



BEAT REPORTING

What to cover in education

(K12 and higher ed)

Sunday, June 23

9:00 a.m.

The Panel



Torsheta Jackson
(she/her)
Mississippi Free Press
Moderator



Sydney Sims
(she/her)
Capital B



Divya Kumar
(she/her)
Tampa Bay Times



Graph Massara
(he/him)
HuffPost

Goals of this session:

- Reporters to come away with new practical and often overlooked story ideas and reporting strategies
- Inspire journalists to cover these stories and understand that people do care

DEI Policies and Responses

- Tracking legislation: who's behind this? How is it being implemented?
- Tracking impact: what's at stake?

NEWS / THE EDUCATION GRADEBOOK

USF will remain diverse despite new Florida laws, university leaders say

Their assurances come after some trustees voiced concerns about the school's national reputation.



Protesters at the University of South Florida in Tampa rallied in April 2023 against Gov. Ron DeSantis' push to ban diversity programs at state colleges and universities, a proposal that later became law. USF officials said Monday that the university would remain diverse despite the law's provisions. [IVY CEBALLO | Times]

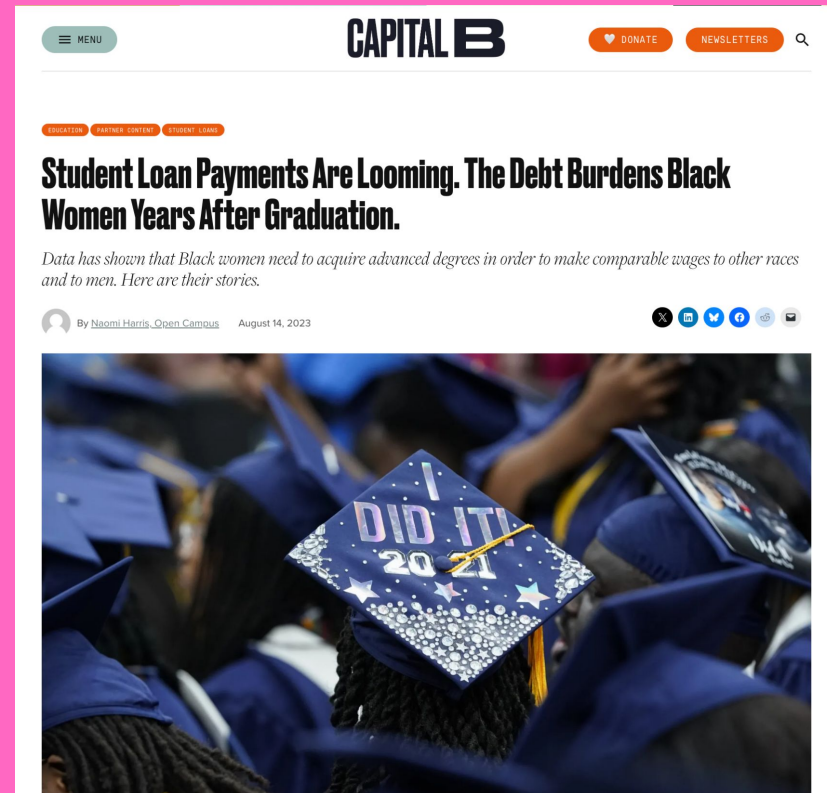
By **Divya Kumar** *Times staff*

Source:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2024/03/19/usf-will-remain-diverse-despite-new-florida-laws-university-leaders-say/>

Student Loan Debt/Forgiveness

- Lack of education surrounding loans in minority populations
- Loans vs. Economy
- Effects of payment restarting



Source:

<https://capitalbnews.org/student-loans-millennial-women/>

Campus Protests

- How are policies being enforced?
- Keep your safety in mind

NEWS / BREAKING NEWS

Police use tear gas on pro-Palestinian protesters at USF in Tampa

Ten people were arrested at the campus as protests continue to spread at other Florida universities.



A pro-Palestinian protester returns a tear gas canister toward police after it was fired at a group of protesters at MLK Plaza at the University of South Florida in Tampa on Tuesday. [DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD | Times]

By **Divya Kumar** *Times staff*
Justin Garcia *Times staff*
Sam Ogozalek *Times staff*

Source:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/breaking-news/2024/04/30/live-updates-student-protest-standoff-with-police-usf-tampa-campus/>

The New Online FAFSA

- Effects to low-income communities
- Compare enrollment data to college's average amount of federal aid received by students

College Aid Decisions Delayed For Incoming Students Over FAFSA Errors

by Torsheta Jackson
May 9, 2024



Students at Mississippi colleges and universities are still waiting for need-based financial aid awards after changes to the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid caused delays. The U.S. Department of Education announced that it had discovered an error in the FAFSA calculation formula on March 22, 2024. The errors could delay decisions about whether Mississippi high school graduates will be able to attend universities like Mississippi State University, seen here, in the fall. Photo by Heather Harrison

As graduation looms, many high school seniors are still waiting for vital financial-aid

Source:

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/41956/college-aid-decisions-delayed-for-incoming-students-over-fafsa-errors>

Climate Change and Environmental Justice

- Climate/Environment is often not connected to education
- Examine how climate affects the budget/finances, school calendar, purchases, policies



Source:

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/jackson-public-schools-getting-new-electric-bus-fleet-reimagining-what-its-like-for-children-to-ride/>

