

# Youth Topics Newsletter



Department of Community  
and Human Services

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## EVENTS

### FACE March Events for Families

The ACPS Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) is hosting a number of free events for families in March.

#### Chamber Music with Beau Soir Ensemble (March 15)

An intimate after-hours performance at the Torpedo Factory will feature a trio that performs live chamber music concerts throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The [event](#) from 7 – 8:30 p.m. is free and open to the public.

#### Social Media 101 for Small Businesses (March 18)

The goal of the free [workshop](#) is to build a strong foundation upon which businesses can develop Social Media Marketing strategies and content marketing plans. The event is from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Alexandria Small Business Development Center (625 N. Washington St, Suite 400).

#### Tom Teasley: Drumming Through the Neighborhoods (March 20)

Critically acclaimed percussionist Tom Teasley will perform at the Torpedo Factory Art Center for a special one-night engagement in celebration of the cultural diversity of Alexandria. The [performance](#) from 7 – 8:30 p.m. will draw heavily upon his recent tour to Korea and music for the Constellation Theatre's forthcoming production of *Journey to the West*. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

#### Spring Forward (April 10)

A [gala](#) by Community Lodgings will feature live entertainment with Motown sounds by The Intruders as well as a live auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails. The event at the Union Street Public House (121 S. Union Street) is from 5 – 8 p.m. Ticket cost is \$50 per person/\$60 at the door.

#### Alexandria Spring Invitational (April 16)

The Alexandria Invitational Cheerleading Competition is scheduled for 11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School (3330 King Street). The **competition** features youth cheerleading teams from Alexandria neighborhood recreation centers and other teams from the metropolitan area. Tickets are available for purchase at the door the day of the event. Ticket prices at the door will be \$10 for ages 13 and older and \$5 for ages 5 – 12; ages 4 and under are admitted free. For information on the competition, additional recreation programs and activities, or to volunteer as a coach, call the Recreation Services Division Office at 703.746.5402.

#### TeensWork! Career Fair (April 21)

The Workforce Development Center is hosting a free **Career Fair** for 16 – 21 year-olds. The event will take place from 3 – 5 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School (3330 King Street). [Online registration](#) is available. Contact [Tiffany Gray](#) (703.746.6046) for additional information.

### **ACT Community BBQ (May 16)**

The third annual [Community BBQ](#) is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Alexandria's Historic Waterfront Dock.

### **Rev Your Bev Day 2016 (May 18)**

The [statewide initiative](#) organized by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth raises awareness about the health effects of sugary drinks.

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## **CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM**

### **Electric Utility Groundsman Test Prep Training Information Session**

The Workforce Development Center is hosting an information session regarding its ten-week test preparation program for electric/utility groundsmen. The session is scheduled for 9 – 10 a.m. at 1900 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 300. Contact [Lenwood Roberts](#) (703.746.5884) for additional information

### **WDC Career Readiness Calendar: March 2016**

Alexandria Workforce Development Center Career Readiness Workshops are free, but registration is required. Register [online](#) or register in person at 1900 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 300. Contact [Betty Sewell](#) (703.746.5890) for additional information.

### **Student Voice of Mental Health Award**

The Jerry Greenspan Student Voice of Mental Health Award is an [annual award](#) given by the JED Foundation honoring a student who is reducing prejudice around mental illness, raising awareness of mental health issues on campus, and encouraging help-seeking among their peers. The college student selected for this award receives a \$3,000 cash scholarship, recognition on The Jed Foundation's website, and a trip to New York to attend The Jed Foundation's Annual Gala to receive the award on Tuesday, June 7th, 2016. The application deadline is March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **International Bipolar Foundation High School Essay Contest**

The International Bipolar Foundation is open for submissions for its annual [global essay contest](#) to erase stigma associated with mental illness through education. The deadline for the contest, which is open to all high school students, is March 30.

### **Change Maker Awards**

The [awards](#) honor the people and organizations that are transforming the lives of children struggling with mental health and learning disorders. Nominations are due March 20.

### **The Harry Burke Awards & Anne Lipnick Inclusion for All Awards**

Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking nominations for The Harry Burke Awards & Anne Lipnick Inclusion for All Awards – and opportunity for parents and fellow educators to acknowledge and honor the work both of outstanding special educators and of general education teachers whose classroom practices exemplify true inclusion. [Nominations](#) are due April 8.

### **Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Study**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is currently seeking substance abuse counselors to participate in a [national study](#) to evaluate the effectiveness of Contingency Management, an evidence-based addiction treatment for adolescents. The outpatient substance abuse treatment implements behavior management and cognitive-behavioral approaches and includes family involvement. Funding will cover the cost of web-based training and ongoing consultation, and continuing education units will be provided.

### **Culture of Health Leaders Program**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking [applications](#) for its Culture of Health Leaders program, which aims to develop a large cadre of leaders from diverse sectors to work with organizations, communities, health systems, and policy makers to build a Culture of Health in America. Over the course of the three-year program, each cohort of leaders will complete a leadership development curriculum as well as individual and collaborative projects that support the kinds of cultural shifts at the local, state, and national levels necessary for all people to have opportunities to achieve their best possible health and well-being. Up to 50 leaders will be selected and each leader will be awarded up to \$20,000 per year for

three years as well as additional project funds to support their participation in the program and project-related activities. Individual and team applicants (up to four people per team) should represent a variety of sectors, including corporations and Chambers of Commerce; public health, transportation, education, housing, and environmental protection agencies; and nonprofit organizations (academia, community-based nonprofits, and faith-based organizations) and/or public benefit corporations and social enterprises. Applicants can apply as individuals or as an emerging or established multisector team. The foundation is hosting an informational webinar for prospective applicants from 2 -3 p.m. on March 24; registration is required. Applications are due April 19.

### **Health Policy Research Scholars Program**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [program](#) will enroll up to fifty scholars from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in health policy research. Eligible individuals include first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities. Fifty scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$30,000 for up to four years. Scholars also will be eligible for dissertation grants of up to \$10,000 if the proposed dissertation is related to health policy research. The program is open to full-time doctoral students from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds entering the first or second year of their doctoral program (by September 1, 2016) from any non-clinical discipline, and who are training to be researchers and are interested in health policy research. The program is designed for doctoral students from a variety of social sciences (e.g., urban planning, health, economics, ethnography, education, social work). The deadline for applications is April 19.

