



With Fewer New Teachers, Why do Some Stick Around?



April is Minority Health Month. Resources available



Colorblindness: the New Racism



MULTICULTURAL NEWS



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2015



AQUESTT for Nebraska...emPOWERED by Data Conference scheduled for April 27-28, 2015, Kearney, NE.



Teacher of the Year Nomination Application
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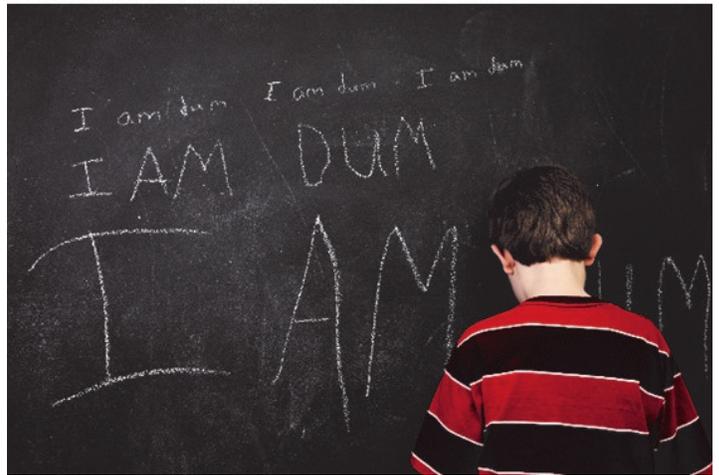
<http://goo.gl/Z7LWwV>

The need to gain control of students is reaching new levels of desperation. An article in the *Washington Post* included the following:

Three days a week, parents can take their misbehaving kids to A-1 Kutz in Snellville and ask for the "Benjamin Button Special," which Russell Fredrick and his team of barbers are offering--free of charge--to parents who want to try a novel form of discipline. The cut involves shaving hair off the child's crown until he begins to resemble a balding senior citizen, inviting that unique brand of adolescent humiliation that can only come from teasing classmates and unwanted attention.

Humiliation Is Never OK
My opinion about any form of humiliating students is obvious from the title of the book I co-authored in 2008: [*Discipline With Dignity*](#).

Last month, however, I was guilty of humiliating a student seriously enough for her to later tell me that it had been the worst moment of her college life.



12 Ways to Avoid Student Humiliation

Richard Curwin
reclaiming youth blog March 2015

After the shock of hearing her story, I realized that, although I had tried to do her a favor, the way I did it was definitely hurtful. I have relived that moment almost as much as Pete Carroll probably revisited his Super Bowl failure. Did I give my student a metaphorical haircut? This incident, now resolved with a positive outcome, was especially painful for me because I start all my classes by saying, "This is not my class, it's yours," and "I hope to be a role model for you when you become teachers." These two stories -- humiliating haircuts and my personal incident -- are full of cautions. When is it OK to humiliate students? Never.

Many of us can recall a situation when we were humiliated by a teacher. If you close your eyes and recall it, it still has the power to make you cringe. And also for many of us, if we never resolved our feelings with those teachers, we still haven't forgiven them.

Read full article <https://www.reclaiming.com/content/StudentHumiliation>

Diversity Connection
CAREER CONNECTION



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Colorblindness: the New Racism

Teaching Tolerance
<http://goo.gl/MnsEQW>

"It benefits me not to pay attention," says Benn, who is white. "I never have to question whether or not my race is being held in question when I apply for a job. It benefits me not to question that (because) it makes it look like I got here on my own."

Paying attention to the cultural experience of students is becoming increasingly important,



given the differences between the demographics of American students and their teachers.

According to reports from the

National Center for Education Statistics, roughly 80 percent of American teachers are white, while children of color make up more than 40 percent of the student body.

As the nation's demographics shift, the sight of a white teacher leaning over the desk of a brown or black student is likely become more and more common. In order to be effective, teachers will have to learn about the cultural experiences of their students, while using these experiences as a foundation for teaching. The approach is called culturally relevant pedagogy.

