 Million School-Safety Plan.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/15, Marley) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker “issued a \$100 million plan Thursday to improve school safety,” one “day after high school students around the nation skipped class to demand gun restrictions.” Walker, up for reelection this fall, “said his proposal – to be taken up in special session – has the backing of his fellow Republicans who control the Legislature.” In a statement, Walker said, “No child, parent, or teacher should ever have to feel unsafe in school. This package of bills focuses on ways we can help schools be safe, just like we did at the federal level ensuring that every airport and airplane were safe after 9/11.”

[The Hill](#) (3/15, Anapol) reported that Walker's "proposal would create a state school safety office to help schools and law enforcement develop school safety plans and would provide \$100 million in taxpayer grants to improve building security, training and school resource officers in schools." The Republican "is also proposing that teachers and school officials be required under law to report threats of school violence, in keeping with guidelines for reporting suspected child abuse, and to report bullying incidents to parents within 48 hours." The [AP](#) (3/15) also covers this story.

Student Walkouts Spark Little Reaction From Trump, Other Conservatives.

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports that on the day of the nationwide student walkouts inspired by the Parkland massacre, President Trump, "known for sharing his thoughts on a wide range of subjects on social media, never acknowledged the walkouts." The walkouts "were noted by many celebrities and Democrats...but they went largely unacknowledged by conservative leaders." An ED spokesperson is quoted saying Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "gives a lot of credit to the students who are raising their voices and demanding change. She hears them, and their input will be valuable as she convenes the Federal Commission on School Safety and works to find solutions to keeping all students safe at school."

New York Governor To Schools Chief: Don't Punish Students For Walkouts. [The Hill](#) (3/15, Manchester) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Thursday that students should not be disciplined for taking part in the walkouts. The Hill quotes Cuomo saying, in a letter to state Commissioner Maryellen Elia, "In the last 24 hours, there have been several reports of New York State schools disciplining students and faculty for participating in yesterday's historic events to stop gun violence. In at least one disturbing incident, it was reported that the school physically blocked the exits to prevent students from demonstrating."

Nickelodeon Shows Parkland Students Sign Of Support During PAW Patrol Airing.

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Roark) reported, "From 10 a.m. until 10:17 a.m. Nickelodeon" broadcast the text, "In support of kids leading the way today, Nickelodeon will be off the air until 17 minutes past the hour." The station paused its programming in recognition of a nationwide student walkout aimed at promoting gun reform in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. USA Today highlighted how Tennessee mother Kelly Bradshaw Ballard posted to Facebook, "Way to go, Nickelodeon!!" after seeing the message while "watching Paw Patrol with her son."

AP: Push For Tighter Gun Laws Faces Uphill Battle In States.

The [AP](#) (3/15, Foley) reports that the push for tighter gun laws "faces an uphill climb in a majority of states, an Associated Press review of gun legislation found." The AP "survey of bill activity in state legislatures before and after" the Florida school shooting "suggests that votes like the one in Florida, where Republican lawmakers defied the National Rifle Association to pass new gun regulations, are unlikely to be repeated in many other states, at least not this year."

Over 100 Maryland, DC Schools Call On Congress To Support Gun Reform Measures, Reject Arming Teachers.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that over 100 "schools in Maryland and the Washington Area," including St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, which is attended by President Trump's son Barron, "on Wednesday signed an open letter calling on [Trump] and Congress to support gun control measures and to reject arming teachers."

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports that St. Andrew's and "dozens of other Maryland private schools" called on "the president, Congress, and state policymakers to improve background checks, especially for automatic weapons

and strengthen mental health measures. And they don't want to see the schools arm teachers with guns. The heads of school called that move—which has been embraced by Trump and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos—'antithetical to our profession as educators,' wrote St. Andrew's head, Robert Kosasky and more than 100 other heads of school in an open letter."

Pennsylvania Governor Launches School Safety Task Force.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's administration "is asking for public input to help a new task force that the governor and auditor general are heading up to explore ways to make Pennsylvania schools safer and more secure." Wolf "on Thursday announced he and Democratic Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will co-chair the School Safety Task Force" which will "collect concerns about safety and ideas about policy changes; see if additional funding will help; and measure the effectiveness of student support, physical and mental health programs and information sharing." [WHYY-TV](#) Philadelphia (3/15) also covers this story.

