



Department of Community  
and Human Services

# YOUTH TOPICS NEWSLETTER

IN THE JANUARY 27 EDITION:

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## EVENTS

### **National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week (January 23 – 29)**

The [weeklong observance](#) brings together teens and scientific experts through community events to discuss facts about drug and alcohol abuse.

### **Teen & Young Adult Late Nights Job Fair & Basketball Games (February 2)**

The event sponsored by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe Street) from 6 – 10 p.m. Learn interview and application-writing techniques as well as meet hiring personnel for career and entry level positions available at over twenty employers.

### **Parent Education Workshops (February 2, 9, 16, 23)**

The Community Wraparound Team of the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services is hosting a series of workshops from 6 – 8 p.m. at 1900 N. Beauregard St. The topics are What Do I Expect from My Child? (February 2); What To Do When My Child Says “No”? (February 9); How Do I Communicate With My Child? (February 16), and How To Manage the Stress of Parenting (February 23). Call 571.213.7963 to register.

### **Accelerating Assets in Alexandria (February 8)**

Join in fun activities and discussions regarding how to use Developmental Asset data to enhance collaboration and identify areas of opportunity. The [event](#) is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Lee Center (1108 Jefferson Street); lunch will be provided.

### **The Second Thursday Art Night (February 9)**

Enjoy a special after-hours event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center from 6 – 9 p.m. Browse open studios and galleries, interact with artists, and enjoy special programming

### **Skilled Immigrant Professional Development Workshop (February 16)**

The Alexandria Workforce Development Center will host a Skilled Immigrant Professional Development Workshop at the Mark Center Pavilion (5780 Merton Court) from 9 a.m. to Noon. The workshop will feature testimonials on how to build/rebuild a career in the U.S. as well as tips on how to market skills and experiences gained abroad to U.S. employers. [Preregister](#) for the workshop by February 15.

### **Children’s Mental Health Network Annual Research & Policy Conference (March 5 – 8)**

The [preliminary agenda](#) is available for the conference in Tampa, Florida.

### **Global Youth Justice Training (June 13 – 15)**

Topics at [institute](#) in Cape Cod, MA include training sessions on recruiting/training volunteers, increasing youth referrals, community partnerships, wrap-around services, and substance abuse screening and treatment. A half-day grant writing and resource session will also be offered.

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## CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM

### Tomorrow's Black Men Scholarship

The Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship was established to reward qualifying African-American male high school students who have shown leadership academically as well as in the community. [Applications](#) are due March 15.

### Medical Library Association Scholarship for Minority Students

A [scholarship](#) of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to a minority student who is entering a graduate program at an American Library Association-accredited library school or has yet to finish at least half of the program's requirements in the year following the granting of the scholarship. African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, or Pacific Islander American individuals who wish to study health sciences librarianship are eligible to apply by December 1.

### Computer & Video Game Arts Scholarships

The Entertainment Software Association Foundation is seeking applications for a [scholarship program](#) that assist women and minority students who are pursuing degrees leading to a career in Computer & Video Game Arts. Up to thirty scholarships of \$3,000 each will be awarded – fifteen to graduating high school seniors and fifteen to current college students. Applicants must be a female or minority student pursuing a degree leading to a career in computer and video game arts. The foundation will accept applications between February 1 and April 1.

### America Saves Essay Contest

The theme of the contest sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union is “Small Savings can lead to Big Impacts”. Submitted essays should answer the question: “How have you and your family started with a small savings plan, but eventually achieved a big goal?”. The contest is open to 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who attend school in Alexandria and Arlington. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place students and \$5/\$10 gift cards will be distributed to other contestants who attend the awards ceremony. Essays must be 250-500 words, typed and double space. Please include name, email, phone number, grade, and high school with the submission. Completed essays must be submitted as an email attachment to [Mkco214@vt.edu](mailto:Mkco214@vt.edu) by February 10.

### Call For Artists to Participate in Earth Day Art Work Competition

Young artists are being sought to help publicize the Earth Day celebration hosted by the City of Alexandria on April 29. All ACPS students are invited to submit original, wordless [artwork](#) based on their interpretation of the theme “Clean water starts with YOU!” The selected artwork will be printed on all Earth Day T-shirts, posters, fliers, advertising to donors and will be featured on the [City of Alexandria Earth Day](#) website. Entries must be submitted by Noon on January 31. Contact [Lee Ann Tardieu](#) for additional information.

### Operation Prevention Video Challenge

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), DEA Educational Foundation, and Discovery Education are launching a [challenge](#) that gives students the power to send a message to their peers about the dangers of opioid misuse. Teens across the country are invited to create a unique 30-60 second public service announcement aimed at reaching other teens about opioid misuse. The first place winner will receive \$10,000. Teens can register and submit their entries through March 28.

### Princess Grace Film Awards

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA is accepting applications for an annual program that awards scholarships in support of student thesis film projects at the undergraduate and graduate level. The categories of eligible films include narrative/documentary/experimental/animation/hybrid work as well as media installations, transmedia, webisodes, interactive Web work, and other projects where the moving image is the primary component. Nominees must be a full-time or matriculated student who has not yet completed his or her thesis film. [Applications](#) are due June 1.