But that is hard to do if a teacher doesn't see differences as valuable. That means the blinders have to come off, says Randy Ross, a senior equity specialist at the New England Equity Assistance Center, a program of Brown University's Education Alliance. Ross facilitates workshops on racism and culturally responsive teaching. And in her experience, white people have the hardest time opening their eyes. [Continue reading full article http://goo.gl/D9LLZj](http://goo.gl/D9LLZj)

King/Drew Magnet High School in South Central Los Angeles: 89% of the students are low income and 90% of the students go on to college. Latosha Guy, English Teacher : "Students are crying out for engagement. Students are crying out for rigor. But students area also crying out to be met where they are and taken step by step to reach the highest bar."

Improving Education: A View from King/Drew Magnet High School



View video a <http://goo.gl/PsLcQL>

Why some parents are sitting kids out of tests?

60% of parents thing there is too much emphasis on testing. Are they right?

"We have 36 weeks in the school year, 20 to 24 of those weeks include testing," Jackson tells the gathering. "So all these weeks I'm not in

the classroom, with my students, providing them the services that we're legally mandated to give them, and no one seems to really care about it."

The federal No Child Left Behind law requires students to be tested every year in grades three through eight and once in high school in math and reading. The Department of Education says a total of 17 standardized tests are required at the federal level.

[Continue reading http://goo.gl/zxQLbZ](http://goo.gl/zxQLbZ)

With Fewer New Teachers, Why Do Some Stick Around?

nprED March 2015

Earlier this month, [we reported](#)¹ on an alarming drop in enrollment at teacher training programs in several large states. Considering the job's long hours, generally low pay and unpopular testing requirements, many teachers in our audience [weren't surprised](#)² by the trend.

This made us wonder: Why, in spite of all the reasons to quit, do so many teachers keep at it?

In 2012, The Gates Foundation (which [supports](#) NPR's coverage of education) [surveyed](#)³ more than 10,000 public school teachers—to find out what factors were important in retaining good teachers. 68 percent said that supportive leadership was "absolutely essential." Only 34 percent said the same about higher salaries. [Continue reading at <http://goo.gl/npz kfZ>](#)

- ¹ <http://goo.gl/IDI6oz>
² <http://goo.gl/FLxDtA>
³ <http://goo.gl/ZqU3KS>



We Need Teachers of Color

Jacob Murray & Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Education Week, April 2015

School demographics in the United States are changing rapidly as students become more diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, and spoken language. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Education predicted a historic first: This fall, a majority of public school students [will be children of color](#)¹. At the same time, our country's teacher workforce remains remarkably stagnant, with little change in teacher diversity rates over the past decade. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics, or

Schools Nationwide Struggle with Substitute Teacher Shortage

Tom Coyne, Huffington Post, March 20, 2015

Carrie Swing wasn't alarmed when her fifth-grade daughter, Ivy, spent a day in a first-grade classroom at her San Francisco school, filling out worksheets and helping younger students read because no substitute could be found for her absent teacher.