### **Observers Program**

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation is accepting applications from emerging directors and choreographers for [paid opportunities](#) to observe the work of master directors and choreographers as they create productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and at leading regional theaters across the country. Through the program, SDCF observers may have access to the entire rehearsal process, from first rehearsal through opening night. Participants also will have the opportunity to observe first-hand the techniques, disciplines, approaches, and insights of master artists as they create new productions and revive classics. Each observer receives a weekly stipend of at least \$250 as well as a project travel stipend. There is a \$25 application fee; the deadline is April 7.

### **Individual Photographer's Fellowships**

The Aaron Siskind Foundation is accepting applications for an [annual program](#) that encourages and celebrates artistic achievement in contemporary photography by supporting the creative endeavors of artists working in photography and photo-based art media. A limited number of fellowship grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded to artists working in photography and photo-based art. Qualified applicants must provide a still photography portfolio that illustrates any subject, genre, and/or process. The deadline is May 30.

### **Fall Nonfiction Residencies**

The Carey Institute for Global Good in the historic hamlet of Rensselaerville, New York offers an inspiring place to convene and advance the work of journalists, policy makers, artists, agricultural innovators, entrepreneurs, and other changemakers seeking sustainable solutions to local and global challenges. The institute is accepting applications for its [fall nonfiction residency](#) program. Residencies vary from two weeks to three months. Documentarians, journalists, and nonfiction writers working at the professional level in their fields are eligible to apply once each calendar year. Particular areas of emphasis relate to the most pressing contemporary issues day, including but not limited to war and conflict; social justice and human rights; science, health, agriculture, environment and technology; biographies, histories and government; education; journalism and the media; and economics and business. Pre-applications are due July 1.

### **Pulliam Editorial Writing Fellowship**

The \$75,000 [award](#) allows a mid-career editorial writer or columnist to take courses, pursue independent study, travel, and/or pursue other endeavors that enrich their knowledge of a public interest issue. The fellowship must result in published editorials and other writings, including books. Candidates must hold a position as a part- or full-time editorial writer or columnist at a news publication in the United States and have at least three years' experience as an editorial writer or columnist. Applications are also welcome

from freelance opinion writers who devote a majority of their time, or derive a majority of their income, from that pursuit. Applications are due June 22.

### **Human Resource Fellowship**

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is accepting applications for an annual [program](#) that provides funding for first-time master's degree students in human resources. The fellowship is designed to support master's degree students who are either members of SHRM or certified HR professionals. One winner is selected annually to receive a fellowship of up to \$10,000. Additional fellowships may be awarded, depending on available funding, the number and quality of applicants, and the discretion of SHRM. The deadline for applications is August 15.

### **Women Chemists Committee Rising Star Award**

The [Rising Star Award](#) recognizes up to ten outstanding early to mid-career women across all areas of chemistry who have demonstrated outstanding promise in their respective fields. The award includes the opportunity to present contributions at a WCC-sponsored symposium at the spring ACS national meeting; a \$1,000 stipend to cover spring national meeting travel expenses; and visibility and networking opportunities at the spring national meeting. The award is open to all female ACS members in chemistry and chemical engineering working in the academic, industrial, government, nonprofit, or other sectors. The deadline is August 31.

### **Complex Systems Scholar Award**

The [award](#) by the James S. McDonnell Foundation supports high-quality research and scholarship leading to the generation of new knowledge and its responsible application, with an emphasis on furthering the science of complex systems through the continued development of the theory and tools used in the study of complex research questions (as opposed to particular fields of research per se). Priority will be given to projects that attempt to apply complex systems approaches to coherently articulated questions. Largely unrestricted grants of up to \$450,000 over four to six years will be awarded to allow investigators from anywhere in the world to pursue and develop new directions to their research programs. Principal investigators must have completed all doctoral, postdoctoral, or fellowship training and hold an independent research position. The deadline is March 18.

### **Award for Excellence in Journalism**

The annual [prize](#) of the American Psychoanalytic Association recognizes professional reporting of outstanding merit that contributes in an exceptional way to public understanding of psychoanalytic and psychological principles and phenomena. The award, which is juried by a panel of professional journalists and psychoanalysts, includes a \$1,000 cash prize. Any person, including authors, may nominate an article. Nominations are due September 18.

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## **GRANTSMANSHIP**

### **DCHS Office of Youth Services Listing of Grant Opportunities**

The DCHS Office of Youth Services compiled a listing of grant opportunities on February 12 and February 29.

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## **RESEARCH & RESOURCES**

### **Pre-Kindergarten Registration Begins March 14**

Preschool registration for the 2016-17 school year will begin on Monday, March 14. ACPS offers free pre-K to some families through the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). The purpose of VPI is to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year olds. VPI is a program designed for families who might not otherwise be able to access quality early childhood education opportunities. Most families qualify for the program based on their income, but eligibility requirements such as other risk factors may also be considered. To pre-register and determine eligibility, visit the ACPS Central Office at 1340 Braddock Place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on weekdays. To download a pre-registration packet and view a checklist of what to bring, visit the [ACPS VPI web page](#).

### **School Board to Discuss Redistricting Policies**

A work session to discuss the proposed policies has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Board meeting room at Central Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria. ACPS has compiled a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) around the redistricting process and proposed policies.

### **Meet the Teachers Nominated for the *Washington Post* Outstanding Teacher Award**

Each year The Washington Post hosts its Outstanding Teacher Award, which honors one [teacher](#) from each school division in the Washington Metropolitan Area. This is the second in a [series](#) of posts profiling teachers nominated from ACPS.

### **School Board Budget Focuses on Finding Creative Solutions to Support Growing Student Population**

The Alexandria City School Board [adopted](#) the [FY 2017 Approved Combined Funds Budget](#) for Alexandria City Public Schools at a total of \$275.8 million. The budget focuses on retaining skilled teachers and adding classroom supports to address growing enrollment and ensure high academic standards. The budget includes an appropriation request of \$207.5 million, which is \$8.7 million more than FY 2016 and can be attributed to the increased costs of growing enrollment. Also included are additional funds to lease and retrofit office space to house a new elementary school in the West End, adding 700 seats for students, and funds to centralize preschool programs and work with city-wide partners to explore options to expand access.

