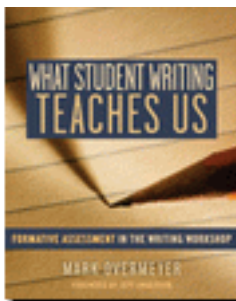


Leading the News

Report Shows Many Districts Expect To Cut Teaching Jobs As Stimulus Funds Run Out.

[Education Week](#) (7/15, Aarons) reports, "School districts have used federal economic-stimulus money to help ameliorate the effects of the economic recession and keep their teaching staffs employed, even as their overall budgets decreased. But the looming end of that funding means 75 percent of the nation's school districts expect to cut teaching jobs in the 2010-11 school year, according to a report published today by the Center on Education Policy." According to Education Week, the report finds that districts "are worried about the upcoming 'funding cliff' when the stimulus funds run out; 60 percent reported when surveyed this spring that their districts had spent or expected to have spent all of the funds received by the end of the 2009-10 school year" and "the stimulus wasn't enough to stop layoffs-45 percent of school districts reported cutting teaching jobs in the 2009-10 school year."

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In the Classroom

In New Mexico, A Renewed Push For Career And Technical Education.

The [AP](#) (7/14) reported on "one point of view not touted by many educators these days: that having some students focus on a [CTE] track in high school, with no immediate plans for college, is OK." The article examines the Santa Fe Public Schools, which "acknowledges and encourages students" to pursue technical education. "The district provides three tracks for high school students, depending on whether a student plans to: attend a 'selective' college such as private institutions with stringent admission standards; attend a 'major college (or) university' such as a state university; or pursue a technical career, community college or the military." While districts vary in their approach, more New Mexico schools are encouraging "students to choose a career path." A state education official "said the department encourages schools to focus on seven of 16 national career clusters that are relevant to the local economy."

On the Job

Chicago Districts Offer Six-Figure Salaries To "Extraordinary Number" Of Teachers.

[Chicago Tribune](#) (7/15, Rado) reports, "An extraordinary number of public school teachers in the Chicago region earned \$100,000 or more in 2009, straining school budgets and taxpayer wallets and fueling the debate over what teachers are worth and how they get raises." The highest percentage of teachers taking home six-figure salaries is in the Township High School District 113, with nearly half of teachers earning \$100,000 or more. "The highest-paying districts note that they are top performers that get accolades and national rankings, and they need to be competitive to attract top teachers as parents expect." The Chicago Tribune notes, however, that "the six-figure salaries highlight disparities that have persisted between rich and less wealthy communities in Illinois."

Law & Policy

NCLB Impedes Language Preservation Efforts, Native American Leaders Say.

[Education Week](#) (7/14, Zehr) reported, "Native American leaders pressed members of Congress and federal education officials this week to provide relief from provisions of" No Child Left Behind "that they see as obstacles to running the language-immersion schools they need to keep their languages from disappearing. As part of a two-day national summit" in Washington, DC "on revitalizing native languages, three founders of immersion schools that are teaching children Cherokee,

Ojibwe, and Native Hawaiian contended that some" NCLB "provisions present huge hurdles for language-immersion programs or schools and conflict with schooling rights spelled out in another federal law, the Native American Languages Act." Education Week added, "In a face-to-face interaction at the summit, the founders of immersion schools petitioned Charles P. Rose, the general counsel of the US Department of Education], to give them a legal interpretation that exempts their schools from having to meet provisions of the NCLB law that require them to test their students in English, particularly in the early grades, and ensure that teachers are 'highly qualified.'"

Illinois Bill Aims To Curb School Bullying.

The [AP](#) (7/14, McFarlan) reported that a new Illinois bill aims to make bullying "a thing of the past" and Illinois "school districts are joining the fight with new anti-bullying efforts that could make schools a safer place this fall. Senate Bill 3266, which took effect June 28, prohibits bullying in public school districts and nonpublic, nonsectarian elementary and secondary schools in the state of Illinois. ... SB3266 also says school districts should educate students, parents and staff what behaviors constitute bullying" and the bill "requires each school district to create and maintain a policy on bullying that is updated every two years."

Ohio Law Calls For Optional Pilot Exercise Program For Schools Next Year.

Ohio's [Suburban News Publications](#) (7/14, Perrin) reported that last month, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (D) "signed the final version of Senate Bill 210 -- the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act -- into law." Under the legislation, "the Ohio Department of Education will oversee an optional pilot program that requires K-12 schools to incorporate 30 minutes of physical activity into the school day beyond recess" starting "with the 2011-12 school year." The Delaware News notes that early versions of the bill required that districts "add the 30 minutes of exercise. But lobbyists from organizations including the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) balked at the idea of more unfunded state mandates and they lobbied against the requirement." OASBO officials Barbara Shaner and Jennifer Economus sent "a March memo to the original bill's sponsors" which said that "without additional funding, school districts simply cannot afford this mandate."

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Safety & Security

Teacher Fired Over Drowning Death Of New York City Student.