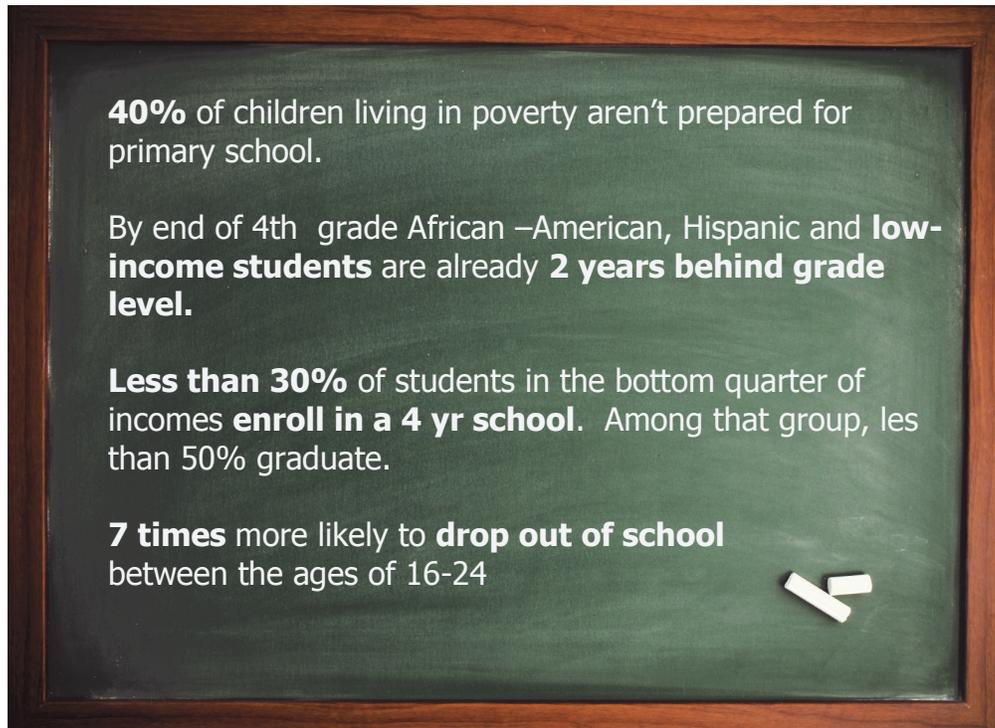
But when it happened the next four days too, Swing became so concerned that she considered quitting her public relations job to homeschool her daughter.

..... In Washington state, a preliminary survey late last year by the Office of the State Actuary found 84 of 94 school districts that responded had trouble finding substitutes. [Continue reading at <http://goo.gl/aiNrlv>](#)

A frequent source of substitutes has been education majors looking for experience. But officials say fewer college students are choosing teaching as a career path, in part because of recent layoffs and concerns about new education standards, including efforts in some states to link teacher evaluations with student test scores.

NCES, show that between 2003 to 2011, the percentage of public school teachers of color inched up from just under 17 percent to 18 percent. [Continue reading at <http://goo.gl/pZ6KQp>](#)

¹ U.S. School Enrollment Hits Majority-Minority Milestone, Education Week, August 2014 <http://goo.gl/TAcmtl>



Source: <https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-education-and-poverty-america>

Majority of U.S. public school students are in poverty

The Washington Post, January 2015
Lyndsey Layton

For the first time in at least 50 years, a majority of U.S. public school students come from low-income families, according to a new analysis of 2013 federal data, a statistic that has profound implications for the nation.

The Southern Education Foundation reports¹ that 51 percent of students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in the 2012-2013 school year were eligible for the federal program that provides free and reduced-price lunches. The lunch program is a rough proxy for poverty, but the explosion in the number of needy children in the nation's public classrooms is a recent phenomenon that has been gaining attention among educators, public officials and researchers.

"We've all known this was the trend, that we would get to a majority, but it's here sooner rather than later," said Michael A. Rebell of the Campaign for Educational Equity at Teachers College at Columbia University, noting that the poverty rate has been increasing even as the economy has improved. "A lot of people at the top are doing much better, but the people at the bottom are not doing better at all. Those are the people who have the most children and send their children to public school."

The shift to a majority-poor student population means that in public schools, a growing number of children start kindergarten already trailing their more privileged peers and rarely, if ever, catch up. They are less likely to have support at home, are less frequently exposed to enriching activities outside of school, and are more likely to drop out and never attend college.

It also means that education policy, funding decisions and classroom instruction must adapt to the needy children who arrive at school each day. [Continue reading http://goo.gl/ny6WSe](http://goo.gl/ny6WSe)

The Numbers Add Up To This: Less and Less Opportunity For Poor Kids

nprED March 2015

On Tuesday, a book and a separate study are being released — both turning up evidence that the one-generation leap is getting harder to accomplish in an economy so tied to education, technological know-how and networking.

Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam's new book, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, argues that the United States is losing its status as a land of opportunity for all.

