

## June 2010 Advocacy Newsletter

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Information gathered by the Educator Vice President and the Education, Environment, Health and Wellness, Parenting and Family Life, and Special Education Chairs to assist you in your advocacy efforts.



### Education

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- The **2010 National Teacher of the Year Winner** is announced: Johnston High School (Iowa) English teacher, Sarah Brown Wessling, was named as national teacher of the year.  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201004281025/NEWS02/100428022>
- <http://teacherscount.org/>  
The slogan, "Behind every famous person is a fabulous teacher" and lots more resources!
- NEA – National Education Association – **Read Across America** campaign -  
<http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>
- **Library of Congress** – Explore new worlds – Read: <http://www.read.gov/>
- **Read, Write, Think** has a calendar with daily activities to celebrate. For more information, go to: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/?main-tab=week>
- **There is no preferred path to teacher certification, study finds**  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/29/31teachered.h29.html?tkn=LRXF7sxV%2FYIZ8fw%2BZnoC7CEDxwoxLUpmgMmi&cmp=sb-ascd>  
There is not enough evidence to support alternative pathways or traditional programs as a better way to prepare teachers, according to a six-year study released by a national panel of scholars. The National Research Council found a wide variation of quality among individual programs and urged the further development of systems to standardize and track data on programs and the teachers they prepare.
- **New York State GED update:** <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ged/WhatsNew.html>
- **Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**  
On March 13, a newly revised version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was released, asking parents, schools, educators, and other leaders to work to improve our nation's public education system in efforts to make the United States the worldwide leader in college completion by 2020. The blueprint for the act also calls for a larger federal role in education. Read: Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)  
<http://preventionperspectives.com/reauthorization-of-the-elementary-and-secondary-education-act-esea/>
- **Keeping All Students Safe Act – FREE informational webinar**  
The Keeping All Students Safe Act is the first national effort to help prevent or reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in US schools and ensure the safety of both students and staff.

Join us May 13 for our FREE webinar, [Keeping All Students Safe: H.R.4247 and S.2860](#). Learn more about this federal legislation and how CPI can help your school comply. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/673349608>

➤ **CWLA Releases *Nation's Children 2010* Report**

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) released [Nation's Children 2010](#), a report which compiles state and national statistics on the health and welfare of U.S. children. The new report revealed that one-fifth of children in the country are living in poverty, which is a 20% increase from 2009. The report indicated a drop in child abuse, neglect, and the number of children in foster care. <http://www.cwla.org/newsevents/news2010302plightstats.htm>

➤ **New Report on Substance Abuse Disorders and the Person-Centered Healthcare Home**

The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare published a new report, *Substance Abuse Disorders and Person-Centered Healthcare Home*, as an expansion to their [2009 report, Behavioral Health / Primary Care Integration and the Person-Centered Healthcare Home](#). <http://preventionperspectives.com/new-report-on-substance-abuse-disorders-and-the-person-centered-healthcare-home/>

➤ **Final version of anti-bullying bill up for vote in Mass. legislature**

[http://www.boston.com/news/education/k\\_12/articles/2010/04/28/mass\\_unveils\\_final\\_draft\\_of\\_a\\_anti\\_bullying\\_bill/](http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2010/04/28/mass_unveils_final_draft_of_a_anti_bullying_bill/)

A final version of a bill to curb online and face-to-face bullying in Massachusetts schools is expected to be approved today by both houses of the state's legislature. The measure prohibits bullying on school grounds, buses and events as well as on social-networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. It also includes requirements that schools provide training for teachers on how to prevent and intervene in cases of bullying, and the bill provides extra protection for students with autism and other special needs.



## Environment

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➤ **Concerned about environmental pollutants?** The American Cancer Society thinks you should be! Read more here: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-05-06-1Achem06\\_ST\\_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-05-06-1Achem06_ST_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip)

➤ **Research links pesticides with ADHD in children**

<http://cbs2chicago.com/wireapnewsil/Study.suggests.pesticides.2.1697363.html>

➤ **Assemblymember Steven Englebright announces passage of legislation that will protect children in schools and daycare centers from dangerous pesticides.**

Englebright urges Governor Patterson to approve the bill quickly. Passage of this bill (A 7937-C) would prohibit the use of toxic pesticides on school and daycare center playgrounds, turf and athletic and playing fields. Assemblymember Englebright states: "This is a historic moment – the passage of the bill by the Assembly and the Senate will provide long-awaited protections for our children in settings where they spend up to half of their young lives. The Governor can now make this happen with a stroke of his pen." Assemblymember Englebright applauded Senator Brian Foley (D, Blue Point) for his successful efforts at passing the bill in the Senate. Englebright noted "Senator Foley's leadership in the Senate has made the possibility of this bill becoming law a reality." <http://www.citizenscampaign.org/alerts/alert-2010-05-b.htm>

