



Department of Community
and Human Services

YOUTH TOPICS NEWSLETTER

IN THE SEPTEMBER 14 EDITION:

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EVENTS

Drafting Divorce and Separation Agreements (September 15)

The Alexandria Library's Law Library in conjunction with Northern Virginia Mediation Service (NVMS) will host the program at the James M. Duncan Branch (2501 Commonwealth Avenue) beginning at 6 p.m. Contact Theresa Reiss (703.746.4077) for additional information.

ACPS Public Hearing on Budget (September 15)

The hearing at the ACPS Administration Building (1340 Braddock Place) will begin at 7 p.m.

City Strategies to Reach the Remaining Uninsured Briefing (September 20)

Through the Cities Expanding Health Access for Children and Families initiative of the National League of Cities, eight cities implemented city-led health outreach and enrollment campaigns. The [event](#) will draw attention to the role cities can play in reaching the remaining uninsured. The briefing will take place from 3 – 4:15 p.m. at Mathematica Policy Research (1100 First Street NE #1200, Washington, D.C.); it will also be webcast live.

National Recovery Month Celebration (September 21)

The **event** spreads the message that behavioral health is essential to overall health; prevention works; treatment is effective, and people can and do recover. The celebration is from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Lee Center (1108 Jefferson Street). A Resource Event featuring employment opportunities and trainings will take place from 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Scholarship Workshop (September 24)

The author of Winning Scholarships for College and College Survival & Success Skills 101 will present a free workshop from 9 – 11 a.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church (301 South Alfred Street). Students in grades 9 -12 as well as their parents are encouraged to attend. Please [register](#) by September 16.

Innocent Going In and Innocent Coming Out: The Exoneration of Alfred Dewayne Brown (September 29)

Alfred Dewayne Brown spent ten years on Death Row in Texas for a crime he did not commit. His attorney (Brain Stolarz of LeClairRyan's Alexandria office) as well as Mr. Brown himself will speak about his **exoneration** at 6:30 p.m. at Lee Center (1108 Jefferson Street). Contact [Michael Johnson](#) (703.746.5571) for additional information.

Virginia Tech Maker Festival (October 1)

Activities at the **free event** from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Center (7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church) include hands-on experiences, live performances, and interactive demonstrations. Come see a 150 lb. robot and get a Robot Driver's License!

Child Safety 2016: Domestic Violence and Trauma-Informed Issues in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (October 4)

The free training will take place from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church (2932 King Street). Light refreshments and lunch will be provided. To register, call 703.746.4141.

Violence and Trauma in the Trans Community: Practical Skills for Service Providers (October 22)

A 3-hour interactive [workshop](#) will feature trans-specific research that highlights the extent and kinds of violence and trauma experienced by transgender and non-binary people. The training is scheduled for 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at The Commons Theater at Virginia Commonwealth University (907 Floyd Ave in Richmond). The fee is \$25.

IMPACT Early Care & Education Forum (October 26)

ACT for Alexandria will host the [IMPACT Early Care & Education Forum](#) from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Alexandria (2932 King Street).

SCAN's TOAST TO HOPE (November 12)

Toast to Hope features wine and beer tastings, food samplings, and a Silent/Live Auction. The [event](#) from 6:30 – 9:30 will be held in the Art Gallery of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (4444 Arlington Boulevard).

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CAREERS/VOLUNTEERISM

Young Artists Prize

The National YoungArts Foundation provides emerging high school artists with opportunities to work with renowned mentors. Support is offered in ten artistic disciplines: cinematic arts, dance, design, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. Winners will receive [grants](#) of up to \$10,000 each. Citizens or legal residents of the United States or U.S. territories who are between the ages of 15 and 18 on December 1, 2016 (or in grades 10-12) may apply. The deadline to apply is October 14.

Hearst Fellowship for Minority Students

The fellowship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students of color. Selected fellows work as an [intern](#) at the Aspen Institute Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation in Washington, D.C for twelve to fifteen weeks. Fall and spring interns will work part-time (fifteen to twenty hours per week) and summer interns are full-time. Fellows will be compensated on an hourly basis in the fall, spring, and summer. Applications are due November 22.

Transition Age Youth Psychotherapy Experiences Study

TYPE is a [study](#) to understand the experiences of young adults (18-25) who are receiving outpatient therapy. It consists of two interviews that will last around an hour each; compensation is \$25 for each interview. Eligibility is determined by a brief [screening form](#).

From Military to Public Service: Criminal Justice & Veterans

A comprehensive [guidebook](#) for veterans wanting to transition into a criminal justice career covers topics such as resume building from military to civilian positions; online vs. on campus education; job search options, and additional resources for those ready to start their career.

War Veterans Scholarship Program

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is offering [scholarships](#) of \$2,500 to persons on active duty in the uniformed military services and to honorably discharged U.S. military veterans who are currently enrolled and attending classes in an undergraduate program part-time or full-time in an eligible STEM major degree program at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States. Applications are due November 15.