Here's the central idea: In the American Dream, upward mobility is available to all, limited only by ability and effort, not class. But Putnam assembles data to show that an "opportunity gap" has emerged here, making an upward climb much tougher in the 21st century, compared with the mid-20th century.

Putnam says a child born to married, college-educated parents has a very good chance of enjoying a comfortable life, rooted in formal education and personal connections; a child raised by a lightly educated single parent is starting the economic race wearing concrete shoes. The chances of catching up to the middle class are slim. [Continue reading http://goo.gl/8l08Zd](http://goo.gl/8l08Zd)

Diversity Connection is DIGITAL

We have updated. You have two options, digital and PDF format. View the videos, interact more with our digital edition. All editions in one location with options of PDF download.

<https://sites.google.com/a/education.ne.gov/>

The screenshot shows the website for Diversity Connection, Multicultural News. The header includes the logo and the URL www.education.ne.gov/mce. Below the header is a search bar and navigation tabs for Home, Subscribe, February 2015, and March 2015.

Page authors
 Peg Kirby
 April 7, 2015

The Diversity Connection is a monthly newsletter from the Multicultural Education section, Nebraska Department of Education.
 Each month a new tab will be added with the latest in multicultural education.
 Past issues can be viewed and or downloaded in PDF format at www.education.ne.gov/mce. All online newsletters will have the download option also.

Carol Rempp
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 Editor and layout
 Staff Assistant

Highlights for the April Diversity Connection

Coming April 10

- 12 Ways to Avoid Student Humiliation
- Colorblindness: the new racism
- Improving Education... a must see video
- With Fewer New Teachers: Why do Some Stick Around?
- Numbers Add Up To This: Less and Less Opportunity for Poor Kids
- To give their children a better education, parents launch a new school
- Teen Tantrums
- 3 Most Important Questions You Can Ask your Teenager
- Your kids are listening: How to talk to them about body image and healthy eating habits
- April is Minority Health Month
- Additional scholarships and grants
- Conference/workshop/webinar information

AQUESTT
 for Nebraska
emPOWERED BY DATA
 CONFERENCE
 April 27-28
 Kearney NE
<http://mdeconference.education.ne.gov>

NEBRASKA
ACADEMY
 Inspiring Excellence in Grades 4-8
 May 27-28
 Norfolk Junior High School
 Refer to [Meeting/Webinar](#) section for registration.

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PARENT CONNECTION



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DRAW THE LINE AT
DISRESPECT

Teen Tantrums: Ten Ways to Ensure Anger Doesn't Rule Your House

Dr Dave—Mind Positive Parenting, April 2015

I hear from more and more families where the kids take charge of the house with their anger. I talked a month ago with a single mother who was so physically afraid of her 13-year-old son that he was able to do whatever he wanted. It's not healthy for anyone in the family, especially the kids themselves, to learn that all they have to do is use anger to get their way. Learning how to respectfully handle big feelings is part of growing up. Here are some strategies for managing teen tantrums. [Continue Reading http://drdavewalsh.com/posts/202](http://drdavewalsh.com/posts/202)



The Three Most Important Questions You Can Ask Your Teenager

Michael Mulligan—Head of the School: The Blog January 2015

According to the social scientists, the last of the millennials are now gracing our high school campuses. [The Pew Research Center report](#) on this cohort describes them as "confident, connected, and open to change." I agree. Technology is their metier. They embrace diversity like no generation before them. They seek to serve the dispossessed and the disadvantaged. They work to find green solutions to the environmental mess we have bequeathed them. In this regard, they are focused and unrelenting: a good thing for all of us.

Beneath their energy and commitment to building a better world, though, is stretched, for too many, a fragile membrane that is easily punctured. We have raised a generation that is plagued with insecurity, anxiety and despair.