Alabama House Committee Advances Bill Allowing Teachers To Carry Guns.

[The Hill](#) (3/15, Savransky) reports that the Alabama House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee has passed a bill "that would let certain teachers carry or have access to guns at school." Under the bill, which now advances to the full house, "parents and members of the public would not be aware of which teachers were allowed to carry firearms."

Congress Demands Investigation Of DoDEA Child Sex Assault.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that in the wake of an ED article about "sexual assault among children on US military bases," members of Congress "[demanded] the Defense and Justice departments explain how they will solve the problem." Meanwhile, members of the House Armed Services Committee "said it had begun its own examination of the issue. And a top Democrat on the committee said she would call a hearing within six months." The AP reports that its investigation "revealed that reports of sexual violence among kids on U.S. military bases at home and abroad often die on the desks of prosecutors, even when an attacker confesses."

Federal Data Point To Significant Decline In Student Bullying.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (3/15) reports that according to new federal data, "the percentage of students reporting that they've been bullied has dropped by more than a third since 2007. ... The new figures say that 20.8 percent of students reported being bullied in 2015, continuing a downward trend that dates back to 2007, when 31.7 percent of students reported being bullied."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Parents Of Students From Portland Disabilities School Seek Voice With Lawmakers.

The [Oregonian](#) (3/15, Barnes) reports on a school "for students with significant disabilities" which the Portland school district "decided to oust" in November "from its building so that a larger program for gifted students can have the space." The article describes the efforts by distraught parents from the school to have a say in the decision.

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [High School Students Across Nation Demonstrate In Support Of Gun Control.](#)

- [Senate Committee Approves New Institute Of Education Services Director.](#)
- [Indiana Senate Passes “Watered Down” Measure On Teacher Licensing Laws.](#)
- [West Virginia Governor Names Interim Secretary For Department Of Education And Arts.](#)
- [Louisiana Seeks To Help Teachers Access “Essential” OERs.](#)

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March 16, 2018

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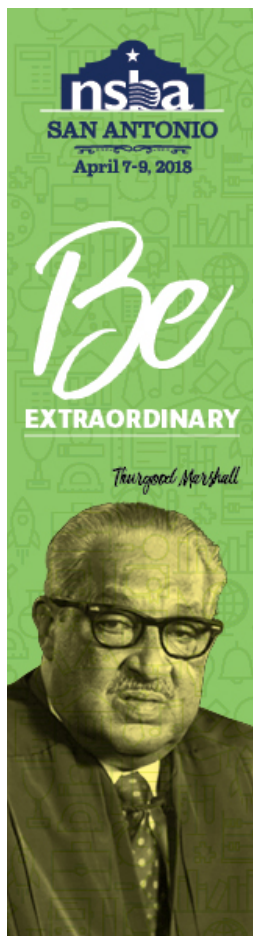
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Video Footage Shows Officer Standing Outside Parkland School.

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New York Governor To Schools Chief: Don't Punish Students For Walkouts. [The Hill](#) (3/15, Manchester) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Thursday that students should not be disciplined for taking part in the walkouts. The Hill quotes Cuomo saying, in a letter to state Commissioner Maryellen Elia, "In the last 24 hours, there have been several reports of New York State schools disciplining students and faculty for participating in yesterday's historic events to stop gun violence. In at least one disturbing incident, it was reported that the school physically blocked the exits to prevent students from demonstrating."

Nickelodeon Shows Parkland Students Sign Of Support During PAW Patrol Airing.

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Roark) reported, "From 10 a.m. until 10:17 a.m. Nickelodeon" broadcast the text, "In support of kids leading the way today, Nickelodeon will be off the air until 17 minutes past the hour." The station paused its programming in recognition of a nationwide student walkout aimed at promoting gun reform in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. USA Today highlighted how Tennessee mother Kelly Bradshaw Ballard posted to Facebook, "Way to go, Nickelodeon!!" after seeing the message while "watching Paw Patrol with her son."