### **Bill on Virginia High School Graduation Requirements Passes House**

The House of Delegates passed by a 99-1 vote a [bill](#) that would alter high school graduation requirements in Virginia. State Sen. John Miller's bill, SB336, would require the state Board of Education to work with school and community leaders to establish a "Profile of a Virginia Graduate." Instead of focusing on traditional graduation requirements, the profile would identify the knowledge and skills needed to successfully contribute to Virginia's economy. It would emphasize the development of core skill sets in the early years of high school and require students in later years to move toward college or career readiness, possibly through internships.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **Key Education Appeals Await Attention of Eight-Member U.S. Supreme Court**

The eight justices will meet in private conference to consider whether to take up appeals in several high-profile [education cases](#). In one case, the high court is being asked whether public schools may discipline students for off-campus speech. In another case, the justices are being asked to decide whether Colorado's state constitutional provision barring aid to religion, which the state's highest court relied on in striking down a school district's private school voucher program, was born of such religious bigotry as to violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of free exercise of religion. In a third, the high court is being asked to hear the appeal of a Tennessee school district whose decision to outsource its alternative education program to a private Christian school was struck down by two lower federal courts as a violation of the First Amendment's prohibition against government establishment of religion.

### **Election Guide: 5 Education Takeaways from the Presidential Candidates**

The major-party hopefuls still in the race have widely varied [records and stances](#) on K-12.

### **Groups Urge Presidential Candidates to Take Stand on Disability Issues**

Disability issues have received little more than incidental attention during the current presidential campaign season. But RespectAbility, a 3-year-old advocacy organization, is pushing to raise the topic's profile. About 1 in 5 American adults has some sort of disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The organization said that statistic means people with disabilities are the nation's largest minority group. Only five of the candidates remaining in the race as of Feb. 3 — Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, , Chris Christie, Hillary Clinton, and Bernie Sander -- responded to a wide-ranging 16-item [questionnaire](#) developed by the organization.

### **Feds Eye Disparities in Supports for SAT, ACT**

As more states embrace the SAT or the ACT as their mandated high school test, a new gulf is opening between students with disabilities and those without, and it has caught the eye of the U.S. Department of Justice. The department's civil rights division is gathering information about the practices of the College Board and ACT Inc. after persistent complaints that the testing organizations [reject](#) many requests for accommodations that are routinely provided by schools, such as extra time or frequent breaks. That practice puts students with disabilities in a tough spot, particularly in the 23 states that now require high school students to take one of the two college-entrance exams.

### **Education Department Seeks Standard Approach to Flagging Racial Bias in Special Education**

The U.S. Department of Education wants all states to start using a [standard approach](#) in measuring whether they are identifying minority students for special education services at higher rates than their peers. In a [proposed rule](#), officials said that the change would likely prompt many more districts to be classified as having "significant disproportionality," which, under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, means they would have to set aside a portion of their federal funds to fix the problem. Significant disproportionality also applies to student discipline and to student placement, one example being whether a student is moved outside of a regular classroom.

### **Preschool Special Education Would Get Small Boost Under Federal Budget Plan**

Special education spending for school aged-children would hold steady, but spending for infants and children under 5 would see a modest boost under the White House's proposed budget for fiscal year 2017. Students ages 6-21 currently receive the bulk of federal special education dollars, and that would not change under the proposed spending plan, which would hold overall special education spending steady at \$11.9 billion (the same as the previous fiscal year). An additional \$35 million would be allocated to services for children ages 3 to 5, bringing the total proposal to about \$403 million.

### **Los Angeles' Schools Struggle to Integrate Special Education Students**

In the past 3 years the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has focused more intently on [inclusion](#), moving many students out of dedicated special education centers and into their regular neighborhood schools. Correspondent John Tulenko speaks with teachers, service providers, parents, students, and LAUSD's director of special education to get the story. The video segment appeared on PBS NewsHour on March 1.

### **ESSA Spotlights Strategy to Reach Diverse Learners**

Sprinkled throughout the newly reauthorized version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are references to an instructional strategy that supporters think has enormous potential for reaching learners with diverse needs. Called universal design for learning, or UDL for short, the strategy encompasses a wide set of teaching techniques that allow multiple ways for teachers to present information and for students to engage in lessons and demonstrate what they know.

### **Facebook's Zuckerberg to Bet Big on Personalized Learning**

A new, [multi-pronged effort](#) has been launched by Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, pediatrician Priscilla Chan, to use their massive fortune to reshape public education with technology. "We think that personalized learning makes sense," Zuckerberg told *Education Week* in an exclusive telephone interview last week. "We want to see as many good versions of this idea as possible get tested in the world."

### **Neuroscientists Study Real-Time Learning in Classroom Lab**

While their class at first appears to be just a basic row of computer desks, the students in it look like extras from a mad-science movie. As 1st grader Ramsey puzzles over a computer-coding exercise, a Karate Kid-style headband over his forehead records his brain activity, triggering flares of yellow and orange splotches on a purple band on a computer monitor behind him. His classroom neighbor adjusts a blood pressure sensor on her wrist as she types, and in the next row, a 3rd grader peers at her work from beneath a set of eye-tracking goggles. A teacher comes over to help, wearing a sensor on her cheek that monitors her stress levels. The [classroom](#) is part of the Educational Neuropsychology Laboratory at Washington State University. The brainchild of an interdisciplinary team supported by the National Science Foundation, the \$200,000 lab—believed to be the only one of its kind in the United States—is designed to interweave behavioral, academic, social, and neurological data during live class sessions, to create a more complete picture of what's going on in the interplay between teachers and students in the classroom.

### **Obama's Pick for Education Says Teachers Saved His Life**

President Barack Obama's choice to serve as Education Secretary says he rose to his current position because New York City [public school teachers](#) "literally saved my life." At his Senate confirmation hearing, John B. King Jr., told the story of his mother's death when he was eight and his father's passing four years later. Both were educators.

### **More Female Math and Science Teachers Increase Likelihood Girls Pursue STEM**

Researchers from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Duke University looked at a sample of 16,300 students who attended secondary school in North Carolina and went on to a college through the University of North Carolina system. The study, "[Demographic Characteristics of High School Math and Science Teachers and Girls' Success in STEM](#)," published in the journal *Social Problems*, focused on how the race and gender of teachers affect students' decisions to pursue further science, technology, engineering, and math education. White female students are [more likely](#) to pursue STEM fields in college if they attended a high school with a high proportion of female math and science teachers. The results were not as conclusive for black female students.

### **Educators Rethink Discipline, Learn New Moves to Dismantle School-to-Prison Pipeline**

Revising their code of conduct, redefining the role of school police, addressing bias, building a positive school climate and addressing problematic behavior in a positive way are among the [strategies](#) shared at the Rethink Discipline Regional Convening in Atlanta.

### **Principals Share Advice on Addressing Racial Bias in Schools**

At a time when students of color now comprise a majority in the nation's schools, the supply of principals, much like the teaching profession, remains overwhelmingly white. Two principals of color discuss how they [mitigate bias](#) within their schools, infuse cultural competency into instruction, and use their life experiences to anchor their leadership.

