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REGION 10
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

COMMUNICATING for RESULTS

Region 10's Online Strategic Communications Service

Monday, December 7, 2015



Thought of the Week

"An hour of code. A lifetime of change."

Computer Science Education Week, December 7-13

Tip of the Week

Many management gurus believe that [EQ is more important than IQ](#) when it comes to identifying leaders. But John Ryan, president and CEO of the [Center for Creative Leadership](#), says that CQ (Curiosity Quotient) is starting to get the recognition it deserves. He cites a recent [Harvard Business Review article](#) in which Michael Dell and other prominent executives identify CQ as one of the most crucial leadership skills for the future. In a *LinkedIn* post Ryan also shares three things leaders need to know about CQ. [Check them out here.](#)

ESSA on Way to Senate

Tomorrow it's the U.S. Senate's turn to take up the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, the No Child Left Behind replacement bill. Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander is confident that measure will receive wide support, and he's probably correct if the House vote last week—359 to 64 in favor—is any indication. Alexander said he doesn't expect many surprises as the bill passes back through the chamber for its last stop before it heads to President Barack Obama's desk for a signature. A [Wall Street Journal editorial](#) recently deemed ESSA the "largest devolution of federal control" in 25 years. Texas AFT President Louis Malfaro was already celebrating that fact in a guest editorial last week, noting the flexibility Texas and other states will have in assessing whether

students and schools are performing proficiently and deciding what to do if they aren't. Of course, Malfaro may be forgetting that much of NCLB was inspired by Texas. If the new bill passes, it shouldn't take long to learn if lawmakers and state leaders have developed a different view of school accountability.

Spotlight on Region 10 Schools

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD continues to highlight its diversity and food seems to be a key element in the process. [Blalack Middle School recently hosted an international food event](#) featuring a great night of food, fun, and fellowship with many different cultures that represent their school. PTA and all the staff members participated by sharing their culture, setting up/cleaning up, talking to the families while enjoying their food. Meanwhile, the Creekview High School [Muslim Students Association participated in Hunger Busters on a Sunday morning](#). Students prepared over 300 meals consisting of sandwiches and snacks which provided disadvantaged children across the metroplex with lunches. The Muslim Students Association is an organization dedicated to promoting diversity and religious tolerance throughout the community, and improving the lives of those around them.

In an obvious indication that Red Oak ISD's growth is on the rise, the district has suspended its [Interdistrict Transfer Policy](#) that allows for students who do not live within district boundaries to apply to attend ROISD schools. Officials said the move [is in response to increased enrollment of resident students and projected growth in the coming years](#). The suspension only applies to new applicants and current Interdistrict Transfer students may continue to attend Red Oak ISD under the normal rules and requirements. Applications will be considered for siblings of current Interdistrict Transfer students only. In addition, applications from Red Oak ISD current and future employee's children will be permitted.

Plano ISD [dedicated its natatorium on Saturday in honor of Bruce Eubanks](#), a former swim coach at Frisco High School who launched the district's swim program in 2001. The natatorium opened in 2003. During his 34-year career as a coach, he was honored 20 times by his peers as Region Coach of the Year and six times as State Coach of the Year. He was named the 2013-2014 National Federation of High School Coaches Association Boys State Swimming Coach of the Year. Eubanks retired in 2014.

Scanning the News

Around Texas: A 16-year-old El Paso high school student [attempted to commit suicide](#) by setting himself on fire. [The El Paso Times](#) reported that the student was transported to an area hospital with severe, but non-life-threatening burns. [Video posted to Snapchat](#) captured the moment after the freshman used a lighter in the middle of English class...Hundreds of [concerned parents are urging Amarillo ISD to revise its policy concerning lice](#). They claim local schools tell them that students with active lice are not sent home, but the district's health services director says only those with nits are allowed to remain. Meanwhile, an online [petition](#) is seeking change...Pearsall ISD parents are upset they have received [no word from the district about an alleged sexual assault reported by students](#). Although school, police and child protective services officials are investigating, the district says they have nothing confirmed to share at this point.

New York's Syracuse school district is about to [end the practice of sharing student discipline records with colleges](#). For nearly a decade, colleges and universities – particularly those using the "Common Application" – have been asking high school employees to say whether students have been suspended or expelled. [According to a report by the Center for Community Alternatives](#), 73% of colleges and universities ask for student discipline records. Only 25% have formal policies for what they do with that information. Meanwhile, most schools surveyed have no policy for dealing with the question, leaving it up to counselors to determine whether to release the information. Reportedly, 50% of them do. Experts disagree on whether the sharing of discipline records is legal. FERPA bans the sharing of student information, but college applications ask students to give their schools

permission to share it. Admissions officials defend the practice, saying it helps screen candidates who could pose a threat.

Across the nation: Five fifth-graders in northern New Jersey were suspended after being detained by police for allegedly [plotting to attack a high school during a field trip](#) using a device filled with vinegar and cinnamon. The students were caught when staff found written plans on how the alleged attack would occur...In response to charges that they [have not properly dealt with complaints about inappropriate teacher-student relationships](#), officials in a western Pennsylvania district say they've made it easier to report suspected sexual assault. Following four separate incidents this calendar year, a spokesman for the Plum Borough Schools said the district's website now has links for sending complaints to officials...The superintendent of a northern Indiana school district says he's disappointed a federal judge has granted [a preliminary injunction banning the district from including a live Nativity scene as part of its annual Christmas show](#). Concord Community School officials say they are considering an appeal to the order.

Items of Interest

As they arrived at school Thursday morning, [teachers in San Bernardino received an email from district headquarters](#) -- a tip sheet to guide the conversations that they'd surely have with their students the day after 14 people died and 21 were injured in a [mass shooting](#) in their city. The guidelines encouraged teachers to stick to the facts and to reassure students that they were safe at school and that the school district and school police were committed to keeping them safe. The email also included advice from [the National Assn. of School Psychologists](#) on talking to children about violence. The district has a crisis team that accompanies and observes school police during live shooter trainings that helps it prepare to support students and staff during such situations.

A new study commissioned by Congress takes a look at expanded learning time, including the characteristics of schools with extended time and how the additional time is funded. The report from the *U. S. Government Accountability Office* shows that schools with the longest hours tend to be charters and serve a larger percentage of low-income, black, and Hispanic students than all other schools. These schools also add as much as a month's worth of instruction to the school year. Just a small fraction of funding for expanded learning time comes from the federal government, the study found. Only one—the School Improvement Grant program—provides money specifically to establish extended learning time in schools. [See the full report here](#).

Edutopia continues its tradition of helping school leaders and other educators looking for outside support for their efforts. *The Big List of Educational Grants and Resources* includes a roundup of educational grants, contests, awards, free toolkits, and classroom guides aimed at helping students, classrooms, schools, and communities. The items are grouped by categories: [Grants](#), [Contests and Awards](#) and [Classroom Resources](#). And the great thing is that the page is updated weekly. [Check it out](#).

Resource Bank

Many hesitate to integrate social media into district practices due to fear of cyberbullying, class distractions or other negative consequences. But leaders embracing the new tech tools say social media enhances student and community engagement. Michael Roe, principal of Poly High School in California's Riverside USD, and Luvelle Brown, superintendent of Ithaca City School District in New York, each brought strong social media efforts to their districts to provide instructional leadership for the new technologies. Both also take advantage of sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat and YouTube to reach thousands of stakeholders. They share advice for others looking to improve communications and celebrate district successes in today's [Resource Bank](#). Look for their "[8 Tips for Navigating Social Media in Schools](#)."



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