AP: Push For Tighter Gun Laws Faces Uphill Battle In States.

The [AP](#) (3/15, Foley) reports that the push for tighter gun laws "faces an uphill climb in a majority of states, an Associated Press review of gun legislation found." The AP "survey of bill activity in state legislatures before and after" the Florida school shooting "suggests that votes like the one in Florida, where Republican lawmakers defied the National Rifle Association to pass new gun regulations, are unlikely to be repeated in many other states, at least not this year."

Over 100 Maryland, DC Schools Call On Congress To Support Gun Reform Measures, Reject Arming Teachers.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that over 100 "schools in Maryland and the Washington Area," including St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, which is attended by President Trump's son Barron, "on Wednesday signed an open letter calling on [Trump] and Congress to support gun control measures and to reject arming teachers."

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports that St. Andrew's and "dozens of other Maryland private schools" called on "the president, Congress, and state policymakers to improve background checks, especially for automatic weapons

and strengthen mental health measures. And they don't want to see the schools arm teachers with guns. The heads of school called that move—which has been embraced by Trump and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos—'antithetical to our profession as educators,' wrote St. Andrew's head, Robert Kosasky and more than 100 other heads of school in an open letter."

Pennsylvania Governor Launches School Safety Task Force.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's administration "is asking for public input to help a new task force that the governor and auditor general are heading up to explore ways to make Pennsylvania schools safer and more secure." Wolf "on Thursday announced he and Democratic Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will co-chair the School Safety Task Force" which will "collect concerns about safety and ideas about policy changes; see if additional funding will help; and measure the effectiveness of student support, physical and mental health programs and information sharing." [WHYY-TV](#) Philadelphia (3/15) also covers this story.

Alabama House Committee Advances Bill Allowing Teachers To Carry Guns.

[The Hill](#) (3/15, Savransky) reports that the Alabama House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee has passed a bill "that would let certain teachers carry or have access to guns at school." Under the bill, which now advances to the full house, "parents and members of the public would not be aware of which teachers were allowed to carry firearms."

Congress Demands Investigation Of DoDEA Child Sex Assault.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that in the wake of an ED article about "sexual assault among children on US military bases," members of Congress "[demanded] the Defense and Justice departments explain how they will solve the problem." Meanwhile, members of the House Armed Services Committee "said it had begun its own examination of the issue. And a top Democrat on the committee said she would call a hearing within six months." The AP reports that its investigation "revealed that reports of sexual violence among kids on U.S. military bases at home and abroad often die on the desks of prosecutors, even when an attacker confesses."

Federal Data Point To Significant Decline In Student Bullying.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (3/15) reports that according to new federal data, "the percentage of students reporting that they've been bullied has dropped by more than a third since 2007. ... The new figures say that 20.8 percent of students reported being bullied in 2015, continuing a downward trend that dates back to 2007, when 31.7 percent of students reported being bullied."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Parents Of Students From Portland Disabilities School Seek Voice With Lawmakers.

The [Oregonian](#) (3/15, Barnes) reports on a school "for students with significant disabilities" which the Portland school district "decided to oust" in November "from its building so that a larger program for gifted students can have the space." The article describes the efforts by distraught parents from the school to have a say in the decision.

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [High School Students Across Nation Demonstrate In Support Of Gun Control.](#)

- [Senate Committee Approves New Institute Of Education Services Director.](#)
- [Indiana Senate Passes “Watered Down” Measure On Teacher Licensing Laws.](#)
- [West Virginia Governor Names Interim Secretary For Department Of Education And Arts.](#)
- [Louisiana Seeks To Help Teachers Access “Essential” OERs.](#)

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From: "National Connection Daily" <NationalConnectionDaily@nsba.bulletinmedia.com>
Sent Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2018 05:35:27 -0600 (MDT)
Subject: Wisconsin Governor Proposes \$100 Million School-Safety Plan
To: <ron.singleton@carlsbad.k12.nm.us>

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)



