

POLITICOPRO

NEWSLETTER

Building community (schools)



BY: **MACKENZIE WILKES** | 10/18/2023 05:45 AM EDT

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QUICK FIX

— **The number of community schools and those providing wraparound services to students are increasing, new federal data suggests.** But there's more to the community school model than providing services alone.

— **California school districts don't have to negotiate with teachers unions about before shuttering or merging schools.** The ruling sets a precedent for future school closures and consolidations.

— **There's bipartisan agreement to impose federal standards on name, image and likeness.** But congressional lawmakers will have to contend with varying proposals.

IT'S WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18. WELCOME TO MORNING EDUCATION. Tips? Thoughts? Want to grab coffee? **Drop your host a line at mwilkes@politico.com.**

Also, reach out to the team: Bianca Quilantan at bquilantan@politico.com, Juan Perez Jr. at jperez@politico.com and Michael Stratford at mstratford@politico.com. And follow us on X, formerly known as Twitter: [@Morning_Edu](https://twitter.com/Morning_Edu) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

A message from Sallie Mae®:

Scholarships are critical for helping more students access higher education, yet 40% of students and families bypassed them last year, according to Sallie Mae’s 2023 “How America Pays for College” report. Nearly half of families weren’t aware of the scholarships available to them, and 29% believed they wouldn’t qualify. [See how more students can access millions of dollars in free money for higher education.](#)

DRIVING THE DAY

WHAT MAKES A COMMUNITY SCHOOL — More public schools are using a community school or wraparound service model, [new federal data suggests](#). Sixty percent of public schools surveyed by the National Center for Education Statistics use one of these models, a 15-point increase from the 2022-23 school year. But it’s important to differentiate community schools from schools that offer one or two wraparound services like mental health care or nutrition assistance, according to Emily Germain, a researcher at the Learning Policy Institute.

— **“People think community schools is just wraparound services, as opposed to a strategy** for kind of rethinking or transforming how schools operate, because it’s not really a program,” Germain said. “A lot of people think of it as like a program. So, we’re adding this person who’s going to bring some mental health supports and this other thing to our school, but nothing else really changes. ... Community schools is the way to really engage all of the different people who are in the school community to really think through what they want school to be.”

Two-thirds of public schools offer mental health care through community partnerships

Top services offered by public schools through community partnerships



Source: National Center for Education Statistics
Mackenzie Wilkes/POLITICO

— **Support systems coordinated by school staff and community partners, data-driven student and family engagement, and expanded access to learning beyond the traditional school hours** are just some of the practices outlined by the Learning Policy Institute that make up an effective community school. Germain said that community schools, which have been around for years, have gotten increased attention since the pandemic because they were already able to provide students and families with services like food assistance and Wi-Fi that were needed during the onset of the pandemic.

— **“Community schools were really well equipped to do some of that work** and coordination and outreach that schools had to do during Covid because they actually are kind of the center hub of a community, whether they see themselves that way or not,” she said.

AROUND CALIFORNIA — A new ruling from California’s labor board could set a precedent that constrains teacher union influence over future consolidations across the state. The California Public Employment Relations Board ruled that the Oakland school district administration didn’t have to negotiate with the local teachers union before shuttering or merging schools, [POLITICO’s Blake Jones reports](#).

— **School consolidations are “not negotiable”** and “entirely within the managerial prerogative” unless explicitly stated in the contract, the board said in its draft ruling. The labor board, however, noted that the district should have provided advance notice to the union.

— **The Oakland school district has been at the center of school closure debates.** The school board ultimately voted against certain school closures that the board thought would cut costs. Before the reversal, the Oakland Education Association filed a complaint with the employment board, alleging that the district failed to bargain over the proposal, as required, or undergo a nine-month planning process before merging schools.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

SUPPORTING NATIVE EDUCATION — Millions of federal dollars are headed to support Native American language education, teachers and tribal schools. The Education Department announced that over \$11 million is headed to schools and tribal entities through three federal grant programs.

— **“These grant funds will provide Native American students with greater opportunities** to learn in inclusive environments that uplift their cultures, revitalize their languages, and ultimately, promote their academic success and wellbeing,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement.

— **The Native American Language Resource Center program** is distributing \$1.2 million to the University of Hawaii to establish a national center that would aid in the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in the classroom. The program also establishes three regional centers. Sen. [Brian Schatz](#) (D-Hawaii), who co-led the legislation establishing the program, told your host earlier this year that the centers were meant to help expand language revitalization efforts.

— **“There was no resource for tribes and native organizations that want to save their language** and build their culture and that’s what the Native American Language Resource Center Act is about,” Schatz said. “To try to take the success stories that we’ve had in Indian Country and in the native Hawaiian community and bring it to scale for any Native American tribe that wants to revitalize their language.”

Let's lower



IN CONGRESS



Sen. Richard Blumenthal (center) arrives for a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing to examine the future of college sports on Oct. 17, 2023 in Washington. | AP

IN HOPES OF SETTING A STANDARD — Some senators are calling for a national standard on name, image and likeness rules. Sen. [Richard Blumenthal](#) (D-Conn.), who chaired Tuesday's Senate Judiciary hearing in place of Chair [Dick Durbin](#) (D-Ill.) said the college athletics system has been focused on profits, rather than protecting student-athletes.

— **"I believe strongly that we need a national standard for name, image and likeness** mainly to protect the athletes against potential disreputable agents or unscrupulous deals," Blumenthal said. "That's important not only to protect the schools against unfair competition, but the athletes themselves."

— **Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), ranking member of the committee**, said there's bipartisan agreement on the need for a national standard, agreeing with Blumenthal that there should be a federal standard.

— **“I think if you make college athletes employees you're going to knock out sports programs** for Division II, a lot of non-revenue generating sports, particularly in women's athletics, will go away,” Graham said. “As you try to elevate some of the star players to make sure they get a piece of the pie, we don't want to create an environment where Division II or smaller Division I schools will be knocked out of the game.”

— **NCAA President Charlie Baker said he wants Congress to act on NIL** to implement a national standard in the face of differing state laws on the issue. Baker said he wants lawmakers to ensure that there's no racial or gender discrimination with NIL agreements, and allow the NCAA to enforce student health and well-being requirements.

— **“We want to partner with Congress to go further and curtail inducements** and prevent collectives and other third parties from tampering with students and we would like to have a national standard where a patchwork of laws ... currently exists,” Baker said. He added that the NCAA supports “codifying current regulatory guidance into law by granting students special status to affirm that they are not employees.”

REPORT ROUNDUP

A new report from the **Kapor Foundation** on the “[State of Tech Diversity: The Native Tech Ecosystem](#)” offers one outlook on the state of STEM education and workforce participation among Indigenous people. Fifty-nine percent of Native American students attended a school offering computer science and 20 percent of high schools on reservations offered computer science.

ON THE CALENDAR

10:30 a.m. ET The National Association of Secondary School Principals and others are hosting an event on the federal education budget at the Capitol Visitor Center.

Did we miss anything? Email educalendar@politicopro.com.

SYLLABUS

— Low-tech and high-touch: Folk schools boom as more crave working with their hands: [MPR News](#)

— How Lunchables ended up on school lunch trays: [The Washington Post](#)

— Naloxone on college campuses saves lives: [NPR](#)

— SUNY trustees to bring back five zombie charters in NYC: [POLITICO Pro](#)

A message from Sallie Mae®:

Scholarships are an important source of funding for students and families financing their higher education—especially those from underserved and underrepresented communities. [Learn how](#) Sallie Mae's free tools and resources are helping connect more students to free money and ultimately reducing the amount they borrow for college.

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