### Photography, Multimedia Student Competition

The Alexia Foundation is inviting submissions from students of still photography and multimedia projects that explore cultural understanding in or near their local community. Undergraduate prizes include a First-Place Award comprising full tuition for a semester (fall) of study at Syracuse University's London Program, a \$1,000 grant to help cover costs associated with production of the proposed body of work, and \$500 for the student's academic department. Graduate prizes include a First-Place Award comprising tuition for three SU London Program classes and program fees up to a maximum of \$15,000, a \$1,000 grant to help produce the proposed still photography or

multimedia project, and \$500 for the student's academic department. All applicants are expected to pay a \$50 entry fee at the time of application. [Applications](#) are due February 14.

### **Scholarships for Women in Deep Foundations Industry**

The Deep Foundations Institute Educational Trust is accepting applications from women in the deep foundations industry for a professional development opportunity related to the design and construction of deep foundations. Two grants of up to \$1,750 each will be awarded. Funds must be used to cover expenses and fees associated with attending the annual conference in New Orleans (October 24-27). Applicants must be a female currently employed within the deep foundations industry or academia. [Applications](#) are due May 15.

### **Pearsall Grant Program**

The American Psychological Association will award one \$10,000 [grant](#) to a graduate student or early career psychologist whose work seeks to increase the public's understanding of the psychological pain and stigma experienced by adults living with visible physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy. Applicants must be a full-time graduate student in good standing at an accredited university. Applications must be received by October 1.

### **Pilot Research Award for Learning Disabilities**

The program of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry provides for a \$15,000 award for child and adolescent psychiatry residents and junior faculty who have an interest in beginning a career in child and adolescent psychiatry research. [Applications](#) are due March 30.

### **Ally in Prevention Awards**

SCAN's Ally in Prevention Awards recognize individuals in Northern Virginia who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. One individual will be recognized from Alexandria, Arlington, Loudoun, Fairfax/Falls Church and Prince William. The deadline for [nominations](#) is February 10.

### **Salute to Women Awards**

The Alexandria Commission for Women seeks nominations of women, men and youth who have made a significant impact on women and girls in Alexandria. Winners will be recognized for their achievements in several areas, including health and safety, legislative advocacy, leadership, artistic endeavors, business and career development, and providing opportunities for youth at a ceremony on March 20 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All nominations must be submitted by February 3. Nomination forms can be completed [online](#).

### **Rye Humanitarian Award**

The annual award of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) honors a non-AACAP member who has made significant contributions to the field of children's mental health. Contributions may include but are not limited to philanthropy, research, entrepreneurship, advocacy, increasing awareness, acts of bravery, and kindness. Nominees must not be an AACAP member, but only AACAP members may submit a nomination. Nominees from the Washington, D.C., area are encouraged. [Nominations](#) are due March 10.

### **Global Learning Fellowships**

The [program](#) of the National Education Association affords educators the opportunity to acquire the skills needed to integrate global competence into their daily classroom instruction, advance pedagogy in their school/district, prepare students to thrive in the flattened global age, and thus contribute to the closing of the global achievement gap. Through online courses and webinars, workshops, and a nine-day field study, the program offers educators twelve months of professional development opportunities as they cultivate global competence skills and build global lesson plans that are shared with educators around the world. Previous field study destinations have included China, Brazil, and Peru. The anticipated field study destination for the 2018 Global Learning Fellowship is South Africa. Applications are due February 28.

### **Professional Photography Projects**

A professional photographer or visual journalist will receive a \$20,000 grant from the Alexia Foundation to produce a substantial body of work that shares/promotes the goal of fostering world peace and cultural understanding. Proposals for still photography as well as multimedia projects are welcomed from photographers and visual journalists from any country. There is a \$50 application fee. The deadline for [submissions](#) is January 31.

### **Theater Grants Program**

The Princess Grace Foundation-USA is accepting nominations for an annual program that offers financial scholarships and apprenticeships/fellowships. Scholarships will be awarded for the last year of professional training at a nonprofit school located in the United States. Financial compensation will be provided to an individual artist nominated by a professional nonprofit theater company for an apprenticeship/fellowship. [Nominations](#) are due March 31.

### **Artists Residency Program**

The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is awarding five to ten residencies of three to twelve months to craft artists working in wood, glass, metal, fiber, clay, or mixed media. Each artist will receive a \$600 monthly stipend. The residency also provides 24-hour access to artist studios equipped with sinks, telephones, and wireless Internet access. [Applications](#) are due March 1.

### **Fall Nonfiction Residency Program**

The Carey Institute for Global Good is accepting applications for the fall session of a program that advances deeply reported nonfiction about the most pressing issues of the day. Logan Nonfiction [fellows](#) are provided all the necessary tools to complete their work, including lodging, work space, technological support and meals. The fall session runs from October to December, and applicants can request residency of four to six weeks or ten to twelve weeks. The program is open to nonfiction writers, photographers, and documentarians. The deadline is May 31.

### **Rome Prize**

A program of the American Academy in Rome, the Rome Prize is awarded annually to thirty artists and scholars in the early or middle stages of their careers who exemplify the highest standard of excellence in arts and humanities scholarship. Fellows are chosen from the disciplines of architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, musical composition, visual arts, ancient studies, medieval studies, Renaissance and Early Modern studies, and Modern Italian studies. Each prize winner is provided with a stipend, meals, a bedroom with private bath, and a study or studio. Those with children under the age of 18 live in partially subsidized apartments nearby. [Applications](#) are due November 1.

### **Scholarships for Music Therapists**

The American Music Therapy Association is accepting applications three cash scholarships of \$500 to support continuing education opportunities for professional music therapists. Awards may be used for post-undergraduate coursework as it relates to the clinical practice of music therapy. [Applications](#) are due June 23.