### **Black Male Teachers a Dwindling Demographic**

America's K-12 schools have never been more diverse, with nonwhite students now outnumbering whites, but efforts to diversify the nation's teaching corps have not kept pace. As a group, U.S. teachers remain overwhelmingly white and female—and black men are the most [underrepresented demographic](#) in the teaching ranks. Surveys and anecdotal information show that teachers of color can feel the sting of bias in schools as easily as minority students in mostly white educational environments.

### **Feds Investigate Alleged Civil Rights Violations at Nation's Oldest Public School**

The U.S. attorney's office in Boston is launching an [investigation](#) into possible civil rights violations at Boston Latin School, the nation's oldest public school. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts said her office will conduct an investigation into the recent complaints of racism at the highly competitive exam entrance school, which was founded in April 1635. In January, two black students at the school launched a social media campaign to bring attention to their complaints of racism at the school, which they said were ignored by school administrators.

### **School that Honors Virginia Segregationist Could Be Renamed**

In an era when historical figures are being re-examined for their racial views, Harry F. Byrd, Sr. — Virginia's most towering political icon of the mid-20th century — could be on the fast-track to infamy. A whole generation of African-American baby boomers in Virginia felt the sting of Byrd's stubborn resistance to school integration in the 1950s and beyond. Now they are among the parents and community members in Richmond who want the name Harry Flood Byrd School [stripped](#) from a middle school building, letterhead and athletic uniforms.

### **Victims of Hate Speech**

The proportion of students who report being the [target of hate speech](#) at school is lower now than it has been since it was first measured in 1999, from 13% then to 7% in 2013.

### **Beware The Bigoted Subtext of Children's Literature**

Paul Verhaeghen and other social psychologists have used [word analysis and pattern recognition](#) to show how reading material influences the adoption of stereotypical and racist views. Other researchers have found that stereotypical word pairings such as black-poor, black-violent, white-wealthy, and white-progressive in standard American reading material for adults [literally prime Americans to be racist](#).

### **Md. Students Lead Nation in Success on AP Exams**

Maryland education officials say the state's students have [led the nation](#) in success on Advanced Placement exams for the 10th year in a row. Citing new data from the College Board, state officials say 31.7% of Maryland high school seniors earned a score of 3 or higher on one or more AP exams. The tests are scored on a 1-to-5 scale, and 3 is the threshold for earning college credit at many institutions.

### **Maryland PARCC Scores Higher on Paper: Students' Tech Readiness a Major Factor**

Maryland students tended to [score better](#) when taking the 2014-15 PARCC exams on paper instead of by computer. Paper results in the state were higher than online results for every tested grade in English/language arts and on higher-level math exams, according to an analysis prepared by the state department of education and presented to the state board of education Tuesday.

### **Survey: Ohio Students Got A Grades on Paper Exams, F Grades Online**

An employee of an Ohio school district employee told the Cleveland Plain Dealer that, according to his [research](#), students who got A's on paper exams in 2014-15 school year received F grades on last year's exam. The online exam also had five times fewer A grades for students, according to the researcher, Michael Molnar, the director of educational services for the Amherst school district in Lorain County.

### **Districts Experiment with Virtual 'Work From Home' Days for Students**

A growing share of the U.S. labor force [works from home](#), and some tech-savvy school districts are taking note. A local high school in New Jersey recently held its first "virtual day," allowing most of its 561 students to log in to school from the comfort of their bedrooms or kitchen tables. The strategy—currently being used by a handful of schools in Alabama, Minnesota, and New Jersey—represents a new twist on established trends in digital learning.

### **CoSN Calls for Broadband Access Outside School a 'Civil Right' for Students**

After winning the battle to expand the federal E-rate program, education leaders are beginning to look beyond the struggle of connecting all schools to high quality Internet and toward the next challenge of [connecting all students while outside of school](#). The Consortium for School Networking, or CoSN, issued a [plan of action](#) this week that aims to prod district leaders to at least gather data on personal student broadband access. The report, which calls the matter an issue of "civil rights," indicated that 75% of school district leaders have no data on their students' Internet access outside of school, while 70% of teachers nationally report assigning homework that requires access.

### **FCC Decision Next Month on Lifeline Program Could Impact 'Homework Gap'**

FCC commissioners voted last June to open a public comment period on a [proposal](#) to overhaul the agency's Lifeline Program, which provides subsidies for phone service to America's low-income households. The proposal, which the commissioners are considering, would expand the program to offer subsidies for high-speed Internet access in addition to revamping the rules that govern the existing landline and mobile phone program. Attention to the "digital divide" and the "[homework gap](#)" have heated up in recent months with the revelation that 70% of teachers assign homework that requires Internet access while nearly five million low-income households with school aged children lack high-speed Internet. As a result, millions of already disadvantaged students, many of them minorities, must overcome the additional barrier of finding a high-speed connection in a library or local business that their wealthier classmates often have at home.

### **Online Report Card – Tracking Online Education in the United States**

The 2015 Survey of Online Learning is the leading [barometer](#) of online learning in the United States.

### **13 States Join Federal Open Resource Initiative**

Thirteen states (including Virginia) and forty school districts are joining the U.S. Department of Education's open education resource initiative, [#GoOpen](#). Open education resources are available for free, unlike traditional textbooks and workbooks, and are often released under licenses that allow them to be shared or altered by users.

### **K-12 Interoperability Groups Announce Collaboration on Ed. Data Sharing**

Two leading organizations in the highly technical world of K-12 data-interoperability standards have agreed to [coordinate](#) their efforts, a move that proponents hope might spur a new era of seamless data-sharing in the long-fragmented ed-tech sector. The Ed-Fi Alliance and the IMS Global Learning

Consortium will focus initially on streamlining the exchange of class-roster and user-authentication data, using [IMS Global's recently released OneRoster standard](#) as a guide.

### **Ready or Not: It's Time to Rethink 12th Grade**

The national nonprofit Jobs for the Future is calling for [major changes](#) to the senior year of high school. A joint approach, a strategy that brings together high school and college educators where their interests converge, is recommended. A shared transition zone, where both systems assume responsibility for college readiness and success, and where they collaborate in key ways to substantially increase the number of youth truly prepared for college and careers, has been proposed.

### **When Student Face Financial Hardships, These Colleges Step Up**

One unforeseen hardship can derail a college student's dream of getting a degree, so an increasing number of U.S. schools are providing [emergency grants](#) to pull such students back from the edge.