[Continue Reading http://goo.gl/zqUbeu](http://goo.gl/zqUbeu)

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Your kids are listening: How to talk to them about body image and healthy eating habits

Dr Dave—Mind Positive Parenting, March 2015

It is impossible to walk through a grocery store these days and not feel conflicted by the images plastered over magazine covers. Navigating the tension between what we're told we should look like and what we we're told we should want to eat is difficult even for adults. Imagine how it must feel to teens.

Given the high rates of weight-related disorders in adolescents, parent may wonder whether talking to their children about eating habits is beneficial or detrimental. And if we do start the conversation, what should we say?

[Continue reading http://drdavewalsh.com/posts/ask/201](http://drdavewalsh.com/posts/ask/201)



April is Minority Health Month Great Resources and Activities

Minority Health Office

<http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/nmhm/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/MHMonth.html>

National Center for Health in Public Housing

<http://www.nchph.org/national-minority-health-month/>



Chefs Move to Schools

Find a chef at this website in Nebraska. Sponsored by letsmove.gov, local area chefs will come to your school with hand on preparation of healthy snacks. Find the registered chefs in your area. <http://www.chefsmovetoschools.org/>

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SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT CONNECTION



WWW.EDUCATION.NE.GOV/MCE

Young Native Writers Essay Contest

Deadline: April 15, 2015

TYPE OF AWARD: \$2,500 scholarship, trip to Washington, D.C.

NUMBER OF AWARDS: 4 **Grade level:** High School

Link to forms and required writing guidelines:
<http://nativewriters.hklaw.com/>

Awarded by: Holland & Knight

GENERAL RULES:

Write an essay about one or more of the cultural images, symbols, or art forms that have been historically utilized by your community (American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian) to serve a specific purpose or to communicate a particular message or value.

Genoa Indian School Scholarship

Deadline: May 1, 2015

TYPE OF AWARD: \$1,000 scholarship

NUMBER OF AWARDS: n/a

Grade levels: High School Senior/college

Link to forms and criteria:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/mce>

Awarded by: Genoa Indian School Foundation

FUNDING USES:

Financial assistance to meet educational goals in higher education of students in need.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Verification of tribal enrollment, Nebraska resident, essay and application

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant

Deadline: May 21, 2015

AWARD: \$4,000 maximum

NUMBER OF AWARDS: n/a

Link to forms and criteria:

http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx#ylg

Awarded by: Dollar General

FUNDING USES:

Funds to assist implementing new or expanding existing literacy programs, purchase new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Schools, public libraries and non-profits

Lincoln Indian Center Scholarship

Deadline July 15, 2015

TYPE OF AWARD: Scholarship between \$500-\$1,000

NUMBER OF AWARDS: varies

Grade levels: High school senior-college

Link to forms and criteria:

www.education.ne.gov/mce/Grants.html

Awarded by: Lincoln Indian center

GENERAL RULES:

Tribal affiliation, academic standing

Winners announced at the August 16 Powwow in Lincoln



April 27-28, 2015 / Younes Conference Center / Kearney, Nebraska

Registration open: <http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov>

[Conference Flyer](#)
<http://www.education.ne.gov/documents/AQuESTTDataConfFlier.pdf>



Connect in Education
Mark the date for May 27-28, 2015
Norfolk Junior High School

2015 Award Nominations Now being accepted for:

- Outstanding Teacher Award
- Outstanding Administrator Award
- Alfred A. Arth Outstanding Service Award

<https://nmla.shutterfly.com/>

Registration is OPEN

Early Bird Registration is now open. Register by May 1, 2015 and the fee is only \$50.00
Administrators attend FREE with two paid teacher registrations.
Registration fee covers: breakfast and lunch each day and all conference materials.

Register online **TODAY!!**



Great Plains Studies and Nebraska
Commission on Indian Affairs
May 14-15, 2015
Lincoln
Register online now
<http://www.unl.edu/plains/2015->



Administrator's Days
July 29-July 31, 2015
Younes Conference Center,
Kearney NE
Make your reservation NOW

NIEA Convention and Trade Show
October 14-17, 2015
Portland, OR
Registration open April 1



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