Boren Scholarships and Fellowships

An initiative of the National Security Education Program, the [awards](#) provide up to \$20,000 for undergraduate and graduate students in the United States to study in world regions critical to U.S. interests, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Up to \$30,000 is awarded to U.S. graduate students to add an important international and language component to their graduate education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. The deadline for undergraduate scholarships is February 9, 2017; the deadline for graduate fellowships is January 31, 2017.

Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

The fellowships for doctoral students are designed to identify and develop a new generation of leaders who create practice and policy initiatives that enhance child development and prevent all forms of child maltreatment. [Fellows](#) can be based at any academic institution in the United States and will be selected from a range of academic

disciplines, including but not limited to social work, public health, medicine, public policy, education, economics, psychology, and epidemiology. An annual stipend of \$30,000 for up to two years is provided and up to 15 fellowships will be awarded annually. Applications are due December 1.

Child Psychology Research Fellowships

The annual [program](#) of the American Psychological Foundation prepares young scholars for a career in an area of psychology (e.g., child-clinical, pediatric, school, educational, developmental psychopathology) One-year grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded in support of graduate research projects and scholarships. Applicants must have completed a doctoral candidacy and demonstrated research competence. The deadline is November 15.

Research on Gifted, Talented Youth

The annual [program](#) of the American Psychological Foundation enables and enhances the development of talented children and adolescents. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded in support of research, pilot projects, research-based programs, and projects aimed at improving the quality of education in psychological science and its application in secondary schools for high-ability students. Applicants must be affiliated with a school or education institution and hold a doctoral degree from (or be a graduate student at) an accredited university. Applications are due March 1, 2017.

Access to Care Fellowship

The [fellowship](#) program of the Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation is designed to directly improve access, quality, and outcomes in mental healthcare for children and their families. Up to five fellowship grants are awarded each year to medical institutions that have nominated research projects led by outstanding postdoctoral candidates. The grant awards are for \$30,000 per year for two years. Nominations must be received by November 15.

Lotte Lenya Competition

The international contest bridges the worlds of opera/opera and Broadway musical theater. The 2017 [competition](#) seeks exceptionally talented young singer/actors who excel in a wide range of musical theater styles to compete for prizes of \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000. The competition is open to singer/actors of all nationalities between the ages of 19 and 32. Audition videos are due January 23, 2017.

Artist Fellowships

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is accepting [applications](#) from professional artists as well as undergraduate and graduate artists in the categories of crafts, drawing, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, film/video, new/emerging media, and art history for one-year fellowships of up to \$8,000. The deadline is November 4.

Vermont Studio Center Invites Applications for Fellowships

Situated along the banks of the Gihon River in the historic village of Johnson, Vermont, the center has issued a Call for Applications from visual artists and writers for its fellowship program, which provides up to 25 residencies at any given time from December 2016 to May 2017. [Applications](#) are due October 1.

Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships

The program furthers the development of scholars and artists by helping them engage in research in any field of knowledge or artistic creation in any of the arts under the freest possible conditions. [Fellowships](#) provide grants ranging between six and twelve months. Fellows may spend grant funds in any manner they deem necessary; grant amounts vary. Applications are due September 19.

First Book Grant for Minority Scholars

The Louisville Institute's First Book Grant Program for Minority Scholars assists junior, non-tenured religion scholars of color working to complete a major research project on an issue in North American Christianity. [Applicants](#) must be members of a racial/ethnic minority group (African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and Pacific Islanders); have a doctoral degree (normally the Ph.D. or Th.D.) and be a pre-tenured faculty member in a full-time tenure-track position at an accredited institution of higher education (seminary, college, or university) in North America. The grant amount requested should not exceed \$40,000. The deadline is January 15, 2017.

Lewis and Clark Fund

The American Philosophical Society awards grants of up to \$5,000 to doctoral students for exploratory field studies involving the collection of specimens and data. The [program](#) supports projects from disciplines with a large dependence on field studies, including but not limited to archeology, anthropology, biology, ecology, geography, geology, linguistics, paleontology, and population genetics. Applicants must be a doctoral student, postdoctoral fellow, or master's degree candidate. Applications are due February 1; letters of support are due January 30.

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RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Governor McAuliffe Starts School Year with a Visit to T.C. Williams International Academy

Governor Terry McAuliffe kicked off the start of the school year at T.C. Williams International Academy. He met with students and then spoke at a gathering of teachers, International Academy students, teachers, staff, ACPS partners, city and state officials and community members. The Governor was accompanied by Secretary of Education Dietra Trent.

Redistricting Update: Where Are We in the Process?

GIS mapping work to redraw ACPS [boundaries](#) will begin in September. The proposed new boundaries are expected to be reviewed and approved by the School Board in late January 2017, and will go into effect for the 2017-18 school year.