Good morning Ron Singleton

March 16, 2018

LEADING THE NEWS

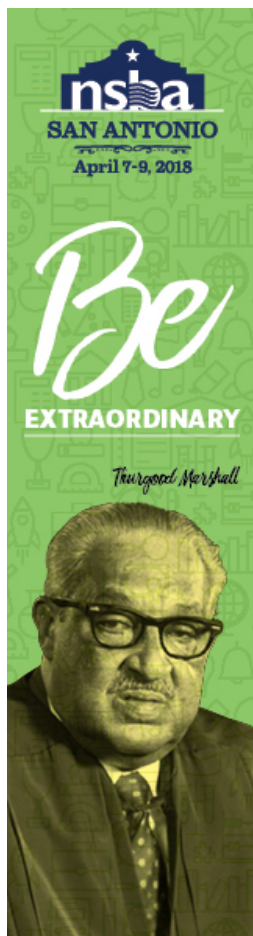
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Student Walkouts Spark Little Reaction From Trump, Other Conservatives.

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports that on the day of the nationwide student walkouts inspired by the Parkland massacre, President Trump, "known for sharing his thoughts on a wide range of subjects on social media, never acknowledged the walkouts." The walkouts "were noted by many celebrities and Democrats...but they went largely unacknowledged by conservative leaders." An ED spokesperson is quoted saying Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "gives a lot of credit to the students who are raising their voices and demanding change. She hears them, and their input will be valuable as she convenes the Federal Commission on School Safety and works to find solutions to keeping all students safe at school."

New York Governor To Schools Chief: Don't Punish Students For Walkouts. [The Hill](#) (3/15, Manchester) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Thursday that students should not be disciplined for taking part in the walkouts. The Hill quotes Cuomo saying, in a letter to state Commissioner Maryellen Elia, "In the last 24 hours, there have been several reports of New York State schools disciplining students and faculty for participating in yesterday's historic events to stop gun violence. In at least one disturbing incident, it was reported that the school physically blocked the exits to prevent students from demonstrating."

Nickelodeon Shows Parkland Students Sign Of Support During PAW Patrol Airing.

[USA Today](#) (3/14, Roark) reported, "From 10 a.m. until 10:17 a.m. Nickelodeon" broadcast the text, "In support of kids leading the way today, Nickelodeon will be off the air until 17 minutes past the hour." The station paused its programming in recognition of a nationwide student walkout aimed at promoting gun reform in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. USA Today highlighted how Tennessee mother Kelly Bradshaw Ballard posted to Facebook, "Way to go, Nickelodeon!!" after seeing the message while "watching Paw Patrol with her son."

AP: Push For Tighter Gun Laws Faces Uphill Battle In States.

The [AP](#) (3/15, Foley) reports that the push for tighter gun laws "faces an uphill climb in a majority of states, an Associated Press review of gun legislation found." The AP "survey of bill activity in state legislatures before and after" the Florida school shooting "suggests that votes like the one in Florida, where Republican lawmakers defied the National Rifle Association to pass new gun regulations, are unlikely to be repeated in many other states, at least not this year."

Over 100 Maryland, DC Schools Call On Congress To Support Gun Reform Measures, Reject Arming Teachers.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that over 100 "schools in Maryland and the Washington Area," including St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, which is attended by President Trump's son Barron, "on Wednesday signed an open letter calling on [Trump] and Congress to support gun control measures and to reject arming teachers."

[Education Week](#) (3/15) reports that St. Andrew's and "dozens of other Maryland private schools" called on "the president, Congress, and state policymakers to improve background checks, especially for automatic weapons

and strengthen mental health measures. And they don't want to see the schools arm teachers with guns. The heads of school called that move—which has been embraced by Trump and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos—'antithetical to our profession as educators,' wrote St. Andrew's head, Robert Kosasky and more than 100 other heads of school in an open letter."

Pennsylvania Governor Launches School Safety Task Force.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's administration "is asking for public input to help a new task force that the governor and auditor general are heading up to explore ways to make Pennsylvania schools safer and more secure." Wolf "on Thursday announced he and Democratic Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will co-chair the School Safety Task Force" which will "collect concerns about safety and ideas about policy changes; see if additional funding will help; and measure the effectiveness of student support, physical and mental health programs and information sharing." [WHYY-TV](#) Philadelphia (3/15) also covers this story.