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

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is seeking applications for its Culture of Health Leaders program, which seeks to develop a cadre of leaders from diverse sectors (e.g., public policy, business, technology, community development and planning, education, transportation, public health, health care) to work with organizations, communities, health systems, and policy makers to build a Culture of Health. The program will select up to fifty leaders for the 2017 cohort; each leader will be awarded up to \$20,000 per year for three years. [Applications](#) are due February 15.

### **Clinical Scholars Program**

The three-year [leadership program](#) of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides clinically active healthcare providers and practitioners with the opportunity to build and develop the unique skills they need to lead communities and organizations toward a Culture of Health. The total award to the grantee organization will be up to \$105,000 per team member for the three-year program. Teams may be comprised of two to five individuals. The deadline for applications is March 8.

### **Health Policy Research Scholars**

The goal of the [annual program](#) of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to create a large cadre of diverse doctoral students from a wide variety fields/disciplines (e.g., urban planning, political science, economics, ethnography, education, social work, sociology) who are training to be researchers. The program will enroll up to fifty scholars from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in learning to translate their research into health policy. Scholars in this program will complete the program concurrently with their doctoral program. Each scholar will receive an annual stipend of \$30,000 for up to four years. An information [webinar](#) will be held on February 16 at Noon. The application deadline is March 29.

### **Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Program**

The goal of the annual program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is to produce diverse interdisciplinary leaders who are able and willing to conduct and apply high-quality, community-engaged, action-oriented, equity-focused research to drive improvements in the health of communities. The program will recruit and select applicants represented by teams of three people (two mid-career researchers and one community member) as fellows who receive leadership training, the opportunity to learn and apply cutting-edge research methods, expert mentoring, networking opportunities, and fellowship and research funds. Total awards will be up to \$350,000 per grantee organization for the duration of the three-year program. An informational webinar will be held on February 2 from 3 - 4 p.m. The deadline for [applications](#) is March 8.

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## **RESEARCH & RESOURCES**

### **Superintendent Proposes Leanest Operating Budget in Years**

The ACPS [budget](#) factors in additional funding needed to cover a 2.8% projected increase in enrollment in FY 2018. If the proposed budget is fully funded, class sizes will remain the same.

### **School Board Votes in New Chair and Vice Chair**

The Alexandria City School Board has voted to [appoint](#) Ramee Gentry to the position of Chair of the Board and Cindy Anderson to Vice Chair of the Board for the next year. Virginia School Boards are required to have annual leadership elections.

### **Redistricting Review Committee Selects Option to Put Forward to School Board**

At their final meeting, the Redistricting Review committee recommended [Option 9a](#) for proposed boundary changes that will be implemented in fall 2018. Option 9a increases the number of elementary school walkers from 4,718 to 4,992 students, thereby reducing transportation costs. This option most significantly affects students currently at six elementary schools: William Ramsay, George Mason, John Adams, Samuel Tucker, James K. Polk and Patrick Henry. The School Board is scheduled to vote on boundary changes on January 26.

### **School Board Votes on Redistricting Grandfathering Policies**

The School Board voted to approve a series of policies related to [redistricting](#).

### **Parent Connection Resource Guide**

SCAN's [Parent Connection Resource Guide](#) helps service providers find parenting classes, parent support groups, playgroups, other parenting programs and community resources for families in Northern Virginia.

### **Winter Storm Preparation**

At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food is one way to ensure families are properly prepared for local snowstorms. [Local food pantries](#) provide food at no cost to those in need.

### **T.C. Williams Senior Ranked Number One Boxer in U.S.**

T.C. Williams senior Troy Isley recently [won](#) the Boxing National Championship and is ranked number one in U.S. Troy emerged victorious after five back-to-back days of competition at the U.S.A. Boxing National Championship in Kansas City and was crowned the number one National Champion in the 165-pound weight class. As a result, Troy will represent Team U.S.A. in upcoming international competitions.

### **Five Athletes, Including 1971 Football Star and Olympic Coach, Inducted into Hall of Fame**

Alexandria City Public Schools will [induct](#) five outstanding athletes, including a star player in the 1971 State Championship football team memorialized in *Remember the Titans* and a student from the all-black Parker-Gray High School who went on to coach for the Olympics, into the Hall of Fame on February 10. The Hall of Fame will also honor a highly successful track coach and former Athletic Director of T.C. Williams High School.

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## EDUCATION

### Schools

#### **Virginia Governor Seeks to Require All Schools to Offer Full-Time Online Education**

Governor Terry McAuliffe has proposed that all K-12 schools in the state offer the option of a [full-time virtual education](#).

#### **Virginia House Gives 'Tebow bill' Preliminary Approval**

The Virginia House of Delegates gave tentative approval to a [bill](#) that would allow home-schooled students to participate in high school sports.

#### **AFT President: Unqualified 'Ideologue' Betsy DeVos Could Undo ESSA Consensus**

President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, is [unqualified](#) to lead the U.S. Department of Education and threatens to undo the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, said American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten.

#### **Arne Duncan: Part of Federal K-12 Role Is Protecting Kids From 'Bad Things'**

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said a big part of the [federal role](#) in education is protecting kids from "bad things, and unfortunately we have to do a lot of that."

#### **Nation's Schools Get Middling Grade on Quality Counts Report Card**

The status of the nation's schools remains stable, though still earning a [grade of C](#) from *Quality Counts 2017*. The C corresponds to a score of 74.2, which is nearly identical to the 74.4 the nation posted in 2016 when it also received a C. The overall grade for Virginia was C+.