Review Underway of Potential Site for New West End School

ACPS is considering 1701 N. Beauregard Street as the [possible site](#) of a new elementary school.

Inspiring Greatness

The Untouchables male youth organization of Alexandria and several mentors spent the night at Charles Houston Recreation Center for a **Lock-In**. The chosen theme for the event was "Inspiring Greatness".

ACPS: Closing the Gap in SOLS, Raising All Student Achievement

Alexandria City Public Schools has seen [significant progress](#) in closing the achievement gap among all groups of students in Standards of Learning (SOL) tests while maintaining the huge gains made division-wide last year. Over the past three years, ACPS has shown considerable gains in reading, science and math across all subgroups.

T.C. International Academy Students Share Their Stories in New Book

The [book](#), *Journey of the Titan: T.C.'s International Academy Students Share Their Stories*, shares the stories of 97 amazing young men and women who came to the United States from all over the world with the hope of a better life.

Prompted by Flint Water Crisis, Northern Va. Schools Begin Testing for Lead

Public health officials in Manassas City, Alexandria and Arlington County [took samples](#) from water fountains and school cafeterias. Tests found traces of lead in schools in all three districts, prompting officials in Manassas City and Arlington to remove drinking fountains and replace fixtures. Traces of lead were found in four samples taken in Alexandria, but all were well below the threshold U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends for taking action.

A Second Chance for All

Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu wrote an [article](#) about his speech at the Fair Chance Business Summit hosted by the Alexandria Reentry Council.

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EDUCATION

Discipline

Black Students File Civil Rights Complaint Against Richmond Schools Over Discipline Practices

Attorneys for the Legal Aid Justice Center and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a [civil rights complaint](#) with the U.S. Department of Education on the behalf of two black middle school students of Richmond Public Schools and the Richmond branch of the NAACP, alleging the district's discipline practices are discriminatory.

When Suspensions Weren't Working, This High School Opted for a New Approach

Rather than banishing a misbehaving student from school for a set number of days, [the restorative-justice program](#) at Ballou High School requires that student engage in a mediation process. In the 2014-2015 school year, there were 827 students at Ballou and 742 suspensions, or nearly 90 per 100 students. Last year the school had 929 students, but the number of suspensions plunged to 473, or 51 suspensions per 100 students.

Ed. Depart: Schools Must Provide Behavioral Supports to Students Who Need Them

New [guidance](#) from the U.S. Department of Education advises students with disabilities who are frequently suspended from school may be missing out on the behavior supports to which they are entitled.

Report on the Evaluation of Judicially Led Responses to Eliminate School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System

The OJJDP-funded [report](#) discusses the findings from an evaluation of a judicially led collaborative model to reduce referrals of youth to juvenile courts for school-based behaviors and disciplinary infractions.

Book Review: Ending Zero Tolerance: The Crisis of Absolute School Discipline

Scientific data shows children as young as preschool age receive excessive punishments in school and after-school settings and children of color are more likely to receive expulsions or suspensions when their white counterparts receive referral to medical care or a warning. The types of excessive punishment meted out are the subject matter of the upcoming [release](#) by a professor of law at the University of Southern California.

Corporal Punishment Use Found in Schools in 21 States

According to Education Week Research Center [analyses](#) of the most recent wave of federal civil rights data, more than 109,000 students were paddled, swatted, or otherwise physically punished in U.S. classrooms in 2013-14.

School Paddling Has Deep Roots

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Child Trends annual study finds the percentage of adults who believe that sometimes children need a "good, hard spanking" for discipline [shrunk](#) from 84% for men and 82% for women in 1985 to 76% for men and 65% for women in 2014.

Mississippi Man's Life Upended by 8th Grade Paddling

New research not only questions the effectiveness of corporal punishment like spanking and paddling, but suggests it might make it more [difficult](#) for students to behave well in the future.

South Carolina Moves to Limit Role of School Police After Violent Student Arrest

The South Carolina board of education gave [tentative approval](#) to standards that will define and limit the role of police working in schools, minimizing their role in routine disciplinary matters.

Feds to Schools: Protect Students' Civil Rights by Limiting Role of School Police

The Obama administration released new [resources](#) related to the hiring and training of school resource officers. The resources include guidelines created for local schools and state policymakers that outline best practices for creating agreements between schools and local law enforcement agencies, monitoring the actions of school-based police officers, and training police in areas like child development and de-escalating conflict.

Appeals Court Rules in Separate Strip-Search, Prom Breath-Test Cases

A federal appeals court, in separate rulings involving the [Fourth Amendment](#), has denied immunity for a school administrator in the strip search of a student to look for drugs, but upheld the use of portable blood-alcohol tests for students entering the high school prom.