Alabama House Committee Advances Bill Allowing Teachers To Carry Guns.

[The Hill](#) (3/15, Savransky) reports that the Alabama House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee has passed a bill "that would let certain teachers carry or have access to guns at school." Under the bill, which now advances to the full house, "parents and members of the public would not be aware of which teachers were allowed to carry firearms."

Congress Demands Investigation Of DoDEA Child Sex Assault.

The [AP](#) (3/15) reports that in the wake of an ED article about "sexual assault among children on US military bases," members of Congress "[demanded] the Defense and Justice departments explain how they will solve the problem." Meanwhile, members of the House Armed Services Committee "said it had begun its own examination of the issue. And a top Democrat on the committee said she would call a hearing within six months." The AP reports that its investigation "revealed that reports of sexual violence among kids on U.S. military bases at home and abroad often die on the desks of prosecutors, even when an attacker confesses."

Federal Data Point To Significant Decline In Student Bullying.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (3/15) reports that according to new federal data, "the percentage of students reporting that they've been bullied has dropped by more than a third since 2007. ... The new figures say that 20.8 percent of students reported being bullied in 2015, continuing a downward trend that dates back to 2007, when 31.7 percent of students reported being bullied."

SPECIAL NEEDS

Parents Of Students From Portland Disabilities School Seek Voice With Lawmakers.

The [Oregonian](#) (3/15, Barnes) reports on a school "for students with significant disabilities" which the Portland school district "decided to oust" in November "from its building so that a larger program for gifted students can have the space." The article describes the efforts by distraught parents from the school to have a say in the decision.

THURSDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- [High School Students Across Nation Demonstrate In Support Of Gun Control.](#)

- [Senate Committee Approves New Institute Of Education Services Director.](#)
- [Indiana Senate Passes “Watered Down” Measure On Teacher Licensing Laws.](#)
- [West Virginia Governor Names Interim Secretary For Department Of Education And Arts.](#)
- [Louisiana Seeks To Help Teachers Access “Essential” OERs.](#)

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The New York Times

Morning Briefing

Thursday, March 15, 2018

[NYTimes.com](#) »

Your Thursday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD



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.

- **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

page 3 of 8

- **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](#).

- **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**

“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.

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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Tuesday, April 3, 2018

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Your Tuesday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD



Villanova romped to its second N.C.A.A. men's basketball championship in three seasons, beating Michigan, 79-62, on Monday. The Wildcats won each of their games in the tournament by double digits. Bob Donnan/USA Today Sports, via Reuters

Good morning.

Here's what you need to know:

Casualties of a growing trade war

- Some of the biggest companies in the U.S., including General Electric and Goldman Sachs, are warning the White House [about the negative effects of punitive measures against China](#). They're worried they'll be cut off from the world's most lucrative and fastest-growing market.

China has long been accused of unfair economic practices, and the Trump administration has promised to crack down on such behavior. Now China is retaliating.

- **That's unnerved the markets** . [Steep declines on Monday](#) left stocks down more than 4 percent this year, and shares had their first quarterly decline since 2015. Here's a snapshot of [global markets](#) today.

Immigration, and an invitation

- President Trump is making a new push [to crack down on those who enter the U.S. illegally](#), and to make it more difficult to get refuge in the country.

For two days, the president has warned that “caravans” of immigrants are heading toward the U.S. from Central America. [We explain what those are.](#)

- **Separately on Monday**, Russia pressed Mr. Trump [to meet with President Vladimir Putin at the White House](#), a visit that the Kremlin said Mr. Trump proposed last month.

A lobbyist, a condo deal, a green light

- Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency approved a Canadian energy company’s pipeline-expansion plan. At the same time, the agency’s chief, Scott Pruitt, [was renting a condominium linked to the company’s lobbying firm](#).

Mr. Pruitt was paying \$50 a night for the condo on Capitol Hill, where rates are typically considerably higher. Both the E.P.A. and the lobbying firm deny that there was a connection between the rental and the deal’s approval.