Prison Education/Return of Pell Grants for Incarcerated Individuals

- Explore the school-to-prison pipeline
- Other education programs for incarcerated individuals



Source:

<https://atlanta.capitalnews.org/prison-education-programs/>

Teacher Attrition/Alternate Route Education Programs

- How are cities and states addressing the problems
- Look for homegrown solutions

NEWS

Alternate-Route Education Programs Target Mississippi's Teacher Shortage



by Torsheta Jackson
September 15, 2023



Alternate-route teacher-preparation programs such as the Mississippi Teacher Corps are one way Mississippi is combating its teacher-shortage issues. Seen here, Ricky Fields, Kristy Sanchez and Sabrina Spoon participate in MTC's summer training program. Photo courtesy Joe Sweeney, MTC

The first-period bell brings Murrah High School sophomores to Andrew Garner's classroom. The Algebra I teacher greets them at the door for the first time this semester. His red shirt sports an image of a right angle and the words, "I am always right.";

Search ...



Source:

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/42932/alternate-route-education-programs-target-mississippis-teacher-shortage>

Extremism in Education

- School boards
- Benefit from lack of optics



Source:

<https://wisconsinwatch.org/2023/01/tired-of-turmoil-kiel-residents-rebuke-far-right-school-officials/>

Anti-Trans Policies and Impact

- Examine questions of fairness
- Allow students to speak for themselves (with safeguards)
- Ask: Is there a “there-there”?
 - (Ex. The girl at the center of this story came in second place — but trans girls “dominating” womens’ sports...)



Source:

<https://www.cjr.org/analysis/trans-student-athlete-controversy-california.php>

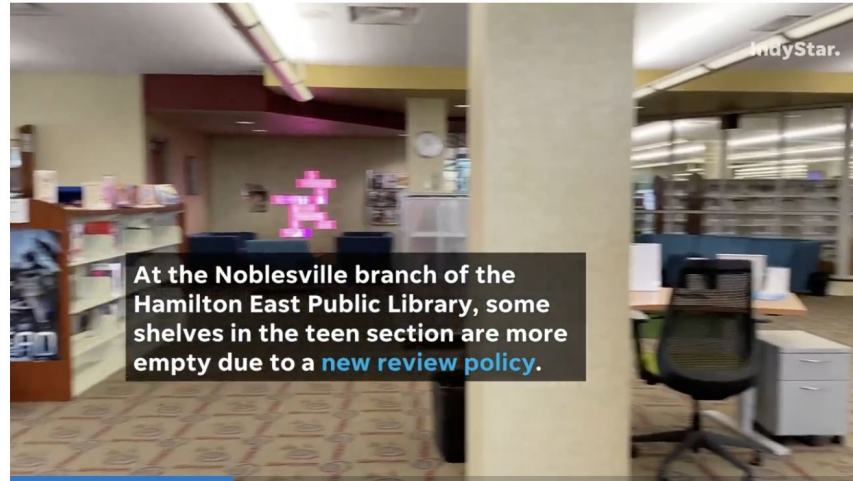
Anti-Trans Laws in Education

EDUCATION

Parents annoyed as pronouns law requires Indiana schools to report all nickname requests

Caroline Beck and Rachel Fradette Indianapolis Star

Published 11:14 a.m. ET Aug. 10, 2023 | Updated 12:16 p.m. ET Aug. 10, 2023



John Green's face is featured in the HEPL teen section, but this best-selling novel isn't

John Green said he's not going to Fishers anytime soon after his book was removed from the teen section, meaning "no Top Golf or IKEA for a while." *Elissa Maudlin, Jenny Porter Tilley, Rachel Fradette and Jenna Watson, Wochit*

When National Policy and Regional Education Efforts Differ

NEWS / THE EDUCATION GRADEBOOK

UF eliminates diversity office; will steer money to faculty recruitment instead

USF makes a similar move, saying it has ended its search for a chief diversity officer. The actions are in response to new state policy.



The University of Florida announced Friday it has ended all spending on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in response to new state policy. [SHADD | Times]

By Divya Kumar Times staff

NEWS / THE EDUCATION GRADEBOOK

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Protesters at the University of South Florida in Tampa rallied in April 2023 against Gov. Ron DeSantis' push to ban diversity programs at state colleges and universities, a proposal that later became law. USF officials said Monday that the university would remain diverse despite the law's provisions. [IVY CEBALLO | Times]

By Divya Kumar Times staff

NEWS / THE EDUCATION GRADEBOOK

NAACP urges student-athletes to 'reconsider' going to Florida's public colleges

The national organization cited the state's new law prohibiting spending on diversity programs.



A view of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium during a game between the University of Florida and Utah on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022 in Gainesville. The NAACP is urging student-athletes to "reconsider" offers to go to Florida schools, citing a new state law that targets spending on diversity programs. [GARY MCCULLOUGH | AP]

By Divya Kumar Times staff

The School Voucher Debate

State-Funded Private School Accounts Are Coming. Here's What That Means For Black Families.

Capital B Atlanta breaks down the impact of a controversial bill that awaits Gov. Kemp's signature.



By Sydney Sims

April 12, 2024



EDUCATION K-12

Georgia School Voucher Law Sparks Debate on Education Funding

The new measure will direct 1% of the state's public schools funding formula to create education savings accounts for eligible state students.



By Sydney Sims

June 11, 2024



How Will 2024 Election Results Impact Education Policy?





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