



The "*Hot Topics in US-China Education*" is a free, monthly email service that watches for "what is hot" in K-12 US and Chinese education. This service targets educators, administrators, researchers, and parents interested in issues of excellence in education in the US and China. The articles presented in this listserv are organized according to the following five dimensions of education: 1) Teachers and Teaching, 2) Learners and Learning, 3) Leaders and Leadership, 4) Curriculum, and 5) Family and Community. Under each category, you can access the full story by clicking on the story title.

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December, 2005

I. Teachers and Teaching

[1. Sixty Thousand Schoolteachers Are To Be Trained in Psychology Programs](#)

Monday, December 12, 2005. Chinese Youth

Sixty thousand schoolteachers in Shenyang City were required by the local Department of Education to attend psychology programs. It is stated that the teacher's sound psychological state shall influence the teaching and learning.

[2. Schools May Drop Block Schedule: Workload Is Excessive, Teachers Say](#)

Thursday, December 22, 2005. Washington Post

Anne Arundel school leaders are moving toward a fundamental shift in how high school courses are scheduled, in response to teacher complaints of excessive workloads under the current system of double-length "block schedule" classes.

II. Learners and Learning

[1. Internet Brings Excellent Teaching Programs to Students in Youngzhou City](#)

Monday, December 26, 2005. Chinese Educational News

Youngzhou City in Jiangsu Province invested 250,000,000 Yuan to establish internet video English programs for 3-6th graders and programs covering all subject matters for 9th graders. Thirty excellent teachers were invited to lecture to students in 318 schools through internet conferences.

[2. Give Kids Toys That Help Them Learn](#)

Sunday, December 04, 2005. Arizona Republic

Encyclopedias haven't gone the way of the dinosaurs. They've just gone online.

III. Leaders and Leadership

[1. Schoolmasters in Weifang Will Have More Autonomy](#)

Thursday, December 29,, 2005. Chinese Educational News

Chinese schoolmasters have been burdened with many evaluative rules and regulations from local Department of Education. The educational officer in Weifang, Shandong Province proposed that the schoolmasters be released from top-down bureaucratic evaluation and regulations. They will be more autonomous in decisions about school finance, personnel and student enrollment. Schools in Weifang will develop their own strategic plans, which are to be evaluated by the expert commissions.

[2. Bush Will Sign 'Monumental' School Voucher Law](#)

Friday, December 30, 2005. New York Sun

President Bush will soon sign into law what is being described as the largest school voucher program in American history, providing about \$1.6 billion in federal money for students affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

IV. Curriculum

[1. Problems for Curriculum Reform in Wuhan, Hubei Province](#)

Tuesday, December 20, 2005. Chutian Jin Newspaper

There are three major problems remained in complementing the new curriculum reform, said the educational expert in Hubei Province. First, some teachers need change their traditional teaching strategies. Secondly, students find that some parts of the new textbooks are difficult. Thirdly, facility for science experiment is not sufficient for some schools.

[2. More Schools Adopt Global Standards](#)

Sunday, December 25, 2005. Detroit News

Only four Michigan high schools offer international baccalaureate or "IB" programs, which have a reputation for churning out college-ready students with a math-, science- and foreign language-intensive curriculum. Now at least three new international baccalaureate programs are planned to begin in Michigan high schools during the next two years, and several more districts are exploring the feasibility of bringing the program to their schools.

[3. Baltimore Redefines Grammar](#)

Tuesday, December 6, 2005. Washington Times

In Baltimore, the officials have spent at least \$2 million on Studio Course. The curriculum uses teen magazines, places grammar on the back burner and lets students write about whatever they want.

V. Family and Community

[1. Parents Reaction Toward Migrant Children](#)

Thursday, December 15, 2005. Xinhua News Agency

There are millions of migrant children from rural areas studying in schools of the city in China. Their parents are mostly blue-collar workers in the city. According to a recent survey conducted by Chinese Women's Newspaper and UNESCO, about 74.3% students in the city would like to communicate equally with migrant children in their classes. However, around 33.1% parents in the city are concerned if the migrant children may have "negative" impact to their children.

2. [Pediatricians Suggest Keeping Kids Active](#)

Tuesday, December 27, 2005. Boston Globe

Doctors say keeping kids active -- the sort of movement that gets a heart rate up -- is crucial year-round. But Researchers believe children burn about half as many calories in the winter as they do in the summer. Fitness experts stress that it is important for parents to stay positive about exercise and be a good role model

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