The [New York Times](#) (7/15, Medina) reports, "A teacher was fired and two administrators were disciplined on Wednesday after an inquiry into the drowning of a 12-year-old girl on a field trip found fault with a Harlem school's planning and supervision of the trip. The girl, Nicole Suriel, a sixth grader, was one of 24 students on a class trip June 22 to Long Beach, on Long Island, from Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Engineering, a middle school" in Manhattan. According to the Times, "An investigation by the city's Department of Education found that officials at the school did a poor job planning the trip and failed to obtain the required

The [New York Daily News](#) (7/15, Monahan) adds that "Special Commissioner of Investigations Richard Condon laid out Nicole's last hours as a series of disastrous mistakes" as teacher Erin Bailey, "the main chaperone, exercised 'poor judgment' by allowing kids into the churning ocean off Long Beach without a lifeguard" and there "weren't specific permission slips, just 'blanket' slips from the start of the year that didn't include swimming" Also, "Assistant Principal Andrew Stillman decided at the last minute not to go, staying behind to do administrative work." New York City Education Department "officials will demote Stillman to a teaching position and seek to put Principal Jose Maldonado-Rivera on probation, they said."

Facilities

Agreement Reached Over Where To Build New Schools In New York City.

Sharon Otterman wrote in a blog for the [New York Times](#) (7/14) that the New York City Department of Education "and the city teachers' union announced a solution on Wednesday to a math equation that had been plaguing them since this spring: how to fit 16 new and expanding schools into space occupied by 19 existing schools. ... Under the terms of the agreement, 9 of the 16 schools will open in the promised locations, alongside some of the saved schools" and in "exchange, the union pledged to not sue the city for placing new schools in the closing schools' buildings, a matter that was left undecided in the lawsuit that could have been challenged."

Also in the News

E-Education Providers Seek To Break Into Public Education Mainstream.

[Education Week](#) (7/14, Gustke) reported, "The for-profit e-learning company K12 Inc. grew 40 percent last year, generating \$385 million in revenue by providing virtual courses to 70,000 students across the country" and "Connections Academy, another such provider, generated about \$120 million in revenue serving up online courses to some 20,000 students."

According to Education Week, "Experts say for-profit providers of online courses-long seen as an option for home-schoolers and a potential rival to public schools-are breaking into the public education mainstream as more schools mix face-to-face classes and online courses to expand their curricular offerings. With demand for that 'blended' approach expected to grow, other players in the online-coursetaking marketplace, such as Apex Learning, Aventa Learning, Compass Learning, and Kaplan Virtual Education, are also seeking business in public schools."

"Blast Sites" Offer Venue For Cyber Bullying Attacks.

[WHBQ-TV Memphis](#) (7/15, Lee) reports, "Cyber bullying is more common than ever with the popularity of what's called 'blast sites,'" which "name names and tell tales, usually of sexual exploits." In Memphis, a blast site linked to Facebook "focuses on several Memphis City Schools and area colleges." Site administrators, who are anonymous, say that Brutal Weeks "has become a form of entertainment for Memphis students." Facebook told WHBQ that "it has a very aggressive campaign against cyber bullying sites, including a team that reviews when a page is reported, getting law enforcement involved if necessary."

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NEA in the News

Teachers' Unions Contribute More Money Toward Elections In Oregon Than Other States.

[The Oregonian](#) (7/14, Hammond) reported, "Teachers' unions spent far more per teacher to influence elections in Oregon in 2008 than the unions spent in any other state, according to a study released" Wednesday by "the non-partisan education journal Education Next." According to the Study, "the nation's two large teachers' unions and their state affiliates contributed \$357 per teacher to elections in Oregon," while the national average for states stood at \$22 "about \$22 worth of campaign contributions per teacher." Most of the campaign dollars spent in Oregon went "to fight ballot measures backed by prolific initiative author and union nemesis Bill Sizemore." The Oregonian added that "the Oregon Education Association contributed about \$5.5 million to a coalition called Defend Oregon that fought a high-profile advertising battle against those measures," and the NEA "pumped in another \$3 million."

Maryland State Education Association Touts O'Malley, Benefits Of Fair Negotiations Act.

Clara Floyd, president of the Maryland State Education Association, writes in a letter to the editor of the [Washington Post](#) (7/15) that "educators across Maryland -- and across the country -- celebrated Gov. Martin O'Malley's (D) leadership on public education as he received the National Education Association's America's Greatest Education Governor Award" earlier this month. Floyd asserts that in a July 9 editorial, "The Post exhibited a profound misunderstanding of the reasons for the award as well as Maryland's recently enacted Fairness in Negotiations Act (FINA), which governs collective bargaining in Maryland education." She points out that "Mr. O'Malley's budgets resulted in school construction investments more than double those

during the previous administration," and that he was honored by the NEA for providing "leadership, resources and respect for public education." Floyd added that the Maryland State Education Association believes that FINA "will improve the efficiency of negotiations, allowing school employers and employees to devote more energy to teaching and learning."

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