FBI Program to Stop Violent Extremism in Schools Blasted by Ed. Advocacy Groups

Several education advocacy groups have [harshly criticized](#) a Federal Bureau of Investigation program designed to prevent the spread of "[violent extremism](#)" in American schools, saying it will harm the schools and students it's targeting. The American Federation of Teachers, AASA (the School Superintendents Association), the League of

United Latin American Citizens, and other organizations expressed their concerns to FBI Director James Comey in an August 9 letter.

Academic Achievement

Social Media Use Linked to Low Math, Reading, Science Performance

A [study](#) published in the International Journal of Communication concluded 15 year-olds who play online video games score above average in math, reading, and science while those who engage in social networking tend to score below average.

Student Mobility: How It Affects Learning

A growing body of research suggests [student mobility](#) may be a key indicator to identify vulnerable students and keep them on a path to academic achievement.

Preventing Missed Opportunity: Taking Collective Action to Confront Chronic Absence

A new [analysis](#) of federal data found while the vast majority of the nation's school districts struggle with students who are chronically absent (defined as three or more weeks of school), the problem is especially concentrated in school systems that serve large numbers of poor students. Around half of the 6.5 million students who were chronically absent in the 2013-24 school year are enrolled in just 4% of the nation's school districts. But there were more affluent and suburban districts among the 4% where the problem was most severe. Researchers singled out Montgomery County, Md., and Fairfax County, Va. Both districts ranked among the top 15 in the nation in the total number of chronically absent students, though their percentages of chronically absent students are near the national average.

Half of High School Seniors Lack Access to Computer Science

An [analysis](#) by Change the Equation (a nonprofit group that mobilizes the business community to improve STEM learning) found 22% of 12th graders say they have never taken a computer science course. Only 44% of seniors have access to any computer science classes.

U.S. Wants One Million Students Studying Mandarin by 2020

A multinational effort to boost the number of U.S. students studying abroad in China has expanded its focus to [stateside Mandarin language learning](#). The push led by the US-China Strong Foundation aims to increase the number of American students studying the language to 1 million by 2020, a fivefold increase.

Virtual Museum Trips for Youth are Only a Click Away

Historic artifacts, handwritten letters, and video clips as well as famed paintings and sculptures can be found on Google Arts & Culture. The [website and mobile app](#) take youth all over the world in just a few clicks or taps.

Maryland District's Officials Seek to Drop Gifted and Talented Label

The superintendent of the Baltimore County school district has proposed a category called "[advanced academics](#)", which would include gifted and talented students as well as student taking Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

Need More Students of Color in Science? Appeal to Social Justice

Researchers at California State University, Long Beach, and San Diego State University tracked 249 incoming freshmen science majors in California. They [found](#) that among first-generation college students, those who came in with a strong belief that science could be used to help their communities were more likely to see themselves as scientists over time.

First Food Deserts, Now Book Deserts, Deprive Poor Students, Study Finds

In six urban neighborhoods in Detroit, Los Angeles, and Washington, neighborhoods with concentrated poverty were matched with nearby but more mixed-income neighborhoods. They found many times [fewer books](#) available for sale per 1,000 children in high-poverty neighborhoods compared to more mixed-income neighborhoods. Washington's Anacostia, just a few miles from the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian museums, had the least access to reading materials: five books—Spanish-language dictionaries—in a single CVS drug store.

Poor Parents Understand Importance of Reading, School Readiness, Survey Says

A survey of 420 parents by a local philanthropy found that 70% of parents in lower-income neighborhoods of Oakland, California [read to their young child](#) at least three days a week.

Special Report: Afterschool in Communities of Concentrated Poverty

A [report](#) by Afterschool Alliance based on a survey of more than 30,000 households found only one in four children in poor neighborhoods is enrolled in an after-school program. More than half of children in areas of concentrated poverty who are not enrolled in after-school program would be if programs were available.

New Dimensions of College and Career Readiness: Implications for Low-Income Students

A [report](#) by the GE Foundation concluded five strategies are particularly important in making sure that low-income students are ready to thrive in the workplace: fostering mentorship programs; offering internships, apprenticeships and jobs; turning up the focus on technical science skills; building skills in science, technology, engineering and math, and developing “essential skills” such as higher aspiration, teamwork, grit, perseverance, and adaptability.

Feds Announce Initiative to Boost Low-Income Students’ Access to Higher Ed.

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that it will allow students to [apply for federal aid](#) to enroll in “non-traditional” training programs that partner with colleges and universities.

Could You Survive One Month Living in Poverty? A Simulation for Youth Workers and Educators

The Community Action Poverty Simulation ([CAPS](#)) is an interactive immersion experience that sensitizes community participants to the realities of poverty.

Schools

PBS to ‘Spotlight Education’

Spotlight Education is a [special week](#) of primetime news, public affairs and documentary programming on PBS stations September 12-17 focusing on the brightest ideas and toughest challenges facing today’s students and America’s education system. Short-form and full episodes from the week, interactive content modules and a social hub for Spotlight Education will be available on PBS.org and [Americangraduate.org](#).