- **Separately, Mr. Pruitt** said on Monday that [Obama-era car pollution standards were “too high,”](#) setting up a fight with California, which has the authority to set its own emissions rules and wants to stick with tougher regulations. We looked at how U.S. fuel economy standards [compare with those of other countries](#).

“No funding, no future”

- [Thousands of teachers in Oklahoma and Kentucky walked off the job](#) on Monday, shutting down schools as they protested cuts in pay, benefits and school funding.

The walkouts and rallies, which followed a similar movement in West Virginia last month, have caught lawmakers and sometimes the teachers’ labor unions flat-footed.

- **In Kentucky**, “What I’m seeing in Louisville is teachers are a lot more politically engaged than they were in 2015 or 2016,” a math teacher said. “It really is a wildfire.”

Inside the rule books for cheerleaders

- After a cheerleader for the New Orleans Saints was fired for posting a picture that the team deemed inappropriate to her private Instagram account, a Times reporter reviewed seven of the N.F.L.’s cheerleader handbooks.

[He found stringent rules](#) governing personal hygiene, like shaving techniques and the proper use of tampons, as well as attire outside the workplace. In some cases, wearing sweatpants in public is forbidden.

- **The N.F.L.** declined to comment.

“The Daily”: The right to bear arms

- The Second Amendment is just 27 words, but it’s at the heart of contentious debates on gun control. Why is the Supreme Court reluctant to clarify it?

Listen on [a computer](#), an [iOS device](#) or an [Android device](#).

Business

- **In his first report to Congress** as the acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Mick Mulvaney asked lawmakers [to severely curb his agency’s power and independence](#).
- **Facebook** should consider adding a “Why me?” button next to all pushed content, [our business columnist writes](#).
- **Nirav Modi has been a jeweler to the stars**. He’s now on the run, accused of bank fraud. The chase [has both enraged and captivated his homeland, India](#).

Smarter Living

Tips, both new and old, for a more fulfilling life.

- **Exercising** while young might [create more heart-muscle cells](#).
- **Those two-minute walk breaks?** [They add up](#).
- **Recipe of the day:** Don’t stress over dinner. Just make [fettuccine with asparagus](#).

What We’re Reading

Our journalists recommend these great pieces:

- **“I wrote** [a story about dulse](#) a while ago. This led to a lot of people asking me what it is, and where it comes from.

The short answer is that it’s seaweed, and a lot of it comes from Grand Manan, in New Brunswick.

Check out this beautiful short film by Tory Lovekin, ‘Dark Harbour Dollar: Dulse,’ for more.” [[Vimeo](#)]

— [Sam Sifton](#), *food editor*

Noteworthy

- **In memoriam**

[Winnie Madikizela-Mandela](#) was a leader in South Africa’s fight against apartheid, but her legacy was tarnished by scandals involving corruption, kidnapping, murder and the implosion of her marriage to Nelson Mandela. She was 81.

- **130 miles, 26 checkpoints**

Few American reporters have spent more time reporting from Iraq in the last 15 years than Alissa J. Rubin, who was Baghdad bureau chief for The Times at the height of the conflict.

She returned to the region in January and, in a drive to the Iraq-Syria border, found that competing military and militia groups had set up checkpoints everywhere. [Here's her account of the journey.](#)

- **The mummy and the F.B.I.**

A museum wasn't sure whose head it had put on display. So F.B.I. forensic scientists were called in [to crack the coldest of cases.](#)

- **Villanova makes it look easy**

The Wildcats completed a dominant run through the N.C.A.A. men's basketball tournament, [crushing Michigan, 79-62.](#)

It's the second title in three years for Villanova, whose star on Monday was [Donte DiVincenzo and his 31 points.](#)

- **Best of late-night TV**

[The comedy hosts were puzzled](#) after President Trump declared April to be National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. "April is also National Presidential Unawareness Month," Jimmy Fallon said.

- **Quotation of the day**

"We're going to have a lot of teachers at the ballot box who I don't think would normally go in a midterm year. If I were a legislator right now, I'd be honestly sweating bullets."