### **'Indentured' Explores Efforts To Fight Mistreatment Of College Athletes**

NPR [interviewed](#) Joe Nocera about his new book, *Indentured: The Inside Story Of The Rebellion Against The NCAA*. Nocera and his co-author Ben Strauss followed the history of the NCAA and the fights over athlete pay from the 1950s through a recent class-action lawsuit led by a former UCLA player named Ed O'Bannon. Sprinkled throughout this history are anecdotes about players who have been mistreated by the NCAA.

### **Ivy League Moves to Eliminate Tackling at Football Practices**

Ivy League football coaches have decided to take the extraordinary step of [eliminating](#) all full-contact hitting from practices during the regular season, the most aggressive measure yet to combat growing concerns about brain trauma and other injuries in the sport. The move could influence how other football programs, from the youth level to the professionals, try to mitigate the physical toll of football, which has been played on Ivy League campuses since the 19th century.

### **End Youth Football**

In an [opinion piece](#) Boston Globe columnist Derrick Z. Jackson wrote that the long-term health risks of tackle football are too severe for young children.

### **Accomplished Singer Leads Boston District's Expansion of the Arts**

After twenty years of working as the education and community-programs director at the prestigious Boston Symphony Orchestra, Myran Parker-Brass, a classically trained mezzo-soprano, joined the public school system in 2011, and in the more than four years since, has led an [ambitious expansion](#) of arts education that now provides a diverse array of dance, music, theater, and visual-arts instruction during the school day.

### **Students Petition for Reinstatement of Teacher Put on Leave Over Poem**

Thousands of students are petitioning for the [reinstatement](#) of a South Carolina teacher who resigned last week after being placed on administrative leave over a poem he had written. Greg Fish, an English and literature teacher at Easley High School, held a monthly off-campus "poetry round table" for his AP literature class, where students wrote and shared anonymous poems and tried to guess the author of each. School administrators received complaints after Fish allegedly shared a [poem](#) of his own with his students that contained the F-word.

### **Program Takes Aim at 'Religious Illiteracy' in Classroom**

A high school history teacher's approach to teaching religion has changed dramatically. The [change](#) was inspired by the Hartford Teacher Education Project, a small but ambitious program that introduces secondary school history teachers to the cultural-studies method of teaching about religion that emphasizes the internal diversity of religions and the relationship of religion to culture, economics, and society. It is part of an effort to address what the program's leader, Harvard Divinity School professor Diane L. Moore, terms "religious illiteracy" in the classroom and in society.

### **Discussing Terrorism and Religion in the Classroom**

Calee Prindle teaches English at The Facing History School in New York City. After the ISIS Paris attacks in November, Prindle wondered how to constructively discuss the news with her high school students. In a [video](#), she shares her experience, and offers activities and ideas to help initiate difficult discussions.

### **Feds Spend \$3.6 Million to Help Children Affected by Flint Water Crisis**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will spend \$3.6 million in emergency funds to [expand](#) Head Start and Early Head Start services for young children affected by the lead water crisis in Flint. The additional federal funding will open three Head Start classrooms, offer more services to children in the special education program, provide transportation for families who need for medical visits, and add more parent education activities and staff training relevant to lead poisoning.

### **Lead Fear Forces Water Ban in 30 New Jersey School Buildings**

Newark Public Schools notified the state Department of Environmental Protection that [annual testing](#) found levels ranging from non-detected to above the Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead (15 parts per billion). That level requires additional testing, monitoring and remediation. The DEP has requested test results from previous years to be able to do a complete analysis.

### **Schumer Pushes Funding for Lead Tests of Water in Schools**

Sen. Charles Schumer announced [legislation](#) that would give funding to New York schools for lead testing. The legislation would allow schools use of \$100 million in federal grants under the Environmental Protection Agency to test their water supplies.

### **20 Puerto Rico Teachers Charged in Nearly \$1M Fraud Case**

FBI agents in Puerto Rico [arrested](#) twenty teachers charged in a nearly \$1 million fraud case involving federal funds for special education. Charges include theft of government money and property and aggravated identity theft.

### **Detroit Schools, City Government Set Timeline to Repair Ragged Buildings**

After Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan spotted a rodent during a school visit, [building checks](#) were conducted in city schools believed to be most problematic. City officials began inspecting all of Detroit's schools in January after protests by teachers and parents about problems including rodents, water leaks, mold, broken glass, and busted heating systems. Detroit schools and city government officials have agreed on a timeline for fixing safety and health violations in the district's school buildings, with the district getting extra time to finish repairs at some buildings. The inspections, which will include all charter schools within the city's borders, are set to be completed by the end of April.

### **Rhodes: State Must Act or Detroit Teachers Won't Be Paid after April 8**

In testimony before state legislators, Detroit Public Schools Transition Manager Steven Rhodes said he sat down with financial experts and they told him the district will be unable to [pay staff](#) after April 8. The retired judge said if financial help is not approved, DPS will be forced into bankruptcy.

### **Craigslist Founder Funds Detroit School Projects in National Campaign**

More than 50 celebrities and philanthropists participated in a surprise "flash funding" of [classroom project requests](#) posted on DonorsChoose.org, a site where teachers can seek donations for books, art supplies, technology equipment and other resources. The group collectively committed more than \$14 million to nearly 12,000 projects as part of the #BestSchoolDay campaign. All 857 project requests in Michigan were funded. Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist, paid for 143 Detroit projects, as well as every project in New Jersey. New Orleans Saints player Mark Ingram paid for 42 requests for things like iPads, books and even a steel drum for schools in Flint. And the rest of the Michigan projects were picked up by philanthropist Elsa Brule, who also funded projects in five other states.

### **Illinois Board of Education Investigating Chicago District's Finances**

The Illinois State Board of Education this week asked the Chicago Public Schools to send over a trove of financial information as part of an [investigation](#) into the district's finances, local media reported. The request for financial information came after Gov. Bruce Rauner ordered the state to review the district's finances. The district has a \$1 billion long-term deficit and recently borrowed \$725 million at high interest rates to keep running until the end of the school year.

### **Chicago School District to Lay Off 62 Employees, Including 17 Teachers**

Chicago school district officials said on Monday that without the much-needed financial help from the state, they would make another [\\$85 million](#) in cuts. Sixty-two employees, including 17 teachers, will lose their jobs in this latest round of cost-cutting, the district said. As a result of the \$85 million in cuts, the per-

pupil funding rate under the district's student-based budgeting system has been reduced by \$214, to \$4,176 per student from \$4,390.