#### **NAACP Stops in Memphis on National Tour to Talk Charter Schools**

From New York City to Los Angeles, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is holding [meetings](#) to discuss the impact of charter schools on school districts.

#### **Louisiana Court: State-Approved Charter Schools Unconstitutionally Funded**

A Louisiana state appeals court has ruled the way several charter schools in the state are funded is [unconstitutional](#). At issue is funding for schools that were granted charters by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, rather than a local district or parish, but are funded with money allocated to local school systems.

#### **Following Court Ruling, Connecticut Governor Proposes to Fix K-12 Formula**

A Connecticut Superior Court judge said in a sharply worded ruling in September that the state's funding formula leaves its poor, black, and Latino children locked in underfunded schools and placed in front of unqualified teachers. The state has appealed and the state's Supreme Court is expected to hear the case later this year. But in his address, Governor Dannel Malloy conceded that the state's funding formula is unfair and said he will propose to [more equitably distribute money](#) between the state's wealthy and poor districts.

#### **How Indiana's School Voucher Program Soared, And What It Says About Education in the Trump Era**

Indiana lawmakers originally promoted the state's [school voucher program](#) as a way to make good on America's promise of equal opportunity, offering children from poor and lower-middle-class families an escape from public schools that failed to meet their needs. But five years after the program was established, more than half of the state's voucher recipients have never attended Indiana public schools, meaning taxpayers are now covering private and religious school tuition for children whose parents had previously footed that bill. Many vouchers also are going to wealthier families, those earning up to \$90,000 for a household of four.

#### **Ransomware Attacks Force School Districts to Shore Up—or Pay Up**

A self-replicating computer virus ate its way through most of a Montana school district's servers—including the student-information system—and encrypted huge amounts of data. The perpetrators also left a disconcerting message for the IT director demanding a ransom in exchange for a decryption key that would immediately unlock the data. The alternative to paying up would be to rebuild the district's data systems from backups or, in a worst-case scenario, from scratch. Experts have seen a spike in "[ransomware](#)" attacks across all sectors of the economy in recent years. Criminals have hit all types of organizations, public and private, including K-12 districts.

### **New Principal Standards Catch On**

Northwest Missouri State's [new curriculum](#) for school leaders teaches would-be principals how to be instructional leaders, with a particular focus on developing their expertise in curriculum. In addition to teaching future principals how to ensure equity for diverse student populations, and the important role of building strong relationships with parents and the community, the program has also added on-the-job experiences into each module in the syllabus to ensure that principal-candidates can demonstrate the concepts they are learning and apply them in a school environment. The last two courses in the program are designed for on-the-job training and learning.

### **School Districts' Hiring Practices Need an Upgrade, Report Says**

A [report](#) from the Center for American Progress looked at two hundred public school districts nationwide and found the field's approach to hiring teachers lags way behind the modern practices of other professions. The findings are especially relevant in light of the teacher shortages that many school districts are now suffering.

### **Discipline**

#### **Black Students More Likely to Be Arrested at School**

An [analysis](#) of federal data by Education Week Research Center found in 43 states and the District of Columbia, black students are arrested at school at disproportionately high levels. One reason may be that black students are more likely than students in any other racial or ethnic group to attend schools with police, according to the analysis of 2013-14 civil rights data, the most recent collected by the U.S. Department of Education. In most of the jurisdictions with disproportionate arrests of black students, the disparities are significant. In 28 states, the share of arrested students who are black is at least 10 percentage points higher than their share of enrollment in schools with at least one arrest. In 10 of those states, that gap is at least 20 percentage points. No other student racial or ethnic groups face such disparities in as many states. In Virginia, black students make up 39% of the enrollment in public schools with at least one arrest but 75% of school-based arrests. Only New York had a higher percentage of [schools with police](#) than Virginia.

#### **She Recorded Her Classmate's Arrest, Then Got Arrested, Too**

Niya Kenny had just intended to document what she feared could be a bad situation. But when she encouraged her classmates at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, S.C., to join her in recording a student's violent arrest by a school police officer in 2015, she never suspected the videos would spread across the internet and ignite fierce debate about school discipline and law enforcement. Officer Ben Fields, the school-based sheriff's deputy who dragged her classmate from her desk after the girl refused to give up a cellphone, later arrested Kenny on the same charge—disturbing a school. The charge stemmed from Kenny's recording of the incident and her loud protests of the officer's behavior. She has joined other South Carolina students in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the state's laws against "[disturbing schools](#)" and disorderly conduct.

#### **Impact of School Police: Many Unanswered Questions**

Academics and activists alike hope the results of ongoing federally funded research on school police, school climate, and student safety will help inform both policy changes and the broader public debate over the role of law enforcement in schools. A lack of rigorous research and statistical data on [school police](#) has made it difficult to track their effectiveness and to determine what factors affect their contributions to school climate, researchers say.

#### **School Climate Improvement Resource Package**

Students are more likely to engage with curriculum and have positive behavior when they are in schools with a positive climate. Child Trends compiled a host of [resources](#) to help improve school climate, including action guides for administration, students, and more, and a resource to help interpret school climate data.

#### **Keeping Students Safe and Supported: Research-Based Policy Recommendations for Executive and Legislative Officials in 2017**

There are evidence-based approaches to [enhancing student safety](#), including creating a safe school climate and employing preventive approaches such as threat assessment. There are also opportunities to help schools implement and evaluate readiness initiatives (e.g., emergency management plans and active shooter drills).