— [Noah Karvelis](#), *an elementary school music teacher in Arizona fighting for better pay.*

- **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

Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China, has a vibrant mix of people, languages and cultures. Its flag takes a similar hybrid approach.

The flag was approved by the Chinese national legislature 28 years ago this week. It was first raised on July 1, 1997, the day Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule after more than 150 years as a British colony and territory.



Hong Kong's flag first flew over the territory after it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Vincent Yu/Associated Press

The [flag was designed](#) to reflect Hong Kong's new relationship with the People's Republic of China. It is the same shade of red as the Chinese national flag.

In the center is a white flower from the *Bauhinia blakeana*, or Hong Kong orchid tree. (The real flower is a purplish pink and is not actually an orchid.) Stars on each of the five petals echo the five stars on the Chinese flag.

The flag's two colors are said to represent the "one country, two systems" principle under which China agreed to rule Hong Kong for the first 50 years.

In recent years, Hong Kong protesters have [waved the British colonial flag](#) to express their displeasure with the way Beijing governs. Since the handover in 1997, lawmakers and activists in Hong Kong have also been [prosecuted for desecrating](#) the Chinese and Hong Kong flags.

Jennifer Jett contributed reporting.

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Your Wednesday Briefing

By CHRIS STANFORD



“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

- 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.”

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](#).

- **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**

“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.”)

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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The New York Times

Morning Briefing

Sunday, April 22, 2018

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Your Weekend Briefing

By KAREN ZRAICK AND LANCE BOOTH

Here are the week's top stories, and a look ahead.

Tom Brenner/The New York Times



1. On April 22, 1970, millions of people throughout the country demonstrated on the inaugural Earth Day, calling for clean air, water and land. They were spurred by severe [pollution and environmental disasters](#). And that year, in a bipartisan effort, the Environmental Protection Agency was created.

But now environmental rules are under threat as the Trump administration looks to roll back federal regulations. And the [head of the E.P.A., Scott Pruitt, above, is under scrutiny for allegations](#) of unchecked spending and ethics lapses, including his interactions with lobbyists.

Our investigative reporters found that many of the pitfalls he has encountered in Washington have echoes in his past.

Did you keep up with the headlines this week? Test your knowledge with [our news quiz](#). Here's the [front page of our Sunday paper](#), and our [crossword puzzles](#).

Tara Todras-Whitehill for The New York Times



2. **We visited** the newest front line in America's global shadow war: a [half-finished drone base in a barren stretch of Niger](#).

When it's completed in the coming months, it will be used to monitor or strike extremists in West and North Africa, regions where most Americans have no idea the country is fighting.

The mission in Niger is expected to come under scrutiny in a long-awaited Defense Department investigation into the deadly Oct. 4 ambush that killed four American soldiers.

Jeon Heon-Kyun/EPA, via Shutterstock



3. As **Kim Jong-un**, the leader of North Korea, above right, prepares for a landmark meeting with President Trump, he has seized the diplomatic high ground. He's made conciliatory gestures on nuclear testing and American troops that have buoyed hopes in South Korea and won praise from Mr. Trump.

But Mr. Kim's moves are also [unsettling officials in the U.S., Japan and China](#). Some suspect he is merely posturing in advance of the meeting, as well as before a separate one with South Korea's president. Others worry that his gestures could put Mr. Trump on the defensive in the grinding negotiations over the future of North Korea's nuclear weapons.

Pool photo by David J. Phillip



4. Four of the five living former American presidents gathered at a Houston church on Saturday [to remember Barbara Bush](#), the former first lady, who died on Tuesday at the age of 92. ([Read our obituary here.](#))

The current first lady, Melania Trump, went on behalf of the White House. Her predecessors Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton and of course Laura Bush also attended.

On Friday, thousands of mourners paid tribute at a public viewing. “She’s kind of America’s grandma,” said Houston’s police chief, Art Acevedo. “Barbara Bush is about as close to Texas royalty as you can come.”

