

## ROUNDUP

### **What's Next for School Accountability?** | EdNote

The nation's patchwork approach to school accountability during the pandemic will leave significant questions unanswered, even as school leaders warily brace for full reopening [next school year](#), says the EdNote team. This is the final of a three-part series on accountability systems established by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

Chief among those questions will be the role of student assessment data in guiding everything from instructional interventions and teacher evaluations to school ratings and budgetary investments. This question is complicated by the fact that significant gaps in data will exist across multiple school years in places like [D.C.](#), [Oregon](#), and [Michigan](#), where officials have been permitted to either cancel tests outright or dramatically scale back typical administration. In other states, spring testing has already kicked off, though virtually all have [paused "high-stakes" measures](#) tied to test results in order to maximize schools' understanding of learning during the pandemic.

Underscoring the need for comparable data on student learning during and after the pandemic, [Denise Forte of the Education Trust penned a passionate defense of administering assessments this school year](#) to encourage continued focus on addressing deep inequities. "We can't go back to a time not so long ago when policymakers and education leaders allocated resources based on anecdotal evidence and personal preferences and where parents were in the dark," she wrote.



### **Nearly \$200B in K-12 Pandemic Relief Funding Brings Advantages, Challenges** | K12 Dive

States need to carefully manage the opportunities and challenges that come with nearly \$200 billion in federal relief funding allocated to schools in the past year, said a panel of education experts on a [webinar](#) hosted by FutureEd and the Southern Regional Education Board. Without clear guidance on how to most effectively spend the investments, districts and schools could find themselves facing future funding cliffs if funding levels aren't maintained, the panel warned. The cautionary advice to states and schools came as President Biden floated a [41 percent increase in federal education spending](#) in his first budget proposal - an increase that would see billions invested in additional Title I grants for low-income schools, special education, and expanded pell grants.



### **We Need a Common Understanding of the Science of Reading** | EdNC

Three experts in reading instruction argue that "it's time to get on the same page" when it comes to how to teach kids to read, offering clarification on what instructional approaches are actually evidence-based according to the science of reading. Instead of a narrowly defined program, they say, the science of reading encompasses lessons from a wide range of disciplines, is not simply phonics based, and should empower and inspire teacher and student engagement. Reflecting on the status of literacy instruction in their home state of North Carolina, the experts commend new efforts to expand professional development for teachers and explore the issue at the state level. They continue to say that the moves represent a good start, but much work remains to be done.

## ASSESSMENT QUICK LIST

**LA: There's an App for That: How Louisiana Students Bounced Back from a Nation-leading Drop in Math Performance — and Kept Going** | The 74 Million

**AASA Report Outlines Path to Systemic Change in Public Education by 2025** | K12Dive

**CA: California Moving to Pioneer Free Meals for All Students** | EdSource

**Science Teaching and Learning Found to Fall Off in Pandemic** | Education Week

**Absenteeism Is the Wrong Student Engagement Metric to Use Right Now** | Education Week

**NC: Gov. Cooper Signs Into Law Special Summer School Program and Teaching of Phonics** | The News & Observer