#### **Black Parents Take Their Kids to School On How to Deal With Police**

Organized by the Arundel Bay Area Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc., "[Race & the Law](#)" was one of more than 225 similar events held around the country last year and more than 50 such events scheduled across the nation

in the first three months of 2017. They are, in essence, mini boot camps for children about how to be black in 21st-century America.

### **Cops and Black Kids: Does Police Mentoring Defuse the Tension?**

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, an advocacy and mentoring resource organization, is devoting a whole plenary session to the topic of [pairing youth with police mentors](#) at its annual conference in February. When mentoring is done right — with training, cultural competence and relationship support — it is “powerful for bridging perceived or real divides and ultimately building trust and community,” wrote MENTOR’s CEO David Shapiro. But some critics question the use of mentoring to address a problem they say is systemic.

### **Diversity**

#### **Research Shows Young Girls are Less Likely to Think of Women as ‘Really, Really Smart’**

According to the new [research](#) published by *Science*, girls as young as 6 years old are less likely than boys to label people of their own gender as “really, really smart”. The findings also show that 6 year-old girls tend more than boys to avoid games said to be for children who are “really, really smart”.

#### **Holocaust Group Will Release Classroom Resources for Trump’s First 100 Days**

The education department at the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation (a nonprofit that maintains eyewitness records of the Holocaust) will release a [new activity, resource, or professional development opportunity](#) for middle school and high school teachers and their students each day until April 20. Each of the project's 14 weeks will center on a theme: hate, racism, civil and human rights, community, respect, intolerance, women's rights, immigrants and refugees, cross-cultural understanding, courage, violence and violent extremism, indifference through media, resilience, and civic responsibility.

#### **Schools Warn of Increased Student Fears Due to Immigration Arrests, Trump Election**

The schools chief in Prince George’s County recently warned educators that more students might be absent from class or struggle with increased fear amid what some see as stepped-up federal enforcement actions against immigrants. Kevin Maxwell [wrote](#) that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have been increasingly aggressive in their arrests of those facing deportation in Maryland based on information from the public defender’s office

#### **Fear of Deportation, Hate Crimes Reportedly Threaten Mental Health of Young Californians**

Around the country, children and adolescents who are undocumented immigrants or who have undocumented family members are experiencing a [surge](#) in stress, depression and anxiety. The same is true for young people belonging to other groups targeted by threats or hate crimes, including Muslim and transgender youth. Reports of these mental health concerns remain mostly anecdotal.

#### **Trump’s Anti-Immigration Rhetoric Fuels Data Concerns**

Some education officials are wrestling with the possibility that student data might be used in new ways that could have harsh consequences for some students and families. The boards of California’s Los Angeles Unified and Santa Cruz city schools passed resolutions vowing to [resist](#) any requests for student information from federal immigration officials.

#### **Majority of English-Learner Students Are Born in the United States, Analysis Finds**

The majority of English-language learners in U.S. K-12 schools were born in the United States, according to an analysis from the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute. The analysis of U.S. Census data found that 82% of prekindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade English-learners and 65% of 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade English-learners are U.S.-born.

#### **With More Exposure to Science, English-Learners’ Achievement Soared**

Integrating innovative science courses and English-language instruction can dramatically [boost](#) student achievement and test scores in the sciences along with reading, and writing, according to a study from the Oakland, Calif.-based Education Trust West. The report explored how six districts, ranging from rural to urban and all with sizable English-learner populations, taught science to the students.

#### **Schools Grappling With Fee Hikes for AP Exams**

Low-income students across the country are facing a [steep hike](#) in the cost of taking Advanced Placement exams this year, and teachers are worried that the change could lead many promising students to bail out of the tests. News of

the price hike—from \$5 or \$15 per test to \$53—is just beginning to reach students and counselors as they begin to talk about sign-ups for this spring's AP tests.

### **Tribal Students Sue Feds Over 'Shock the Conscience' Schooling Conditions**

Nine children from an Arizona tribe are [suing](#) the federal government, alleging children enrolled in Bureau of Indian Education schools across the country have been routinely denied the right to a basic education. Ranging in age from six to 15, the children are members of the Havasupai tribe based in and around the Grand Canyon's South Rim. According to the lawsuit, Havasupai Elementary, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, shuts down for weeks at a time because there are not enough teachers. The school also lacks textbooks, a functioning library, and extracurricular activities, and only teaches students math and reading when it is open. "As a result of these shock-the-conscience deprivations, Havasupai children lack even a fighting chance at achieving academic success and reaching their full potential," said Alexis DeLaCruz, an attorney with the Native American Disability Law Center.

### **Disparity in Maryland's Public Higher Education Goes on Trial**

Inequality in Maryland's higher education system will take center stage in a trial to resolve a decade-old [lawsuit](#) over the lack of investment in the state's historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). A coalition of alumni from Maryland's four historically black institutions have been locked in litigation with the state since 2006, alleging Maryland has underfunded its HBCUs and allowed other state schools to duplicate their programs. Federal Judge Catherine C. Blake recommended mediation in 2013 to redress what she called a "shameful history of de jure segregation" at Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Yet the coalition and the state could not reach an agreement.

### **19 Schools Are Named for the Obamas. Most of Them Are Segregated**

More than 90% of students who attend the [namesake schools](#) are black and Latino; fewer than 4% are white.

