



US FORUM CONNECTION

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US FORUM

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Operational Guidelines Review

The Pandemic has International, State Organization and Committees looking at their documents to meet new practices and formats. The US Forum Steering Committee has been asked to review and update our guidelines to address needed changes.

International Parliamentarian Helen Popovich has notified us that US Forum members in attendance at the International Conferences in **Portland on July 9th** and **San Antonio on July 24th** can vote on acceptance of these changes in the US Forum Operational Guidelines. If the document is approved by members, it will then be sent to the Administrative Board. During our sessions, those members in person will be asked to vote on the new guidelines by paper ballot. The results of the vote will be tabulated after the San Antonio session and reported in the *US Forum Connections*, on our website and Facebook. A copy of the proposed guidelines can be found on the US Forum website: <https://www.dkgusforum.com/>



Interested members are invited to join us for a workshop reviewing the new guidelines on **Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 7pm EST, 6pm CST, 5pm MST, and 4pm PST**. US Forum Steering Committee members will be available to answer your questions and review the document with you. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckf--rrTssE9EtiNkfcNTrYozLOPeHq9qi>

Join the US Forum at the International Conferences in Portland and San Antonio



Hanna Vaandering, NEA

Legislation and Your Role

Friday, July 9, 2021

2:45-4:45pm

Ballroom

Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Portland

Hanna Vaandering has taught physical education for 17 years in Beaverton, Oregon's Ridgewood Elementary School. In 2017, She was elected to the National Education Association (NEA) Executive Committee and has served two terms as the President of the 44,000-member Oregon Education Association (OEA).

While at Ridgewood, Hanna started a successful rhythms program to help her students gain a love for movement and dance. As OEA President, Hanna helped facilitate the creation of “A New Path for a Balanced System of Assessments.” This educator lead work laid the groundwork for creating an assessment system that honors student learning over student testing.

Hanna is committed to our vision of a great public school for every student, fighting for the rights of each and every educator, and advocating for the school funding necessary to build the schools our students deserve.

Human Trafficking 101

Saturday, July 24, 2021

12:00-2:00 p.m.

General Sessions Salons H and I

Marriott Convention Center, San Antonio



Dalton Tayler, United Against Human Trafficking

Dalton is a Program Specialist for United Against Human Trafficking, a Houston based nonprofit. He holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Resilient youth inspire Taylor. After seeing human trafficking, sexual assault, and other atrocities ignored by trusted systems, Taylor hopes to change the way our community views some of the most overlooked people primarily children.

Educating and offering supportive services to youth with an emphasis on vulnerable youth, expanding the fight against demand for trafficked persons in the Houston area, and using social media to create accessible and engaging content are the things that drive Taylor in his work. Collaborating with schools, juvenile justice facilities, podcasters, and conferences, Taylor puts forth his

knowledge, skills and charisma in hopes that one day we will see United Against Human Trafficking’s vision realized: a world without exploitation.

Education Issues

Questions surround Biden's plan for Title I

President Biden's plan for Title I funding includes establishing a \$20 billion program that focuses on equitable funding for schools. This article addresses many of the questions still surrounding the proposal, including whether the use of federal funds can spur state-level changes to education funding.

Matt Barnum. “Title I, but not: What we know about Joe Biden’s plan to fix school funding.” *Chalkbeat*. June 3, 2021

[What we know about Joe Biden’s plan to fix school funding - Chalkbeat](#)

The Price Tag of Racial Inequality in Schools

Racial disparities persist with regard to school segregation, educational resources, disciplinary treatment, and ultimately educational outcomes. These disparities harm students and society, including economic consequences. Black and Hispanic students often leave school with substantially lower levels of human capital and, as a result, have lower lifetime earnings. The author estimates that, for each cohort of students age 18, the burden from lower human/social capital is between \$42 and \$92 billion in lost lifetime economic outcomes. For K12 schools and districts, costs of racial disparities incurred each year conservatively amount to \$0.4 billion on school discipline, \$3.8 billion on special education, \$3.2 billion grade repetition, and \$0.1 billion on direct spending to combat racism.

Clive Belfield is a professor of economics at Queens College, City University of New York.

Clive Belfield. “The Economic Burden of Racism from the U.S. Education System.” *National Education Policy Institute* (U.Colorado/Boulder). June 11, 2021 <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/cost-of-racism>

To receive COVID aid, states pledge to focus on mental health, learning recovery

By mid-June, 28 states had submitted plans to the U.S.E.D. to access \$41 billion from the American Rescue Plan. States seeking access to billions in federally enacted coronavirus relief say they plan to prioritize the mental and emotional needs of students, support academic-recovery strategies such as intensive tutoring, and focus on services ranging from nutrition to payments to staff who participate in summer-learning programs.