### **Baltimore School Officer Charged with Assault for Slapping Teen in Video**

A Baltimore school police officer shown slapping, kicking, and swearing at a teenager in an online video was [charged](#) with second-degree assault, second-degree child abuse by a custodian and misconduct in office. The officer who stood by as it happened has been charged with 2nd degree assault and misconduct in office.

### **Superintendent: Officers Should Not Handle Minor Discipline**

Educators should ask officers to intervene only when students are being violent, not for minor classroom misconduct such as the cellphone use that escalated into an 18-year-old student being thrown to the floor and arrested, according to [recommendations](#) announced by South Carolina's schools superintendent.

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## **YOUTH WELL-BEING**

### **Popular Out-of-School Time Cost Calculator Updated**

Anyone interested in starting an after-school or summer program can now use a newly updated, free [tool](#) to figure how much that might cost. The Wallace Foundation has updated its [Out-of-School-Time Cost Calculator](#) to reflect increases in the cost of living.

### **White House Rolls Out Summer Opportunity Plan**

The White House [rolled out](#) a multi-agency plan to help more teenagers land summer jobs. The [plan](#) aims to give youth who lack work experience and connections to employers a leg up through public investments and partnerships with the private sector.

### **This Afterschool Program Helps Youth Change the World**

Youth Venture is a [social entrepreneurship program](#) for high school students offered through the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. It helps low-income youth ages 16-20 turn their business ideas into a reality.

### **New Mantra for Summer Camps: Develop Those 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Skills**

The American Camp Association is jumping with both feet into measuring camp's impact on kids. In the process, the national organization representing 2,800 summer and after-school camps has found a new marketing tool: [21st century skills](#). "There's a common perception that the American Camp Association is about canoes in a lake and tents," said Tom Holland, chief executive of the camp association. "But where we have transitioned in the last ten years is being about youth development, specifically the out-of-school-time space."

### **To Open the Door for Young People, Sometimes You Just Have to Knock**

One day last month some young people who had dropped out of school in Tucson, Arizona, received a true [wake-up call](#). They answered the door to find the school superintendent, the mayor or another local big shot standing there, urging them to re-enroll. Through a Tucson program called [Steps to Success](#), teams of volunteers are dispatched twice a year (in July and January) to the homes of young people in grades seven to 12 who have left school. In the two years since its launch, the program has re-enrolled 384 students, and 41 of them have graduated.

### **Comprehensive Student Development, 'Grounded in Science, in Service of Equity'**

The [premise](#) of a new report from the nonprofit Turnaround for Children is that helping disadvantaged students succeed requires a focus on not only what students learn, but how they learn. Just as schools teach math and reading, the paper makes the case that all students should be learning social-emotional skills, like resilience, self-awareness and a growth mindset.

### **Farsightedness Associated With Literacy Problems in Preschoolers**

A recent study found that children ages 4 to 5 with [moderate farsightedness](#) scored significantly worse on a test of preschool literacy—raising the question of whether eyeglasses might help make a difference. The research was funded by the National Eye Institute, a part of the National Institutes of Health.

### **Amazon, Federation of the Blind Reach Agreement on Accessibility**

After years of questioning the accessibility of Amazon's Kindle e-reader, the National Federation of the Blind [announced](#) it will work with the online retailer to improve reading experiences for blind, low-vision, and deaf-blind students. In a statement, the federation indicated it will "collaborate on improvements to Amazon's education content, platforms, and applications." It added that representatives from Amazon and the Baltimore-based federation will meet on an ongoing basis "to review progress and exchange ideas and feedback." Initial results of this collaboration are expected this year, according to the announcement. The accessibility issue became an obstacle last year when Amazon won a \$30 million contract with New York City schools to develop an online e-book storefront for educators.

### **Studies on Deafness Yield Broader Benefits**

Deafness is the most common sensory problem for U.S. schoolchildren—and one of the most long-studied—yet researchers are only beginning to tease out the effects of sound versus language on deaf children's learning growth. In several new studies discussed at the American Association for the Advancement of Science here earlier this month, researchers examined the ways deafness interacts with other challenges, such as autism, and language and executive function problems.

### **New Project Tackles Male Adolescent Health**

Compared to young women, adolescent and young adult men (AYAM) are at a [higher risk](#) of suicide and homicide. They are more likely to suffer from substance abuse or an accidental injury. Even ADHD and certain sexually transmitted infections affect young men more than young women. The Healthy Teen Network has launched a new initiative called [Volt](#), with the goal of helping young men, independently and with the support of caring adults, increase access to and use of health services and take charge of their own health.

### **Why Schools Should Make Sleep a Priority**

The National Academy of Pediatrics recommended middle and high schools start [no earlier than 8:30 a.m.](#) to better align with the natural body rhythms of adolescents. But it is not unusual for the first-period bells to ring at many middle and high schools much earlier than that.

### **Education Groups Urge 'Whole-Child' Approach to Counteract Poverty**

A new project from Harvard University's Education Redesign Lab is helping local city and school leaders [link agencies](#) responsible for children's services—such as mayor's offices, school systems, and social services agencies—to work together to address both in-school and out-of-school factors that affect student learning. Another initiative urges policymakers to address racial segregation and concentrated poverty in communities by promoting integration efforts and to seek community input when making education decisions -- arguing such efforts do not require additional funding, but a re-prioritization of how money is spent.

### **Community Schools Blunt the Impacts of Poverty in Vancouver, Washington**

Vancouver created an ["opportunity zone"](#) where schools would focus on addressing the impact of poverty that can affect students' classroom performance.

### **Ex-Foster Youth Turned Lawmaker Prioritizes Spending for Foster Care Reform**

Erica Thomas represents District 39 in the Georgia House of Representatives. She counts improving the lives of foster care youth among her top priorities. As a [former foster youth](#), she knows firsthand the importance of encouragement and support.

### **Giving Foster Youth a Chance at College**

Nearly [one-half](#) of the nation's 500,000 kids in foster care leave high school without a diploma, and only about 3% ever obtain a college degree, according to the San Francisco-based Stuart Foundation. Its report, "The Invisible Achievement Gap Report," shares that overall, foster youth have the lowest educational attainment of any cross-section of the population, including low-income families, English language learners and racial minorities. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University also found that more than half of the achievement gap experienced by low-income kids, including foster youth, is due to unequal access to summer learning opportunities. The First Star Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy was created as a partnership between the nonprofit First Star Academies, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, and one of the nation's top public universities.