### **New Guidance Outlines Civil Rights Protections for Students with Disabilities**

During the Obama administration, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights took an activist stance on civil rights enforcement, especially when it comes to students with disabilities. The Education Department is continuing its efforts through the [release](#) of three new guidance documents for schools. The first document is a [parent and educator resource guide on Section 504](#). Section 504 refers to a portion of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination by recipients of federal money. The second guidance package explains how the use of [restraint and seclusion may be a violation of a student's rights under Section 504](#). The third guidance package notes that [charter school students are afforded the same protections under IDEA and Section 504](#) as their peers who are enrolled in traditional public schools

### **Study: Students With ADHD Not Helped by Common Test Accommodations**

Offering students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder extended testing time or frequent breaks does not appear to help them perform better on a standardized test than other students with ADHD who do not get such accommodations, says a [study](#) published in *Learning Disabilities*, a multidisciplinary journal. Researchers examined the accommodations and test results of 96 Maryland students with ADHD in grades 3-8. In addition to examining the impact of offering extended test time and frequent breaks, the researchers also looked at the effects of three other commonly offered accommodations: reducing distraction in the testing area, allowing students to have portions of the test read aloud, and allowing use of a calculator. None of the accommodations were associated with students receiving better scores in reading or math on their Maryland School Assessments compared to similar peers.

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## **YOUTH WELL-BEING**

### **Early Care & Education**

#### **Preschool Linked to Success on Global Math Test**

The latest [results](#) of the Program for International Student Assessment showed stronger math results for students who had participated in at least a few years of education between ages 3 and 5 before the start of formal primary school. In most countries, students who had attended two to three years of preschool performed 50 scale points better in math as 15-year-olds on the 2015 PISA than those who had attended less than a year. The effect was stronger in countries with multiyear preschool systems and smaller average teacher-student ratios in the earliest grades.

### **More Than 600 Head Start Programs to Lengthen Hours Under New Funding**

The Office of Head Start [announced](#) it will distribute \$290 million to 665 Head Start and Early Start programs around the country that can be used to expand full school day and year offerings. A major revision of Head Start standards announced in 2016 will require nearly all programs to offer a full-day and full-year program by 2021.

### **Philadelphia Launches Pre-K Program Funded by Soda Tax**

Thousands of Philadelphia toddlers have started 2017 in [a citywide pre-kindergarten program](#) as a new sugary beverage tax created to fund it hit store shelves. The city launched the pre-K program with more than 2,000 children enrolled at 90 locations. The 3 and 4-year-olds do not have to come from families of certain income levels, but the free program targets high-need neighborhoods.

### **The Charter Model Goes to Preschool**

Charter schools in 43 states now serve more than 2.6 million students—roughly 6% of all students attending public schools. More than two-thirds of four-year-olds attend some form of [public or privately funded preschool](#), with 1.4 million of them enrolled in state-funded pre-K programs.

### **At ‘Nature Preschools, Classes Are Outdoors**

While only a dozen “[nature preschools](#)” operated in the United States five years ago, there are close to 250 today.

### **Child Care: Research-Based Policy Recommendations for Executive and Legislative Officials in 2017**

To increase access to child care, Child Trends recommend [strategies](#) that address both affordability and quality.

### **Interagency Policy Statement on Early Childhood Homelessness**

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Education released an [interagency policy statement](#) on early childhood homelessness. As shown in an [infographic](#), infancy is the age in the United States at which individuals are most likely to enter shelter or transitional housing, followed by ages one to five.

## **Youth Development**

### **Media Literacy: Help Youth Think Critically in Age of ‘Fake News’**

“[Media literacy] is essential in this current environment when you have so many people who absolutely reject credible sources of information and believe anything they see on the internet,” said Erin McNeill, founder and president of the three-year-old nonprofit, Media Literacy Now. But a campaign to require [media literacy](#) in schools throughout the United States has a long way to go. Only Minnesota has added the subject to state Common Core standards. The State of Washington mandated that state education officials develop a plan to teach media literacy in all schools. However, most kids don’t get media education in school, McNeill said. “There’s a great role for out-of-school (OST) time to play here,” she said.

### **California Considers Developing Standards to Teach Students How to Spot ‘Fake News’**

Two bills introduced by Democratic lawmakers call for California to develop curriculum standards that teach students how to evaluate online news. One bill would require curriculum standards that include "civic online reasoning" so students can learn to tell the difference between news that informs and news that misleads. A separate bill asks the state education board to come up with a "media literacy" curriculum framework.

### **For Ed-Tech Company Newsela, ‘Fake News’ a Big Challenge - and Opportunity**

With 12 million registered users and counting, ed-tech startup [Newsela](#) is a major vehicle for connecting K-12 students to the news. Classrooms using the platform receive a curated selection of articles each day from outlets like the *Washington Post* and *The Guardian*, edited to multiple reading levels. The big goal is to develop media-literate critical thinkers, who can evaluate sources and gauge the reliability of information.

### **Teens Push to Lower the Voting Age**

A measure that would allow 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in San Francisco was defeated. But in neighboring Berkeley 16 and 17 year-olds won the [right to vote](#) for local school board candidates.

## **Strategies, Tools, and Tips for Supportive and Meaningful Youth Engagement in Federal Government-Sponsored Meetings and Events**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a new [youth engagement guidance](#) to provide federal staff and contractors with strategies, tools, and tips for appropriately engaging youth in government-sponsored meetings and events. The guidance includes resources for a youth services approach, youth development, youth leadership, civic engagement, and youth organizing.

