



NEPC's Most Popular Newsletters of 2025



DEI, social media bans, private school voucher costs, public-private partnerships in the developing world, and federal education funding were the topics that resonated most in 2025 with readers of NEPC's newsletters.

Published on Tuesdays and Thursdays during most of the year (and less frequently during school holidays), NEPC's newsletter aims to keep education stakeholders informed with research-based perspectives on timely topics related to equity. The newsletter offers standalone pieces about the Center's work as well as announcements and summaries of the organization's publications and events. Many of these newsletters aim to bring academic research to a broader audience by highlighting the work of the NEPC's Fellows.

In reverse order of popularity, as measured by the share of newsletter subscribers who viewed each newsletter, here are the five installments that attracted the most attention in 2025:

5. [Defunding Fed Ed: Which States Have the Most to Lose?](#)

The new Trump administration in Washington began with a flurry of dramatic changes to the U.S. Department of Education and its funding. This newsletter highlights ongoing efforts by the [Education Law Center](#) (an NEPC partner organization directed by Fellow [Robert Kim](#)) to help the public understand how proposed and executed changes would impact federal education funding in their states. Curious about the impact in your backyard? Click [here](#) for ELC's revenue tool.

4. [Demystifying Education Public-Private Partnerships: What Every Policymaker Should Know](#)

International Partnership for the Study of Educational Privatization ([IPSEP](#)) working papers are distinct from other NEPC publications in that they are early versions of work that has not yet been peer reviewed. In this piece, authors [Frank Adamson](#) (an NEPC Fellow and associate professor at California State University, Sacramento), [Anjela Taneja](#) of Oxfam International and [Jo Walker](#), an independent consultant, examine public-private partnerships implemented at schools in the developing world, often with deleterious effects. IPSEP is directed by NEPC Fellow [Sam Abrams](#).

3. [NEPC Review: Wisconsin's Most Cost-Effective K-12 Program](#)

NEPC's longstanding Reviews project provides expert third-party reviews of selected non-peer-reviewed publications, which are often published by advocacy think tanks. The objective is to help policymakers, journalists, practitioners and other stakeholders decide whether the results should be used to inform their work. The reviewers employ academic peer review standards, considering the quality and defensibility of a report's assumptions, methods, findings, and recommendations. In this review, NEPC Fellow [Bruce Baker](#) of the University of Miami pulls no punches in assessing a report about the cost-effectiveness of private school vouchers, concluding: "Put bluntly, School Choice Wisconsin has conducted the wrong analysis done the wrong way. The report is of no use for informing policy in Wisconsin or elsewhere."

2. This State Expelled Social Media From School. Here's Why.

This newsletter looks at Vermont's decision to become the first state in the nation to ban public schools from using social media to communicate with students or requiring them to use this medium for school or school-sponsored activities. The measure was influenced by many of the same concerns as NEPC's decision seven years earlier to delete its own Facebook account.

1. Debunking DEI Misconceptions

NEPC Fellow Shaun Harper of the University of Southern California spent much of 2025 crisscrossing the country, collecting and disseminating data and evidence to counter politically motivated attacks on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in higher education. This piece focuses on facts he shared during "Restoring Excellence: The Case Against DEI," a May hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Workforce. In a column that ran just two weeks ago in the news outlet *Inside Higher Ed*, Harper wrote that the efforts he made in 2025 to counter rampant falsehoods about DEI were so "disorienting, stressful, devastating and overwhelming" to him that he had to take a rare and brief break—but that he had since returned and was back in the fray.

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The National Education Policy Center (NEPC), a university research center housed at the University of Colorado Boulder School of Education, sponsors research, produces policy briefs, and publishes expert third-party reviews of think tank reports. NEPC publications are written in accessible language and are intended for a broad audience that includes academic experts, policymakers, the media, and the general public. Our mission is to provide high-quality information in support of democratic deliberation about education policy. We are guided by the belief that the democratic governance of public education is strengthened when policies are based on sound evidence and support a multiracial society that is inclusive, kind, and just. Visit us at: <http://nepc.colorado.edu>