DATA POINTS

0.14 STANDARD DEVIATION IMPROVEMENT IN LITERACY

Research from the Annenberg Institute at Brown University provides insight into California's initiative to improve literacy instruction in its lowest-performing schools. The Early Literacy Support Block Grant program promotes pedagogy aligned to the science of reading. High-quality professional learning for teachers was largely provided by asynchronous, aligned courses on effective instructional practices, included regular sessions for literacy coaches, and offered real-time assistance. In two years, the program increased 3rd-grade English language arts achievement by 0.14 standard deviation. As a result of the work, small improvements in math achievement were also noted by the researchers.
bit.ly/3UY64Mq

90K HIGH SCHOOLERS WEIGH IN ON MATH EDUCATION

The YouthTruth Math Learning and Identity Project surveyed 90,000 youths on how to improve math education in the U.S. The three main findings: 1. Math in school is disconnected from students' practical needs. 2. Intrinsic motivation to learn math is dampened by uninteresting problems. 3. Teachers make a difference in the perception of math class. Students with strong math identities describe relationships with their teachers as an important source of their willingness to learn. They want teachers who present challenging assignments, create classroom environments that encourage questioning, and express interest in students' academic achievement as well as overall well-being. Surveyed students seek more interactive learning, relevant, engaging math materials that consistently connect to the real world, and financial literacy classes and applied math courses to align with their interests and future career goals.
bit.ly/3T8MNXl

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE MENTORSHIP

Stanford University's Hoover Institution published *A Nation At Risk +40*, a review of progress in U.S. public education that shares insights and analysis of 40 years of education reform since the 1983 report *A Nation at Risk.* A chapter on teacher pipelines points to the positive impacts of new teacher mentoring, drawing on a review of research, including meta-analyses. Findings include: Mentors help strengthen beginning teachers' commitment to the profession and increase their retention, enhance new teachers' instructional practices, and help improve student achievement. Selecting quality mentors is critical: those who demonstrate effective teaching, make their implicit processes explicit, and are well-prepared with adequate time to do the work.
bit.ly/49LDX7v

4 STATES REGAIN PREPANDEMIC ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

An analysis of achievement test data from 8,000 school districts in 30 states shows that average student achievement improved between spring 2022 and spring 2023, with students recovering about one-third of the pandemic decrease in math and one-quarter of the loss in reading. Students in Illinois, Louisiana, and Mississippi exceeded prepandemic achievement levels in reading, and Alabama was the sole state to exceed prepandemic math scores. Across states, wealthier districts have led recovery, and in 2023, lower-income districts are even further behind where they were in 2019. Researchers from the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University and The Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University published these and other findings in *The First Year of Pandemic Recovery: A District-Level Analysis.*
bit.ly/48sQllr

60 MORE LITERACY COACHES FOR GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Education will place 60 full-time literacy coaches in the lowest-performing 5% of schools across the state, state superintendent Richard Woods announced. The state will use $10 million in federal funds for the program. Coaches will receive training in structured literacy and the science of reading. Georgia is also adopting the literacy coaching standards developed by the Florida Department of Education and will use the standards to train the Georgia coaches. Gov. Brian Kemp backed the plan in his budget. Woods said the moves are an effort to improve literacy outcomes for every student.
bit.ly/3T74vL0
bit.ly/3lbitFf