- Environmental Working Group has a **Shopper's Guide to Pesticides** <http://www.foodnews.org/> If you like what Environmental Working Group has to say, you can fan them on Facebook and get updates on lots of issues related to our health and the health of the planet.
- Read about a **Composting Cooperative on Long Island**. Congrats to North Hempstead! <http://www.citizenscampaign.org/news/story.asp?id=170>



## Health and Safety

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- **Youth Physical Activity Guidelines Toolkit Available from CDC** This toolkit can be used by anyone who promotes youth physical activity, including community leaders; physical education and health education teachers; physical activity coordinators at the school, district, and state levels; and physical activity practitioners working in health or community-based organizations. Many of the toolkit components can be adapted and customized for various audiences. There is a User Guide (that provides an overview of all toolkit materials, offers suggestions for customizing components, and provides examples of use), Fact sheets, Poster, Power-Point presentations, related resources and FREE ordering information. The toolkit is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity/guidelines.htm#1>
- **Two federal agencies take the lead to make our transportation system safer and healthier.** Both the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), have recently issued policies that help support healthy, active and safe transportation.
  - The CDC's policy Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy, clearly shows the health impacts of transportation, and includes recommendations like providing states with tools to evaluate and expand investments in Safe Routes to school, Complete Streets and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. For more information go to [www.cdc.gov/transportation](http://www.cdc.gov/transportation)
  - The USDOT's policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation encourages States, local governments, professional associations, community organizations, public transportation agencies, and other government agencies, to adopt similar policy statements on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as an indication of their commitment to accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians as an integral element of the transportation system. In support of this commitment, transportation agencies and local communities should go beyond minimum design standards and requirements to create safe, attractive, sustainable, accessible, and convenient bicycling and walking networks. For more information and what specific actions should be included go to [www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/bicycle-ped.html](http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/bicycle-ped.html)
- **U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee passes Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill** *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act 2010*. The Guiding principles are expanding program access to reduce childhood hunger; improve nutritional quality to promote health and address childhood obesity; simplify program management and improve integrity. For detailed highlights of the discussion draft which will make big changes in the school environment, go to the website links: Nutrition Provisions: <http://ag.senate.gov/Legislation/CN%20budget%20framework-%20nutrition.pdf> Hunger Provisions: <http://ag.senate.gov/Legislation/CN%20budget%20framework-%20hunger.pdf>



## Parenting and Family Life

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### Summer Reading

With the summer just around the corner, I know the last thing your child wants to do is read. It is very important for you as a parent to keep your child reading over the summer. Your child's next year teacher may send home a list of books for them to read. If not, ask them for some suggestions. Here are a few sites that may help.

- **Reading and Language. PBS Parents | PBS** Learn how children become readers and writers and how parents can help them develop by talking, reading, and writing together every day. <http://pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage>
- **Reading Is Fundamental | Parents | Reading Aloud** Reading aloud helps your children develop the language skills that they will use in school and ... Kid Reading Icon Parents Choice: Read Aloud Together List <http://www.rif.org/parents/readingaloud/default.aspx>
- **Preschool Home Activities for Parents and Young Children** Educational activities that parents and their young children can do together. Counting, pre-reading, language, science, and physical <http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/preschoolers.htm>
- **Reading together to build early literacy - Parents as Teachers** Parent educators and other early childhood professionals. Choosing books for babies and young children. Reading together to build early literacy. <http://www.parentsasteachers.org>



## Special Education

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Go to: <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/timely.htm> for:

- Policy Memorandum - IEP Diplomas - The Office of Special Education has issued a new policy memorandum which provides guidance to parents and school personnel regarding Individualized Education Program (IEP) Diplomas.
- State Forms and Notices
  - The New York State Education Department has developed model Student Information Summary and Individualized Education Program (IEP) forms for use with preschool and school-age students with disabilities. The model IEP form will assist school districts to meet federal and State requirements for IEP development. This form will be required for use for all IEPs developed for New York State students beginning with the 2011-12 school year.
  - The Sample Consent Form to bill Medicaid for Medicaid reimbursable services that are on a child's individualized education program (IEP) is now available in Spanish, Russian and Haitian Creole.
- Behavioral Interventions and Supports - In response to a request from the U.S. Secretary of Education, New York State has posted its regulations and guidance governing the use of behavioral interventions. <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/BImemo-909.htm>