## **U.S. Refugee Agency Put Central American Kids at Risk, GAO Report Says**

The government agency tasked with placing thousands of Central American children into communities while they await immigration court decisions has no system for tracking the children, does not keep complete case files and has allowed contractors to operate with little oversight, according to a [report](#) released by the Government Accountability Office. Three senators — Grassley, Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) and Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) — asked the GAO in October to review policies of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. The agency provides shelter for unaccompanied minors fleeing violence in Central America and identifies sponsors to care for them while they await hearings in immigration courts. More than 125,000 unaccompanied minors from Central America have been caught at the U.S.-Mexico border since 2011.

## **School System Reassures Immigrant Families Fearful of Being Deported**

“Teachers, administrators and Board members have heard reports that some families in our community are fearful to send their children to school,” Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Patrick K. Murphy wrote in a [letter](#) to families. “I want to reassure all of our families that children in our care will be safe.” Murphy’s statement comes after Kevin Maxwell, chief of schools in nearby Prince George’s County, Md., spoke out against federal immigration raids in January. Prince George’s school officials said that attendance among Latino students dropped as parents kept their children home from school because they feared it could lead to their deportation.

## **Boosting Grad Rates for Students Whose First Language Isn’t English**

Nearly half of the students at Revere High School in Massachusetts, just outside Boston, speak a first language other than English. Across the Revere school district, nearly a third of the minority students are foreign born. Thirty-five states graduate [less than 70%](#) of English language-learners – including Massachusetts, at 64%. Seven of those states have ELL graduation rates under 50%.

## **In Virginia Classrooms, Should Parents Block Sexually Explicit Literature?**

Lawmakers in Virginia will consider [legislation](#) that could make it the first state in the country to allow parents to block their children from reading any books in school if they contain sexually explicit material. Opponents call it a slippery slope toward book banning; advocates say it is a parent’s right to control their children’s exposure to media, even if the books are considered classics.

## **Comprehensive Sex Education Gets Early Opposition from Lawmakers**

A committee of lawmakers overwhelmingly voted down a [bill](#) that would have implemented a comprehensive sex education program in Utah schools. Most legislators opposed to the idea said the responsibility of providing comprehensive sex education lies with parents, not schools. But the bill’s sponsor, Salt Lake City Democrat Rep. Brian King, said parents should be given the option to opt their child into comprehensive programs at school if they want to.

## **Communicating Effectively About Social Determinants of Health that Impact Teen Pregnancy**

Youth health outcomes—including those related to sexual health and pregnancy—are influenced by places, such as where they live, work, and play. These non-medical factors are referred to as social determinants of health and they can be tricky for programs to explain as they work to prevent teen pregnancy in all communities. A [free guide](#) developed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. shares tips and strategies for programs looking to engage stakeholders in meaningful discussions about this connection. It walks readers through the process of tailoring messages that attract attention and resonate with a variety of audiences.

## **National Groups, Celebrities Tell S.D. Governor to Veto Transgender Student Bill**

As Republican South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard decides whether he will sign a bill that would restrict transgender students’ access to school restrooms and locker rooms, he faces pressure from Caitlyn Jenner and “Orange is the New Black” actress Laverne Cox as well as national advocacy groups. A group of national organizations signed onto an [open letter](#) calling on states, including South Dakota, to reject bills that they say unfairly target transgender youths.

## **Greenwich High Headmaster Scraps Graduation Gown Changes**

In a letter to parents of graduating seniors, the student activities director at a Connecticut high school wrote that students would wear “newly designed red, gender-neutral cap and gown.” She did not explain the reason for the change, but many students have already expressed opposition to moving from the tradition of female graduates wearing white gowns and male graduates wearing red — representing the

high school's colors. More than 350 have signed a petition protesting the change. After uproar among Greenwich High School seniors about a plan to move to "gender-neutral" unisex gowns, the plan has been [dropped](#).

### **Access to Safety: Health Outcomes, Substance Use and Abuse, and Service Provision for LGBTQ Youth Who Engage in Survival Sex**

The focus of a [report](#) by The Urban Institute is LGBTQ youth who become involved in the commercial sex market to meet basic survival needs, describing their physical, mental, and sexual health issues, their substance use, and their experiences with service providers. It finds that most youth protect themselves from harm in several ways, including using protection against sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy and visiting service providers for health and non-health services. However, most of the youth reported needs that were unmet by service providers, including employment assistance and short- and long-term housing, and youth who reached ages 18 or 21 had even greater challenges accessing services.

### **"Faces of Human Trafficking" Video Series**

The [series](#) is intended to be used for outreach and education efforts of service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and others in the community. It includes information about sex and labor trafficking, multidisciplinary approaches to serving victims of human trafficking, effective victim services, victims' legal needs, and voices of survivors. Accompanying the video series is a discussion guide, four OVC Fact Sheets, and four posters that can be used to augment trainings and generate discussion.

### **Bullying Prevention and Response Training Course**

[StopBullying.gov](#) has launched a free online [bullying prevention and response training course](#). The professional development tool provides guidance on how to take a public health approach to bullying prevention through long-term, communitywide prevention strategies. Self-directed training allows stakeholders to test their knowledge on the latest research, statistics, and best practices on bullying prevention and response and to earn continuing education credits.

### **Parents' Guide to Gangs**

A [guide](#) published by the National Gang Center that provides parents with answers to common questions about gangs is now available in [Spanish](#).

### **Gun Maker Seeks Dismissal of Lawsuit Over Newtown Shooting**

Lawyers for the company that made the rifle used to kill twenty first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School are expected to ask a Connecticut judge to [dismiss](#) a wrongful death lawsuit filed by families of some of the massacre victims. Freedom Group, the parent company of AR-15 maker Bushmaster Firearms, is arguing that it is protected by a 2005 federal law that shields gun manufacturers from most lawsuits over criminal use of their products.

### **Los Angeles School Police Return Last of Weapons Issued by Defense Department**

The Los Angeles Unified School District's internal police department has returned the last of its [military grade weapons](#) provided through a controversial U.S. Department of Defense program. The school police agency, which protects Los Angeles Unified's 650,000 students, returned the first of its 1033 materials, three grenade launchers, in 2014 after civil rights advocates questioned the need for school police to possess such weapons. The school district previously defended its decision to keep the rest of its Defense Department supplies—61 automatic rifles that had been modified to be semiautomatic, which it called "essential life-saving items" and a mine-resistant armored vehicle it said police would only use "under extraordinary circumstances" with approval from the police chief and the superintendent.

### **Teen Who Provided Gun for Murder-Suicide Could be Charged**

A classmate who provided the handgun used in the recent murder-suicide of two 15-year-old girls at an Arizona high school could be facing a [felony charge](#). One of the girls approached the boy, telling him she needed a gun for protection but promised to return. Police said the teen removed a handgun from his home without the permission or knowledge of his parents.

