



## EDUCATION UPDATES

### *Education Dive*

Education Dive offers a quick overview of what's happening in education. Education Dive's editorial team analyzes top news stories and publishes in-depth feature articles daily. Topics include higher education, K-12, technology, policy, and online learning. Subscribers can sign up for newsletters geared toward K-12 and higher education as well as opt to get the latest headlines via e-mail. Education Dive also offers mobile apps for Apple or Google users.

[www.educationdive.com](http://www.educationdive.com)

## REDESIGN SCHOOLS

### **Dissatisfied Yet Optimistic: Moving Faster Toward New School Models**

*New Schools Venture Fund, 2015*

In this report, the four authors state that they have come together from overlapping but different roles in an effort to redesign schools. To that end, they share a framework for their theory of change, open a discussion about how to make it better, collaborate so that their efforts are deliberately aligned to the framework, and invite peers, colleagues, and partners to do the same. Their vision of the future includes “embracing continuous learning through rapid iteration,

refining and redesigning as we learn more and more.” To support this vision, they call on educators to ask, “What can I be doing differently in my classroom or school or district to create learning models that fully engage, challenge, and support all students?”

[www.newschools.org/publications/dissatisfied-yet-optimistic-moving-faster-toward-new-school-models](http://www.newschools.org/publications/dissatisfied-yet-optimistic-moving-faster-toward-new-school-models)

## TEACHER LEADERSHIP

### **Policy Snapshot**

*Center on Great Teachers & Leaders, July 2015*

This report focuses on how to increase teacher leadership, outlining the obstacles present and specifying policy levers for increasing and improving teacher leadership opportunities. Strategies include adopting teacher leader standards, providing guidance and technical assistance to schools and districts, offering incentives for leadership programs and positions, and providing state-level opportunities for teacher leaders. District efforts in Baltimore, Maryland, as well as state efforts in Iowa, Tennessee, and Kentucky are featured. The report also includes multiple resource lists.

[www.gtlcenter.org/sites/default/files/Snapshot\\_Teacher\\_Leadership.PDF](http://www.gtlcenter.org/sites/default/files/Snapshot_Teacher_Leadership.PDF)

## OBSERVER TRAINING

### **Seeing It Clearly: Improving Observer Training for Better Feedback and Better Teaching**

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, August 2015*

The Measures of Effective Teaching project is a research partnership investigating better ways to identify and develop effective

teaching. This guide explains how to build and improve the elements of a training system that equips all observers to identify and develop effective teaching, based on the collective knowledge of key project partners and practitioners in the field. The report outlines how training can build the necessary skills and how to build the capacity to provide that training. The guide includes a planning worksheet and an appendix of tools referenced throughout.

<http://collegeready.gatesfoundation.org/learning/seeing-it-clearly-improving-observer-training-for-better-feedback-and-better-teaching>



## LEARNING INNOVATIONS

### **Remake Learning Playbook**

*Remake Learning Network*

The Remake Learning Network is a collaborative network of educators and innovators in the greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, region. To expand its work, the network has created the *Remake Learning Playbook*, a field guide of ideas and resources for supporting learning innovation networks. The playbook includes an interactive website that allows users to create their own game plan to remake learning in their communities, an advocacy kit that organizations can use as a guide to create presentations, and audio interviews with network members.

<http://remakelearning.org/playbook>

## RETAINING TEACHERS Incorporating Retention of Effective and Highly Effective Teachers in Principal Evaluations

*Reform Support Network, 2015*

The quality of a teacher's instruction is widely understood to be the most important school-based factor in student learning. By taking positive steps to retain their strongest teachers, principals can maximize the impact of teacher retention on instructional quality, a process referred to as "selective retention." This brief from the Reform Support Network explores promising state and district approaches for incorporating teacher retention standards into principal evaluation frameworks. The brief also examines five key decision points for future implementers to take into account if they are considering this measure in their principal evaluation systems.

<https://rtt.grads360.org/?p=rtt#communities/pdc/documents/8758>

## SCHOOL REFORM SURVEY The 2015 EdNext Poll on School Reform

*Education Next*

Education Next's 2015 poll examines public thinking on issues such as testing and accountability, Common Core, and support for school reform. Among the major findings:

- *Support for standardized testing remains strong.* Both teachers and the public at large oppose the idea of letting parents decide whether their children should participate in standards-based testing.
- *Support for the Common Core State Standards declined a bit further.* Among the public at large, support for the Common Core fell to 49% in 2015.

The survey was administered in

May and June 2015 to a nationally representative sample of more than 4,000 respondents, including almost 700 teachers.

<http://educationnext.org/2015-ednext-poll-school-reform-opt-out-common-core-unions>



## CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

**Checking In:  
Do Classroom Assignments  
Reflect Today's Higher Standards?**  
*The Education Trust, September 2015*

The Education Trust examined more than 1,500 English language arts, humanities, science, and social studies assignments given to middle school students and found that only 5% of assignments fell into the high range on its assignment analysis framework centered on Common Core alignment, text centrality, cognitive challenge, and student motivation and engagement. And while the results did show some positive movement toward the instructional shifts demanded by the Common Core, significant work remains. The report urges school district and education leaders to ask themselves tough questions about what students are being asked to do in the classroom and whether these assignments are preparing them for success.

<https://edtrust.org/resource/classroomassignments>

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