

Weekly Update
January 6, 2012

Announcements

NASSP Information

Reminder: NASSP Digital Principal Award

From the NASSP website: The **Digital Principal Award** is an opportunity to honor principals who exhibit bold, creative leadership in their drive to harness the potential of new technologies to further learning goals. The award also allows us to showcase models of leadership that encourage the use of technology in instruction and for principals' own professional use.

NASSP will honor three NASSP member principals in schools that cover any subset of grades K—12. Applications due **January 17- apply now!**

Sign up for NASSP webinar next week on cutting-edge technology

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST

Want to learn more about cutting-edge technology initiatives used every day in the classroom? Join Melinda Maddox, Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Director of Technology Initiatives, as she discusses ALSDE's highly regarded technology initiatives. Then listen as Craig Bates, principal of Winterboro High School in Alpine, AL, provides a principal's perspective on how these initiatives work on the ground in schools, and what impact they are having on student achievement and engagement. [Register now!](#)

New Legislation

House Education Committee Chairman Kline Releases ESEA Bills on Teacher Quality and Accountability

Today at 3 pm, House Education and the Workforce Chairman [John Kline](#) released his final 2 ESEA bills (#4 and 5): The Student Success Act addresses accountability, and the Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act addresses teacher quality. Read Chairman Kline's press release and access the bills [here](#). Also go [here](#) for an initial *Education Week* summary of the bills. NASSP will post a summary of these bills on the *Principal's Policy Blog* on Monday, so stay tuned.

News

NCLB Turns 10: Reflections and Commentaries on NCLB from Legislators, Educators and Experts

On January 8, NCLB will turn 10 years old. This web page on *Education Week* gives you access to several resources about NCLB: brief overviews of its key components, and reflections and commentaries from legislators, educators, and experts. Access the web page [here](#).

Virtual Charter Schools' Performance Lags behind That of Traditional Schools

A report by the National Education Policy Center found that 27% of for-profit companies operating virtual schools met the adequate yearly progress standards of the federal No Child Left Behind law, compared with 48% of traditional charter schools and about half of all public schools.

One of the researchers, Gary Miron, said it's perplexing why so many virtual schools are not meeting adequate yearly progress. "These are not highly impoverished schools. ... These schools should be more likely to meet adequate yearly progress," he said. However, some of the providers of online education claim that it is unfair to use adequate yearly progress to measure the performance of a school. Says Jeff Kwitowski, spokesman for the company K12 Inc, "It's not a reliable measure. The secretary of education has said that the AYP measure under (No Child Left Behind) is broken and unfairly labels schools as failing." Read the rest of the article [here](#).

Out-Of-School-Time Activities Draw Girls to STEM

According to a U.S. Department of Commerce [report](#) released last year, women hold less than 25 percent of STEM jobs even though they make up about half the nation's workforce. Many out-of-school-time programs are attempting to remedy this inequity through offering girls opportunities like engineering "design challenges" through California Bay Area's Techbridge program, and other programs offering exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.) Read more about the growing momentum of girls involved in STEM programs [here](#).

Research

What Are the Key Actions of Effective Principals?

Check out a Wallace Foundation [report](#) on the 5 Key Elements Exercised by Effective Principals

Effective Teachers Help Students Long-Term in Significant Ways

From a New York Times article published January 6, 2012: "Elementary- and middle-school teachers who help raise their students' standardized-test scores seem to have a wide-ranging, lasting positive effect on those students' lives beyond academics, including lower teenage-pregnancy rates and greater college matriculation and adult earnings, [according to a new study](#) that tracked 2.5 million students over 20 years." Read the full article [here](#).

Resources

Federal Education Budget Resource: Education Appropriations Guide for Fiscal Year 2012

This week, the New America Foundation's Federal Education Budget Project (FEBP) released the "*2012 Education Appropriations Guide*," which details and explains fiscal year 2012 funding for the U.S. Department of Education.

The guide includes:

- An analysis of funding for major education programs;
- An explanation of the key steps in the budget process, including the Budget Control Act, which shaped final fiscal year 2012 appropriations;
- An explanation of Pell Grant funding and changes to eligibility rules;
- A timeline of congressional action taken during the fiscal year 2012 budget process; and
- A table comparing 2012 spending levels to 2011 levels, the president's budget request, and House and Senate spending proposals.

To view the full brief, *[please click here](#)*.