Vast Majority of Americans Want Failing Schools Fixed, Not Closed, Poll Finds

The annual Phi Delta Kappa International poll about K-12 found 84% of Americans want officials to [overhaul](#) struggling schools in some fashion while just 14% say they prefer those schools to be shut down.

Public Woefully Misunderstands Education Spending, Study Finds

The U.S. public “[seriously underestimates](#)” how much money is spent on education, according to a study by *Education Next*. While most respondents to the survey favor higher levels of per-pupil spending, the study found that “people seriously underestimate both school expenditures and teacher pay”. When respondents were asked to estimate per-pupil spending in their local school district, the average response in 2016 was \$7,020, which is just over 50% of the actual average of \$12,440.

No Time to Lose: How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State

A [report](#) by the National Conference of State Legislators found the U.S. workforce is now among the least well-educated in the world. Common elements present in nearly every world-class education system (a strong early education system; a reimagined and professionalized teacher workforce; robust career and technical education programs, and a comprehensive, aligned system of education) are not found in the U.S. in a consistent, well-designed manner.

Support for Charter Schools Stays Steady, But Drops for Vouchers, Poll Finds

Charter schools are more [popular](#) among Republicans with 74% supporting the publicly funded schools that are run independently from the traditional district system, compared to 58% of Democrats — numbers that have changed little over the last decade according to *Education Next*. Overall support for school vouchers for low-income students, which allow eligible students to use public money to attend a private school, has dropped from 55% to 43% over the last four years among people of both political parties.

State of College Admission

A key finding of an annual [survey](#) of college admission officers by the National Association for College Admission Counseling was classes and grades are far more important than test scores. The survey found that in the fall 2014 admissions cycle, 79.2% of responding colleges and universities gave "considerable importance" to grades in students' college-prep classes, while 55.7% assigned the same importance to admission test scores.

What Free Won't Fix: Too Many Public Colleges are Dropout Factories

Close to two-thirds of all college students attending 4-year public institutions take out student loans, with the average loan-holding student finding themselves more than \$20,000 in debt four years later. An [analysis](#) of Department of Education data revealed that not all four-year public schools are giving students (or American taxpayers who spend more than \$10 billion dollars a year on federal Pell grants) a good return on their investment. At many of these institutions, first-time, full-time students are not graduating, a large number are unable to earn wages higher than the typical high school graduate, and many cannot pay back the loans.

A Glimpse Inside the Coffers: Endowment Spending at Wealthy Colleges and Universities

A [report](#) by The Education Trust concluded extreme wealth stratification is occurring not only among individuals, but also among institutions of higher education. In 2013 roughly 3.6% of colleges and universities held 75% of all postsecondary endowment wealth. Despite their vast wealth, too few of these colleges invest enough in students from low-income families. Increasing endowment spending by just a small fraction of a percentage point could generate enough revenue to enroll many more low-income students and reduce the price these students pay.

Wells Fargo to Pay \$4 Million for Illegal Student Practices

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced Wells Fargo [illegally charged late fees](#) to consumers who made payments on the last day of the grace periods as well as those who elected to pay through partial payments. The bank also failed to update and correct inaccurate, negative information provided to credit-reporting companies about borrowers who made partial or extra payments. Investigators also found instances of the bank spreading payments across loans to trigger late fees and telling people with multiple loans that paying less than the full amount due would not count, when in actuality partial payments can satisfy at least one loan in an account.

The Pay Gap for Teachers is Growing, New Study Finds

A [report](#) by the Economic Policy Institute concluded the gap between U.S. teachers' pay and that of comparable workers is greater than ever before.

A Third of Texas Teachers Are Working Second Jobs, Survey Finds

Almost a third of teachers who responded to a recent Texas State Teachers Association [survey](#) stated they hold outside jobs during the school year. These teachers work about 13 hours a week at their out-of-school jobs, and an additional 17 hours a week doing school-related work outside of regular school hours; almost half had summer jobs.

Online Public School Founder Admits to \$8M in Tax Fraud

The founder and former CEO of an online public school that educates thousands of Pennsylvania students pleaded [guilty](#) to federal tax fraud, acknowledging he siphoned more than \$8 million from The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School to buy a Bonita Springs, Florida, condominium for \$933,000; pay \$180,000 for houses for his mother and girlfriend in Ohio, and spend \$990,000 more on groceries and other items.

College Board SAT Designer Drawn Into FBI Investigation

A former College Board official who had a lead role in designing the new SAT has become part of an FBI investigation into possible [security breaches](#) in the college-entrance exam.

Diversity

How Cities Can Advance Racial Equity Through Community Conversations

Efforts to bring politicians, police, activists and community members to [discuss](#) racial tensions can be an effective first step toward real progress on racial equity in cities.

Creating Birds of a Feather: The Potential of Similarity to Connect Teachers and Students

Racial mismatches between teachers and students can trigger problems of cross-cultural misunderstanding. [Strengthening](#) teacher-student relationships offers a promising solution.