## **Preventing Bullying and Cyberbullying: Research-Based Policy Recommendations for Executive and Legislative Officials in 2017**

Data indicate that cyberbullying often occurs alongside more traditional forms of bullying, and research suggests that cyberbullying is most effectively addressed within a more [comprehensive approach](#) to bullying prevention.

## **Health**

### **Suicide in Elementary School-Aged Children and Early Adolescents**

Suicide in elementary school-aged children has not been well studied despite a recent increase in the suicide rate among black children in the United States. The objectives of a [study](#) published in *Pediatrics* were to describe characteristics and precipitating circumstances of suicide in elementary school-aged children relative to early adolescent decedents, and identify potential within-group racial differences.

### **Racial Injustice and Trauma: African Americans in the U.S.**

A [position statement](#) of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) calls for collectively integrating specific activities within its work that address racial injustice and trauma.

### **Is It ADHD or Child Traumatic Stress?**

A [guide](#) published by the Children's Mental Health Network provides definitions of child traumatic stress and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and explains how symptoms can overlap and summarizes some of the differences.

### **Amid Opioid Crisis, Schools Help Students Heal (Video)**

Deaths in the United States from opioids have nearly quadrupled in the last 15 years — the latest figures show 91 Americans dying from opioid overdoses every day. In hard-hit states like West Virginia, parents' addiction to pain pills, fentanyl, or heroin has torn many families apart. With 5,000 children now in foster care (a 24% increase over the past five years), the state's schools are grappling with ways to support children affected by drug abuse. In a [report](#) for the PBS *NewsHour*, *Education Week* Correspondent Lisa Stark traveled to rural Jackson County, West Virginia to see how one school district is responding.

### **DEA Issues Carfentanil Warning to Police and Public**

DEA has issued a [public warning](#) to the public and law enforcement nationwide about the health and safety risks of carfentanil, a synthetic opioid that is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl, which itself is 50 times more potent than heroin. DEA, local law enforcement, and first responders have recently seen the presence of carfentanil, which has been linked to a significant number of overdose deaths in various parts of the country. Improper handling of carfentanil, as well as fentanyl and other fentanyl-related compounds has deadly consequences.

### **Free Online Training on Pathways to Adulthood**

Frontline staff need a broad set of skills to address the unique needs of emerging adults who may be living with illnesses such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. The Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures at Portland State University developed an [educational initiative](#) to address this need. By registering their email address and completing a pre- and post-training survey, staff can access ten hour-long training modules designed for professionals who work with youth, ages 14 to 29, who are living with mental illness. Incorporating concepts from positive youth development, the curriculum helps youth workers strengthen their skills within a supportive framework.

### **Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has gathered the best practices and resources to help officers respond appropriately and safely to people with mental illness. A [toolkit](#) will serve as the comprehensive, go-to source for information related to these collaboration efforts.

### **Robotic ‘Infant Simulators’ Actually Promote Teen Pregnancy, Study Says**

Robotic "[infant simulators](#)" marketed to schools as a way to help prevent teen pregnancy actually have the opposite effect, according to a study published in the British health journal *The Lancet*. Australian researchers randomly assigned nearly 3,000 teenage girls to one of two groups: some received an automated doll (programmed to cry, sleep, eat, and spoil its diapers on a realistic schedule, and equipped with sensors to track whether students are properly caring for it), while others received just standard health education. Then the researchers tracked the girls until they turned 20, using records from hospitals and abortion clinics. Their findings: 8% of the girls who received an infant simulator ended up giving birth, compared to just 4% of those who received standard health education. And 9% of the girls who received an infant simulator had an abortion, compared to 6% who received standard health education. "The infant simulator-based VIP program did not achieve its aim of reducing teenage pregnancy," the researchers concluded.

### **What Works for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions**

A [review](#) of teen pregnancy programs by Child Trends found more than 50 programs with established evidence of their effectiveness. This means communities can find effective programs consistent with their values and responsive to teens' needs. Among the types of programs identified as having evidence of effectiveness were abstinence education, clinic-based family planning, and youth development programs

### **Tailoring Family-Based HIV Prevention Interventions for African American and Latino Homeless Youth**

Most family-based HIV prevention interventions are geared toward newly homeless, or runaway, youth. However, youth who have been homeless for a longer period are at higher risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections than runaway youth or homeless youth accompanied by family. Moreover, no family-based interventions have been tailored for African American and Latino unaccompanied youth who have experienced homelessness for an extended time. A [study](#) seeks to inform culturally-tailored interventions to fill these gaps.

### **The Reproductive Health of Young Adults: Research-Based Policy Recommendations for Executive and Legislative Officials in 2017**

Supporting the [reproductive health](#) of young men and women can reduce the individual and societal costs of unplanned pregnancy and sexual transmitted infections.

### **Child Welfare Fact Sheets for FFY 2014**

Child Trends developed national and state-level [fact sheets](#) about child welfare, with support from Casey Family Programs, that feature an array of statistics on maltreatment, foster care, adoption, and relative caregiving in each state, from fall 2013 to fall 2014.

### **Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015**

Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided estimates of annual expenditures on children from birth through age 17. A [technical report](#) presents the 2015 estimates for married-couple and single-parent families. Results are shown in tables 1-7 at the end of the report. Expenditures are provided by age of children, household income level, major budgetary component (housing, food, etc.), and region (for married-couple families).

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## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

### **Wisconsin Juvenile Facilities Sued by Juvenile Law Center, State ACLU Over Solitary Confinement**

The crux of the [lawsuit](#) focuses on what lawyers called the state's excessive use of solitary confinement to punish children for even minor offenses. The practice runs counter to nationwide trends against isolating youth, and ignores recommendations from the American Medical Association and medical studies showing the corrosive and dangerous effects it has on teenagers.