Jeenah Moon for The New York Times



5. We reported that there's a strong possibility [that President Trump's longtime lawyer, Michael Cohen, above left, could end up cooperating](#) with federal officials who are investigating him for activity that could relate to work he did for Mr. Trump.

And James Comey, the former F.B.I. director, [talked to Michael Barbaro, host of our podcast "The Daily,"](#) about the [memos he kept](#) on his interactions with Mr. Trump, and his new book, "A Higher Loyalty."

For more on another head-spinning week in Washington, check out our roundup of [the biggest stories in American politics](#).

Keith Holloway/National Transportation Safety Board, via Getty Images



6. Tens of thousands of feet above the earth, the passengers clasped hands with strangers, prayed together and got ready to die.

That was the scene [aboard Southwest Airlines Flight 1380](#) from New York to Dallas on Tuesday after an engine exploded in midair. Shrapnel blew out a window, sucking Jennifer Riordan, a Wells Fargo executive from Albuquerque, partly out of the plane. She died from her injuries.

But the pilot, [Tammie Jo Shults](#), a veteran Navy pilot, was able to pull off a smooth emergency landing, displaying what one passenger would later call “nerves of steel.” Above, investigators inspected the plane.

On Friday, the [maker of the engine that failed on the Southwest flight issued](#) new guidelines that call for more frequent and thorough inspections of its engine fan blades.

Loren Elliott/Reuters



7. For months, members of Congress have been demanding answers about how many immigrant families are being [split up when they arrive at the southwest border](#). Above, an apprehension near McAllen, Tex.

Now we know: More than 700 children have been taken from adults claiming to be their parents since October, including more than 100 children under the age of 4, according to federal data obtained by The Times.

Lawmakers were asking, in part, because the Trump administration has said it was considering taking children from their parents as a way to deter migrants from coming to the U.S. Homeland Security officials say no such policy is currently in effect.

We also reported that some immigrants with old deportation orders are being [arrested when they show up for green card interviews](#) about their marriages to American citizens.

Adam Dean for The New York Times



8. Our Interpreter columnists [went to Sri Lanka to investigate the role of Facebook content in mob attacks](#) against the minority Muslim population there earlier this year, which led the government to impose a nationwide state of emergency. A mob stormed the house above, setting a fire and killing a man inside.

Many users spread misinformation and hate speech on the site, and even used it to plan attacks. But Facebook ignored repeated warnings of the potential for violence, even from the government. It's a pattern that's been repeated in other developing countries around the world, with deadly outcomes.

"There needs to be some kind of engagement with countries like Sri Lanka by big companies who look at us only as markets," one Sri Lankan official said. "We're a society, we're not just a market."

Ramon Espinosa/Associated Press



9. For the first time in decades, Cubans have a president whose last name is not Castro.

Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, above left, a longtime Communist Party stalwart, took the reins from Raúl Castro in a modest ceremony in the National Assembly. Here's [what we know about Mr. Díaz-Canel](#).

Our correspondent in Havana saw little fanfare to mark the transition. [The Cubans he spoke to were doubtful](#) that a new leader would change much, and a sense of apathy pervaded the capital.

Caitlin O'Hara for The New York Times



10. Arizona educators [voted in favor of a statewide walkout](#), as teacher protests over low pay and school budget cuts continue to sweep across the country. Above, a rally in Phoenix earlier this month.

We got [thousands of responses to our callout](#) asking teachers to describe those cuts. Educators sent us photos of decrepit classrooms and 25-year-old textbooks.

And lots of other readers wrote in asking how they can help. There's plenty you can do, even if you have only a few dollars to spare. [Here are some ideas.](#)

Charlie Gates for The New York Times



11. Finally, a deep dive into corruption in South Africa, the actor Antonio Banderas, above, as Picasso and San Francisco’s big seismic gamble. We have those stories and more of our signature journalism in this collection of [11 of our best weekend reads](#).

For more suggestions on what to watch and read, may we suggest our list of [eight Netflix originals worth your time](#), our music critics’ [latest playlist](#) (don’t miss Prince’s rendition of “Nothing Compares 2 U”) or a glance at [The New York Times Best Sellers](#).

Have a great week.

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