What Is 'Culturally Competent' Teaching? (Videos)

The *Education Week* video team had a piece on PBS *NewsHour* on better preparing teachers to work in diverse classrooms. The segment looked at a program run by Illinois State University that places education students (mostly white, mostly middle-class) in high-minority Chicago neighborhoods for one month during the summer. Participants did a teaching stint in local schools and lived with host families. In addition to the [full segment](#), the video team put together web-only [compilations](#) from the footage gathered while reporting the story.

High Hopes and Harsh Realities: The Real Challenges to Building a Diverse Teacher Workforce

Researchers at the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution examined four key moments along the teacher pipeline: college attendance and completion; majoring in education or pursuing another teacher preparation pathway; hiring into a teacher position, and staying in teaching year after year. They [found](#) minority teachers disproportionately exit from the teaching pipeline at each of those four points.

Fault Lines: America's Most Segregating School District Borders

A [report](#) by EdBuild (an educational funding reform nonprofit) looked at student-poverty rates between adjacent districts. It examined more than 33,500 district boundaries to determine the biggest income disparities between neighboring districts. The most-economically segregating district boundary was between Grosse Pointe and Detroit.

Feds Will Sue Georgia Over Segregated 'Psychoeducational' Schools

The Justice Department [notified](#) Georgia a year ago that the Georgia Network for Therapeutic and Educational Support was illegally segregating students with disabilities and providing them an inferior education. The U.S. Department of Justice is suing Georgia after failing to come to an agreement over a state-run school network for students with behavior disabilities.

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YOUTH WELL-BEING

Athletics

A Blind Eye to Sex Abuse: How USA Gymnastics Failed to Report Cases

USA Gymnastics, which serves as the governing body for gymnastics in the United States and develops the U.S. Olympic team, reportedly failed to inform authorities of numerous allegations regarding [sexual abuse by coaches](#). After three reporters for the *Indianapolis Star* reviewed court records, police reports, and newspaper articles, they found USA Gymnastics compiled "complaint dossiers on more than 50 coaches and filed them in a drawer in its executive office in Indianapolis." After USA Gymnastics first received word of the allegations, those coaches proceeded to abuse "at least 14 underage gymnasts".

Questions Emerge about Effectiveness of 'Heads Up Football' Program

USA Football touted the preliminary findings of a study from the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention that suggested youth-football players who participated in leagues which used its "Heads Up Football" program had 76% fewer injuries than those in other youth-football leagues. After digging into the full findings, Alan Schwarz of the *New York Times* found "Heads Up Football showed [no demonstrable effect](#) on concussions during the study, and significantly less effect on injuries overall, than USA Football and the [National Football League] have claimed in settings ranging from online materials and Congressional testimony."

Parents File Class-Action Lawsuit Against Pop Warner Over Head Trauma

Two parents have filed a [class-action lawsuit](#) alleging Pop Warner Little Scholars (the nation's largest youth football organization), USA Football, and the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) "misrepresented material facts to ... the public at large regarding the safety of Pop Warner tackle football, including the safety of the equipment used by minor child participants". The lawsuit notes all Pop Warner helmets feature a sticker claiming the helmet "meets NOCSAE standard". Yet NOCSAE has no youth-specific safety standards in place, making the labels "misleading".

Limits on Full-Contact Football Practices Reduce Head Impacts, Study Says

Since the Michigan High School Athletic Association implemented restrictions on the number of full-contact football practices that middle schools and high schools are allowed to conduct per week, head impacts have [plunged](#) by nearly 42%, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of Athletic Training*.

Soccer-Related ER Visits Soaring Among U.S. Youth Players

Nearly 3 million players ages 7 through 17 received ER treatment for [soccer-related injuries](#) in a 2000-2014 study by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital. More than 200,000 concussions or head injuries were treated in emergency rooms (7% of injuries). The rate jumped to almost 30 per 10,000 people in 2013 from just under 2 per 10,000 players in 1990.

New Book Aims to Debunk Myths About Youth-Sports Concussions

In a new book, "Back in the Game: Why Concussion Doesn't Have to End Your Athletic Career," Dr. Jeffrey Kutcher and journalist Joanne Gerstner set out to [dispel](#) some of the myths regarding youth-sports concussions. Repeatedly emphasized is how every concussion is different, and there is not a one-size-fits-all method to diagnose, treat and/or prevent concussions across athletes of all genders and ages. Each athlete must be treated by a trained medical professional with coaches, parents and teachers playing a vital role in the recovery of a concussed athlete

Parenting

Safe and Sound Campaign

The objective of the [campaign](#) of the Department of Defense is to help military parents keep their children safe. It provides resources on parenting skills, child abuse, and neglect prevention.