Andrew Ujifusa. "To Get Billions in COVID-19 Aid, States Pledge Focus on Mental Health, Learning Recovery." *Education Week*. June 14, 2021 [To Get Billions in COVID-19 Aid, States Pledge Focus on Mental Health, Learning Recovery \(edweek.org\)](#)

Public school spending per student up 5%

Public school spending per student increased by 5% to \$13,187 during the 2019 fiscal year, compared to \$12,562 per student in fiscal 2018, according to a [survey by the U.S. Census Bureau](#). The report finds that total spending per student was the largest amount in 11 years and was due in part to an overall increase in school revenue. Public K12 schools received \$751.7 billion total from all revenue sources in 2019, up 4.5% from \$719 billion in 2018.

Brent Woodie. "Public School Spending Per Student Up 5%, Biggest Increase in 11 Years." *Route Fifty*. June 9, 2021

[Public School Spending Per Student Up 5%, Biggest Increase in 11 Years - Route Fifty \(route-fifty.com\)](#)

Teachers more likely to experience depression than other adults

Teachers are almost twice as likely to experience frequent job-related stress and nearly three times as likely to experience symptoms of depression than the general adult population, a new survey by the RAND Corp. found. The high levels of job-related stress are causing many teachers to quit.

Madeline Will, "Teachers Are More Likely to Experience Depression Symptoms Than Other Adults." *Education Week*. June 15, 2021

[Teachers Are More Likely to Experience Depression Symptoms Than Other Adults \(edweek.org\)](#)

Importance of extracurricular activities

After-school activities that provide opportunities for relatively unstructured social connections with peers outside of school hours are especially important. For teens, the need for peer-to-peer connection is paramount, outweighing structured opportunities like self-care classes on mindfulness or coping with stress. Tending to students' emotional well-being will be a priority in many schools in the new school year, and extracurriculars are a natural fit for extending this social and emotional work beyond the classroom, helping to reestablish normalcy, foster social connections, and maximize academic achievement.

Sarah Gonser. "The Enduring Importance of Extracurriculars." *Edutopia*. June 11, 2021

[The Enduring Importance of Extracurriculars | Edutopia](#)

Women and Children

Issues in childcare

Researchers estimated that the pandemic would devastate the child care industry. And while many centers have closed, new data from Child Care Aware of America (CCAOA) found the losses have been far less than anticipated. Among 15 states that are currently tracking the number of permanent child care closures, 3% of centers and 4% of family child care homes, on average, have closed. The pandemic has done nothing to fix critical problems with child care, including low wages for workers, high tuition and staff retention issues. Middle-class families frequently can't afford rates and low-income families are only able to pay for care with the help of state child care subsidies, which often pay below market rate. Experts and educators are particularly concerned about a few key aspects: Enrollment, Staffing, and Ongoing funding vs. one-time funding.

Jackie Mader. Early Childhood: One year later, where does the child care industry stand?" *Early Childhood News/Hechinger Report*.

June 9, 2021 [Early Childhood: One year later, where does the child care industry stand? \(mailchi.mp\)](#)



DKG Website <https://www.dkgusforum.com/>

Current Legislation to Follow

S. 1585: Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act

This bill requires institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student-aid programs to share contact information for suicide prevention resources with students. If IHEs distribute student identification cards, then they must include on the cards phone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and a campus mental-health center or program. If IHEs do not create such cards, then they must publish the numbers on their websites. Sponsor: Sen. Kennedy, John(R-LA) Introduced 05/12/2021; Passed/agreed to in Senate Voice Vote 05/12/2021. Sent to House. Source: [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)

H.R. 5 Equality Act

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

The bill expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services.

The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity. Sponsor: Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1] (Introduced 02/18/2021) Cosponsors: (224) Committees: House - Judiciary; Education and Labor; Financial Services; Oversight and Reform; House Administration; Passed in the House 02/25/2021. Latest Action: Senate - 03/17/2021 Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held. [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov)

Keep Updated on Federal Bills and Committee Action

Congress.gov is a great resource. You can manage areas of interest by signing up for Monday alerts. This short video connection shows you how to sign up: <https://www.congress.gov/help/tips/managing-alerts>

Congressional Information

Information regarding your Senators and congressional House Representatives can be found at [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). You have access to their committee assignments, and pertinent information along with upcoming committee reports and bills introduced. It is a valuable source for all.

Opinion: Your voice matters! Write your senators and congress members regarding promoting any of the bills listed. For every 5 constituents they hear from action is taken.

