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“Timid men . . . prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty.”
Thomas Jefferson

Results from Survey by U.S. Department of Ed Examines COVID-19 Impact on Principals and Teachers

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released the [results of a survey](#) titled “Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Education in the United States.” The NCES is part of the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, which is responsible for collecting data regarding education in the United States. The 2020–21 National Teacher and Principal Survey, a national study which gathers information regarding teachers, principals, and characteristics of schools, included questions regarding the effects of the pandemic as the survey was conducted between October 2020 and August 2021 when schools nationwide were grappling with issues such as whether or not to reopen and how to provide adequate online instruction. Specific pandemic topics included interaction with students, perceived level of support and resources for teachers and principals, and the types of distance learning utilized. Overall, the results showed that private school principals and teachers were more connected to their students than their public school counterparts, even though they may have had fewer resources available.

Specifically, a higher percentage of public schools (77%) reported moving to an online format for distance learning than private schools (73%), while a higher percentage of private schools (48% compared to 41% of public schools) moved to distance learning with paper materials. More teachers in private schools (63%) reported using scheduled online classes that allowed for student interaction, compared to 47% of public school teachers. When looking at specific types of online interaction, including group sessions, one-on-one conferences, and scheduled office hours, teachers in charter schools reported a higher percentage of involvement (55%) than regular public school teachers (46%). Sixty-one percent of private school teachers reported having “real-time interaction” with over 75% of their students, compared to only 32% of public school teachers. Interestingly (and sadly), 14% of public school teachers and 9% of private school teachers had no interaction with students. Regarding resources and support during the pandemic, 78% of private school principals either “somewhat” or “strongly agreed” that they had necessary support, compared to 74% of public school principals. The gap was a little larger for teachers, with 76% of private school teachers and 61% of public school teachers “somewhat” or “strongly agreeing” they had the necessary resources and support. Regarding student access to computers and digital devices, the report noted that *before* the pandemic, 23% of public schools and 14% of private schools made provisions for students; *during* the pandemic, the percentage for public schools almost doubled to 45% providing electronic devices, and private schools rose slightly to 20%. Principals in only 4% of public schools indicated that all their students had access to the internet, compared to 58% of private school principals; a larger percentage of public school principals (61% v. 9% private school principals) worked to help increase internet access for their students. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Court Rules in Favor of Religious Liberty

A Wisconsin Court of Appeals has ruled [in favor](#) of the religious liberty of a church and school to choose employees that abide by its biblical beliefs. In [Sandoval v. Capitoland Christian Center Church](#), an employee, Sandra Sandoval, left her job as a cook at the church's daycare and elementary school after the church discovered that she lived with her boyfriend. When hired, Sandoval had signed a statement agreeing that she would not live with a man outside of marriage. Because Sandoval and the church disagreed about whether she was fired or whether she resigned from her position, Sandoval sued the church, alleging that the church's actions violated Madison's Equal Opportunities Ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on marital status. The Madison Equal Opportunities Commission initially investigated the complaint and sided with the church against Sandoval, who then appealed to the courts. In its decision, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals found that the Commission had properly found that Sandoval was not terminated from her job. Further, the court disagreed with Sandoval's claim that the church's cohabitation standard violated the Equal Opportunities Ordinance. Jeremiah Galus, Senior Counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, praised the decision, stating, "Every church has a statement of faith, and it is not only reasonable, but expected for a church to require its employees to agree with and follow its religious beliefs."

Iowa Governor Signs Bill Protecting Girls' Sports

Last week, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds [signed](#) a bill into law that protects girls' and women's sports by prohibiting biological men and boys from competing with girls. Under the [new law](#), students must compete on the team that aligns with their biological sex in accredited nonpublic schools, public schools, public colleges, and colleges that are a part of the NCAA. The bill also created a private cause of action for female students who are harmed by a violation of the law. While opponents of the law claimed that the law pedaled "myths fueled by ignorance and fear," Governor Reynolds and Republican state legislators praised the bill as a victory for fairness in women's sports. Governor Reynolds stated, "No amount of talent, training or effort can make up for the natural physical advantages males have over females. It's simply a reality of human biology. Forcing females to compete against males is the opposite of inclusivity and it's absolutely unfair." State Senator Jeff Taylor [echoed](#) the increasingly countercultural idea that biological sex matters, stating that "the foundational argument against the bill is that trans girls are girls and that trans women are women. However, this argument is not true. Trans girls are boys, not girls. Trans women are men, not women." Iowa is the eleventh state to pass a law protecting fair competition in women's sports.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[New Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for School Choice](#)

[Rep. Virginia Foxx: Women's Sports Shouldn't be Collateral Damage to the Left's Campaign to Redefine Gender](#)