A Driver's Manual for New Dads: A Resource Guide for Taking Care of Your Partner and Your New Baby

Published by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the [guide](#) is divided into short sections with frequent driving and car analogies, and features material that can be used to lead fatherhood-related discussions with groups of young men.

Toolkit Teaches Young Parents Trauma-Sensitive Caregiving

Nurses at the Spokane Regional Health District in Washington created a [toolkit](#) to help caregivers interact with children who have had traumatic experiences. Though designed for a broader audience, the toolkit's engaging graphics make it a youth-friendly tool for working with pregnant and parenting young people. In addition, the 178-page guide provides youth with an opportunity to better understand how they may have been affected by their own adverse experiences.

Resources for Young Parents & Children Experiencing Homelessness

Practitioners, policymakers, and young parents can use a [database](#) to find resources about programs, guidance, practices, and supports available to young parents and their children experiencing homelessness

Health

Teenagers Say Food Assistance Programs Could Do More to Reach Them

A [report](#) by researchers at the Urban Institute and Feeding America is the first of its kind to examine how teenagers experience food insecurity. The youth felt government and charitable programs designed to help families cope with hunger could do a better job of reaching young people and helping them get the food they need. They want to see more opportunities that combine food with other programming, such as a movie night where dinner is served, and want programs to use discretion because of the stigma they feel accessing food.

Study Finds Group Drumming Bangs Away at Anxiety and Depression

Researchers in London have found evidence of a surprisingly effective treatment for anxiety and depression, one that even alters the inflammatory immune responses that may underlie these disorders -- [percussion](#).

Race, Ethnicity Affect Kids' Access to Mental Health Care, Study Finds

Research published in the *International Journal of Health Services* examined how often young adults and children were able to get needed [mental health services](#) based on whether they were black, Hispanic or white. About 5.7% of white children and young adults were likely to see a mental health specialist in a given year, compared with about 2.3% for black or Hispanic young people.

NIH Launches Moms' Mental Health Matters

The new [initiative](#) by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of NIH seeks to raise awareness among pregnant and postpartum mothers, their families, and health care providers about depression and anxiety during pregnancy and after the baby is born. Free health education materials in English

and Spanish include posters that describe the signs of depression and anxiety during and after pregnancy, and address the misconception that for all women, pregnancy and new motherhood can only be "the happiest time of your life."

Psychological First Aid for Schools

Psychological First Aid for Schools is an evidence-informed approach for assisting children, adolescents, adults, and families in the aftermath of a school crisis, disaster, or terrorism event. The [Field Operations Guide](#) and accompanying handouts were made available by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the National Center for PTSD.

Brave Buddies Program

Brave Buddies is an intensive, group behavioral treatment [program](#) offered by the Child Mind Institute that is designed to help children with selective mutism speak in school and other public places.

Starting the Conversation: College and Your Mental Health

A [guide](#) published by the National Alliance on Mental Illness in partnership with The Jed Foundation helps students and parents talk about mental health.

Health Risks Among Sexual Minority Youth

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted the first nationwide survey on teen sexuality and found about 8% of high school students are lesbian, gay or bisexual. The [report](#) found that compared to their heterosexual peers, lesbian, gay and bisexual high school students are significantly more likely to report being physically forced to have sex; experiencing sexual and physical dating violence; and being bullied at school or online.

Violence

Growing Up in Violence: Youth in Chicago (Video)

Education Week sat down with [students](#) from programs supporting young men and women of color navigating difficult life circumstances to get a sense of how they feel about their lives now and their futures.

Health Education: The Missing Link in Violence Prevention

While the focus varies by state, most health education concentrates on such concerns as substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, internet safety, CPR training, and nutrition. Why not expand the focus to help address the most important health problem young people face in our nation's cities—[violence](#)?

INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children

The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released "[INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children](#)", which identifies evidence-based strategies to help communities reduce or prevent violence against children.

A Financial Literacy Curriculum Improves Well-Being Among Survivors of Domestic Violence

Researchers evaluated the effectiveness of "Moving Ahead Through Financial Management," a financial education [curriculum](#) created by the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence to improve female domestic violence survivors' financial management skills. Participants in the treatment and control groups started in a similar place at the beginning of the study, and showed improvement at the end. However, those in the treatment group showed increased financial knowledge, and higher intentions to act on that knowledge, such as how to follow a monthly or weekly budget, compared to those in the control group.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Court Costs Can Push Kids Deeper Into Justice System, Report Says

A new [report](#) by the Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia concluded fines and fees imposed in juvenile court can drive youth deeper into the system and their families deeper into poverty. The costs can include fees to attend programs that are alternatives to incarceration or to have a mental health evaluation, charges for record expungement, and restitution payments to victims. When families cannot pay, the consequences may include sending a youth to a juvenile placement rather than an alternative community-based program, keeping a youth on probation longer than they otherwise would be, or having their driver's license revoked.

Destini's Brother

The [video](#) profiles what happens when someone enters the prison system through the eyes of those left behind.