### **Student Reports of Bullying: Results From the 2015 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey**

Created as a supplement to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey, the [School Crime Supplement](#) (SCS) collects basic descriptive data related to bullying and cyberbullying by selected incident, student, and school or location characteristics. The report also shows the relationship between bullying victimization and

other crime-related variables, such as the presence of gangs, guns, and drugs/alcohol at school and school security measures.

### **Preventing Gang Violence by Offering a Community**

The Latin American Youth Center is a nonprofit multicultural organization for youth and families in the District of Columbia that offers safe housing, educational, vocational and social service programs. The [center](#) supports a diverse population of youth with social, educational and career needs.

### **Beyond Bars: Keeping Young People Safe at Home and Out of Youth Prisons**

A [report](#) by The National Coalition for Youth advocates for transforming the approach to young people in conflict with the law by growing community capacity and resources. This means creating and supporting programs and services designed to meet the needs of young people in the contexts of their homes and families.

### **Bridging the Research-to-Practice Gap in Juvenile Justice**

The juvenile justice community has been shifting its thinking from being tough on crime to being smart on crime. There is, however, [a disconnect](#) between research on adolescent development and practice. Incarceration of youth has been shown to be ineffective at reducing repeat offences and can stunt teenagers' healthy development, yet their incarceration remains widespread.

### **The Crime Victims Fund: A Primer for Youth Justice Advocates**

A [fact sheet](#) by the National Juvenile Justice Network for youth justice advocates explains how the federal Crime Victims Fund operates. The primer highlights new guidelines from the [Office for Victims of Crime](#) that expand allowable uses for these funds.

### **Juvenile Prosecution Standards and Policy Guidelines Updated**

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and the National Juvenile Justice Prosecution Center (NJJPC) at Georgetown University have updated NDAA's [National Juvenile Prosecution Standards](#) and corresponding [Juvenile Prosecution Policy Positions and Guidelines](#). Both the updated standards and policy positions provide additional guidance for front-line juvenile prosecutors and supervisors to promote public safety, address the needs of victims, hold youth accountable for their actions, and enhance the ability of youth to be productive members of their communities.

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## **WEBINARS**

### **Understanding the Complexities of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (January 30, 2 – 3:30 p.m.)**

Presenters will discuss the circumstances that put individuals at risk for victimization and what helps them survive despite abuse and exploitation. The [webinar](#) will also address the impacts on victims and survivors and offer recommendations for supporting those affected.

### **Creating Safe and Accepting Academic Environments for Muslim and Sikh Youth (February 1, 3 – 4:30 p.m.)**

Goals of the [webinar](#) are to enhance cultural competency and understanding of Muslim and Sikh youth and explore awareness issues that impact the community, such as anti-Muslim hate and xenophobia. The webinar will provide strategies for addressing bias and identity-based bullying; understanding the impact of bullying on students' mental, emotional, and social well-being; and mitigating the negative effects of bullying.

### **Getting Intentional about Social and Emotional Learning: Promise, Progress and Priorities (February 9, 10 – 11:30 a.m.)**

The [webinar](#) will offer reflections on the opportunities and challenges of intentionally improving social and emotional learning both within and beyond the classroom. Also showcased will be several current Minnesota efforts to increase capacity and support social and emotional learning.

**Being Real: The Power of Authentic Therapeutic Relationships in Women's Services (February 14, 2 – 3:30 p.m.)**

A free [webinar](#) kicks the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) five-part *Relationships Matter!* series, which explores the role of relationships in the lives of women experiencing mental health and substance use issues.

**Opportunity Nation: Restoring the American Dream Series (February 15, 1 – 3 p.m.)**

Opportunity Nation, along with co-conveners Gap Inc. and the Forum for Youth Investment, will bring together bipartisan leaders and young adults from the Coalition on Capitol Hill for the first in the "Restoring the American Dream" series. This initial [conversation](#) will focus on solutions to reengage one million Opportunity Youth. Opportunity Nation has launched a series of convenings on Restoring the American Dream to highlight the six Opportunity Millennium Goals laid out in the Our Opportunity Nation plan, which was signed by more than 130 members of the Opportunity Nation Coalition.

**ESSA and Research Evidence: Opportunities and Challenges for States (March 7, 1 - 2:30 p.m.)**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents states with unprecedented flexibility over, and responsibility for, the use of research evidence in their policies and practices. The [webinar](#) will feature teams from three states presenting their progress to date in establishing systemic use of research evidence, their ultimate goals, successful strategies, and the challenges and roadblocks they have faced.

**Program Planning + Volunteer Systems = Opportunities for Youth (March 8, 12:30 – 2 p.m.)**

Learn about *Growing 4-H Opportunities Together: Volunteers in Vision and Action*, which aligns two processes that are important in delivering meaningful youth development programs – program development and volunteer systems development. The [webinar](#) will share steps and tips to apply to any youth or community organization.

**Moving the Needle for First-Generation College Students: Innovative Strategies to Support Completion (On Demand)**

Nearly one-third of college-going students each year are first-generation. While there have been strides made in the number of first-generation students attending college, research has demonstrated that first-generation students graduate at a lower rate (40%) than their peers whose parents attended college (55%). In recent years, there has been a greater emphasis placed on strategies to support student completion. The [webinar](#) shared innovative strategies to improve the number of first-generation college students earning a postsecondary credential.

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