## **Prosecutors and Violence Prevention Experts Announce Roadmap to Reduce Gun Violence in Domestic Abuse Incidents**

In an [extensive report](#) analyzing laws, judicial practices, prosecutorial approaches and law enforcement protocols throughout America, Prosecutors Against Gun Violence and the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearms Policy [recommended](#) significant changes to break the link between domestic violence and gun violence.

## **Using ‘The Halls’ Web Series to Help Young Men Prevent Violence**

“The Halls” is a Web series produced by the Boston Public Health Commission to engage young men in violence prevention. The [eight-episode series](#), which went live in 2014, follows three young men dealing with the aftermath of an alleged sexual assault at their high school in order to get real teens talking about gender-based violence against women and girls.

## **Take a Creative Approach to Dating Violence Prevention with Youth-Friendly ‘Media Challenges’**

Youth-serving organizations can [host](#) their own video and media challenges to incorporate teen dating violence prevention into their daily work and form relationships with local high schools. Giving youth a forum to express themselves also captures the attention of other teens, who may seek out relationship advice from their friends instead of parents or teachers.

## **How Can Improving Youth Mental Health Prevent Teen Dating Violence?**

Researchers wanted to know whether some psychiatric disorders were more likely than others to be associated with teen dating violence. They [found](#) that young people with a diagnosed psychiatric disorder were more likely to experience dating violence than those in the control group—regardless of the type of disorder. However, girls with ADHD and a co-occurring substance use disorder were most at-risk.

## **Symptoms Outdo Diagnoses in Predicting Bipolar Disorder in At-Risk Youth**

Three types of symptoms emerged as [powerful predictors](#) of whether a youth with one parent with bipolar disorder will go on to develop the disorder, according to a study of 391 at-risk youth. The findings offer a much more specific roadmap than previously available for assessing risk of bipolar disorder early in at-risk youth, and one that is based on symptoms, not traditional psychiatric diagnoses.

## **Toolkit for Service Providers Sheds Light on Youth Trauma, Resilience**

In San Francisco, the Adolescent Health Working Group has published “Trauma & Resilience: An Adolescent Provider Toolkit” to build knowledge around trauma and resilience, and how programs can adjust their approach to care. With support from the Tides Project, the [64-page toolkit](#) is the last in a six-part series addressing the intersection of health and violence.

## **Mothers & Fathers; Sons & Daughters**

Two mothers and a father talk about what it is like to be the parent of a substance user in an affecting [piece](#) about frustration and loss.

## **Video of Family Members Lost to Addiction Strikes Deep in Hearts of Young Adults**

A [video](#) of young people who lost brothers and sisters to substance use and overdose shows just how deep and wide the tentacles of addiction can reach, and how important human connection feels. It was produced and originally published by Youth Today and the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange.

## **Logan’s Story**

As a child, 18 year-old Logan never felt accepted by his affluent peers. He turned to self-mutilation, then inhalants and psychedelics in an effort to numb his pain. He discusses the challenges in a [video](#).

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## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

### **Girls in Trouble: Providing the Right Response**

One of the starkest statistics in the lives of girls today is that [73% of girls in the juvenile justice system](#) have been physically or sexually abused. Experiencing abuse is one of the major predictors of girls themselves getting into trouble, according to the report published by the Human Rights Project for Girls, the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, and the Ms. Foundation for Women. The most

common crimes for which girls are arrested — including running away, substance abuse and truancy — are also the most common symptoms of abuse, the report noted.

## **BAMBI**

The [Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative program](#) (BAMBI) delivers tough love as it helps incarcerated mothers bond with their babies born in prison.

## **Supreme Court Extends Parole Rights to Juvenile Murderers Sentenced to Life**

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday made retroactive its [decision](#) of four years ago barring life-without-parole sentences for murders by all but the most incorrigible juvenile offenders. The 6-3 decision will mean some 1,000 juvenile offenders sentenced before the 2012 decision will likely be paroled.

## **Stepping Down From the Ledge of Solitary Confinement**

Following a high-profile lawsuit on behalf of Alfredo R. Prieto, a death-row inmate who was executed in October, Virginia has set about improving conditions for those in solitary. They are getting more out-of-cell time with other people and some basic facilities that will allow them more contact with the outside world. These are both successful strategies that states across the country, increasingly aware that solitary is an expensive, barbaric practice, are taking toward common sense. Another is ending the practice of [isolating juveniles](#), who are particularly at risk of mental damage when pulled out of the general prison population. This is a reform that state Sen. Barbara A. Favola (D-Arlington) wants Virginia to pursue. She has pushed a [modest bill](#) that commands state corrections officials to rethink how and when they deny juveniles contact with others. Rather than tell prison officials precisely how to cut back on juvenile isolation, it would merely require them to write regulations that “allow the use of room segregation only when other less restrictive options have been exhausted,” with an emphasis on using isolation to ensure safety rather than as a routine punishment.

## **A 12 Year-Old Girl is Facing Criminal Charges for Using Certain Emoji. She’s Not Alone**

A 12-year-old from Fairfax, Va., has been [charged](#) with threatening her school after police said she posted a message on Instagram in December laden with gun, bomb and knife emojis.

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## **WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS**

### **A Thought Leader Roundtable on Job Skills and Minority Youth: Putting Theory into Practice (March 16, 2 – 3 p.m.)**

The webinar will feature a [discussion](#) of how youth development and youth employment programs can use input from professional HR interviewers to improve their participants’ chances of nailing the interview.

### **Street Outreach and Law Enforcement Collaboration: Prioritizing Safety when Working with Gang Members (March 16, 2 – 3 p.m.)**

The focus of the [webinar](#) is how to conduct street outreach when gang-involved clients are in danger. Presenters will examine the importance of building collaborative relationships among outreach staff, police, schools, and justice systems to develop crisis response and safety plans. The work of National Gang Center and the Houston Mayor’s Anti-Gang Office will be discussed.

### **The News About Childhood Trauma: Findings and Implications (March 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.)**

Presenters will [explore](#) how childhood trauma is reported in the news and identify steps that advocates can take to improve the conversation for expanding media coverage.

### **Career-Focused Mentoring: A Pathway for 21st Century Opportunities (March 17, 1 – 2:15 p.m.)**

Presenters will [discuss](#) how to develop, sustain, and grow a career-focused mentoring program model.

### **Understanding the Relationship Between Prescription Opioid Misuse and Heroin Abuse (March 28, 2 p.m.)**

The [presenters](#) are the Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health and a professor of Family and Community Medicine at UC San Francisco.

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