No Place for Youth: Girls in the Adult Justice System

The focus of a [report](#) by the National Institute of Corrections in collaboration with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency is the growing population of girls younger than 18 in adult correctional facilities.

Unjust: How the Broken Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems Fail LGBTQ Youth

A [report](#) by the Movement Advancement Project and the Center for American Progress found stigma and discrimination, unsafe schools, and discriminatory policing drive lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth into the justice system where they are overrepresented and subject to unfair treatment and abuse.

Educational Exclusion: Drop Out, Push Out, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline

A [report](#) by The Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) assesses school climates, policies, and practices that push LGBTQ youth out of school and potentially into the criminal justice system.

Education and Interagency Collaboration: A Lifeline for Justice-Involved Youth

The focus of an [issue brief](#) is the importance of collaboration between policymakers and educators to address the educational needs of youth at risk of entering, or involved in, the juvenile justice system. The brief reviews research on education for system-involved youth and details recent efforts to improve educational outcomes for this population.

Future Baltimore Consent Decree Called Chance to Reform Policy Interactions with Youth

A scathing Justice Department report on unconstitutional police practices in the city includes a lengthy description of how the department has mistreated youth. The police force does not use best practices for engaging adolescents, which results in the use of unreasonable force and erodes trust within the community, said Justice (DOJ) officials in the [report](#) on Baltimore's police force.

National Gang Center Newsletter

The [summer issue](#) features articles on gang tattoos, successful partnerships between businesses and youth job-training programs, and planning for program sustainability.

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WEBINARS

Emerging Models to Improve Access to Healthy Food at Municipally- or County-owned or Operated Venues (September 14, 3 - 4 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) highlights examples of how city leaders are creating opportunities for their residents to access nutritious food where they live, learn, work and play.

Capturing Youth Outcomes: An Introduction to the Measurement Guidance Toolkit for Mentoring Programs (September 15, 1 – 2:15 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will focus on the Measurement Guidance Toolkit for Mentoring Programs that OJJDP's [National Mentoring Resource Center Research Board](#) developed. Presenters will provide tips for selecting and administering evaluation tools that measure the quality of mentoring and its impact on youth outcomes.

Competency-Based Education as a Strategy for College and Career Readiness for All (September 15, 3 – 4:15 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will share recent products and tools around competency-based education including [State Approaches to Competency-Based Education to Support College and Career Readiness for All Students](#) and [State Policies to Support Competency-Based Education for Overage, Under-Credited Students](#).

Understanding Trauma in the Context of Juvenile Justice Systems (September 16, 3:30 - 4:30)

The [presenters](#) will describe the causes and characteristics of trauma and traumatic stress reactions and provide examples of how routine juvenile justice system practices can function as triggering events for youth. Presenters will also offer strategies to address traumatic stress reactions of youth.

Emerging Opportunities to Use Medicaid to Support Trauma in Schools (September 19, 3 – 4 p.m.)

The flexibilities available to states for providing and funding trauma services in schools through Medicaid is the focus of the [webinar](#). Participants will learn how Medicaid can support trauma screening and evidence-based trauma interventions, and how schools can use Medicaid funding to provide these services to students in need.

Culturally-Based Programs to Support English Language Learners in OST (September 29, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will feature an overview of research on culturally based youth programs as well as practitioners from a youth program primarily serving language minority youth talking about an action research project in which they gathered youths' perspectives on what makes a positive and productive culturally diverse youth-serving organization. There is a fee of \$10.00.

Practitioners Doing Research: How Can It Improve OST? (October 5, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The focus of the [webinar](#) is teacher inquiry and how it can improve program practice. OST practitioners who have been participating in the National Afterschool Matters Practitioner Fellowship will discuss how they operate their programs and provide services for youth. The cost is \$10.

Childhood Trauma and Community Resilience: What You Need to Know to Build a Safer and Healthier City (October 6, 2 – 3 p.m.)

As part of its efforts to explore how cities can help children overcome childhood trauma caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), the YEF Institute is hosting a [webinar](#) highlighting important steps to build resilience and help children overcome the effects of early trauma.

Engaging Older Youth with Technology (November 3, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will present the theory behind engaging older youth and feature OST practitioners who have been using technology in their programs, such as youth creating radio podcasts.

Measuring Staff Engagement in OST Programs (December 6, 1 – 1:30 p.m.)

The [webinar](#) will present research findings from a study on an innovative approach to strengths-based professional development, *Simple Interactions*, which uses short video clips of staff engaged in positive interactions with youth. In addition, a manager from a large youth program will discuss the implementation of this model and the positive effects it had on the staff dynamic.

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Survivors of Trauma: An Introduction (On Demand)

The 90-minute [webinar](#) provides information that helps organizations consider implementing mindfulness practice with staff and survivors. Though the presentation is a year old, it introduces a modality that is not widely practiced among survivor advocacy organizations.

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