



3.20.2020 Headlines

- School, District, and Student Education Resources To Address COVID-19
- U.S. Public School Students Enrolled In Schools With Violent Incidents and Hate Crimes
- Addressing Inequities At The District Level: The Racial Equity Leadership Network
- Education News You May Have Missed

School, District, and Student Education Resources To Address COVID-19

- **Families First Coronavirus Response Act** - President Trump signed this [bipartisan legislation](#) on March 18, 2020. The law includes, among other things, nutritional assistance for children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government's policy response now includes provisions to strengthen nutrition initiatives including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), maintain student meals through the Maintaining Essential Access to Lunch for Students (MEALS) Act, and to issue waivers to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO).
- **State-Level Actions To Curb The Outbreak** - This [informational brief](#) provides a comprehensive, running list of states' legislative and policy actions to date to combat the spread of the coronavirus. The list includes school closure information and other significant alterations to daily practices.
- **Updated Guidance On Dealing With COVID-19** - This [article](#) discusses updated strategies for administrators and other education professionals to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- **State-Level COVID-19 Resources** - This interactive [map](#) from the Council of State Governments links to states' public health agency websites to direct families to appropriate resources to learn about COVID-19 mitigation efforts in their state.
- **Important COVID-19 Resources** - This [resource page](#) includes various reports, briefs, and informational graphics for families, policymakers, and advocates as they navigate the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Free Educational Resources** - This [list of educational resources](#) provides parents and families with options to continue educating their children in the midst of prolonged school closures.

- **CDC Pandemic Preparation Guide** - This [2017 guide](#) from the CDC includes recommendations for school and district-level pandemic preparation that are still applicable as COVID-19 continues to spread.
- **CDC Guidance For Schools And Childcare Programs** - The [updated COVID-19 guidance for schools and childcare centers](#) included the most recent recommendations from the CDC on dealing with this global pandemic.
- **CDC Checklist For Schools And Childcare Programs** - This [checklist from the CDC](#) helps parents prepare their children and teachers prepare their schools for the COVID-19 outbreak. Since the publication of this checklist, many schools have closed. However, it is still important for parents to minimize their children's chances of coming in contact with this virus.
- **FEMA Guide For High-Quality Emergency School Plans** - This [guide](#) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) remains relevant and provides schools with information on developing high-quality emergency management and disaster mitigation plans.

U.S. Public School Students Enrolled In Schools With Violent Incidents and Hate Crimes

Data from the 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 administrations of the School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) [show](#) the percentage of students enrolled in a public school where a violent incident or hate crime occurred. The data also reveal whether a law enforcement officer is present at least once a week in the schools where these incidents occur.

For most types of violent incidents, the percentage of students enrolled in a school with the occurrence of incidents dropped between 2008 and 2018. For example, 74 percent of students attended a school where at least one physical attack or fight occurred in 2017-2018, compared with 81 percent of students attending such a school in 2007-2008. In 2017-2018, about 3 percent of students were enrolled in a school in which a hate crime occurred.

Overall, more students nationwide were enrolled in a school with a law enforcement officer present than in one without a law enforcement officer present. Data show that the presence of law enforcement officers is not an accurate predictor of fewer violent incidents. In fact, higher percentages of students in schools that had a law enforcement officer present at school at least once a week were in schools where a violent incident had occurred, compared with students in schools without an officer present. In 2017-2018, about 4 percent of students experienced a hate crime in a school where a law enforcement officer was present at least once a week, compared with 2 percent of students in schools without a law enforcement officer present.

Addressing Inequities At The District Level: The Racial Equity Leadership Network

The Racial Equity Leadership Network (RELN) is an 18-Month cohort style fellowship designed to build the capacity of Superintendents and other C-Level leaders to transform their districts into systems where every student, regardless of race, receives an excellent, opportunity-rich education. Fellows will attend five (5) two-and-a-half-day network convenings focused on the essential levers for equity leadership and system transformation. In between network convenings, Fellows have access to a comprehensive menu of resources and technical tools including customized coaching and strategic consultation to support the planning and

implementation of a co-created action plan to address persistent racial disparities in student access and outcomes in their home districts.

Applications are due May 1, 2020, 5:00 pm ET. Instructions to apply are available [here](#). Please contact racialequity@southerneducation.org with questions or for additional information.

Education News You May Have Missed

- **Teachers Are Getting Paid Even As The Country's Largest Districts Shut Down. Substitutes, Not Necessarily.** - The new coronavirus is squeezing employers across the country, leaving many worried about losing their paychecks. But as school districts close in an effort to stop the virus's spread, educators in the country's largest districts will continue to be paid — though the picture for substitute teachers and non-district employees remains far murkier. (Chalkbeat) [Read More](#)
- **Georgia School Superintendent Suspends State Testing** - Students across Georgia are out of school for the next two weeks or until further notice, as a precaution against the spread of the coronavirus. There are more than a million Georgia students out of school. Classes, however, will continue online. (90.1 WABE) [Read More](#)
- **Black Colleges Feeling Collective Pain** - Leaders of historically black colleges and universities are strongly advocating for additional federal funding for their institutions in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. They say the costs of operating during the public health crisis and managing an array of related challenges threaten the future survival of their struggling institutions. (Inside Higher Ed) [Read More](#)
- **Scope: Don't Believe Everything You Hear About SC School Underfunding** - You might have heard that the Legislature is underfunding public schools by \$606 per student. As in, state law requires the Legislature to spend \$3,095 per student, but it's only spending \$2,489. (The Post and Courier) [Read More](#)
- **General Assembly Passes Legislation For Additional Funding For Maryland's Historically Black Universities** - The state Senate voted unanimously to pass House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones' legislation that would send \$580 million more to the state's four historically black colleges and universities over 10 years. (The Baltimore Sun) [Read More](#)
- **Public School Is A Child's Right. Should Preschool Be Also?** - In the United States, the chance that a child attends a high-quality preschool — which research has shown sets them on a more successful life path — often depends on whether the parents can afford it. But what if government-funded care and education of children started soon after birth? (The New York Times) [Read More](#)
- **Texas STAAR Test Requirements Waived Due To Coronavirus Outbreak** - In an unprecedented move, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Monday he would waive testing requirements for this year's STAAR exam, as many schools expect to be closed at least through the April testing window due to the new coronavirus. (The Texas Tribune) [Read More](#)

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves during this difficult time. If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Fred Jones
Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy

Sujith Cherukumilli
Legislative and Research Analyst