

## SPOTLIGHT

**State Assessments Offer Parents Much-Needed Information To Help Their Child Succeed** | Forbes.com  
“As we thankfully return to in-person learning in most of the country, parents need more information on where their child stands academically - not less,” writes Collaborative Director Jim Cowen in a Forbes this week highlighting a [parent guide to assessments](#) from the nonprofit EdNavigator. Data from statewide annual student assessments are some of the best tools available to monitor a child’s academic trajectory over time, and kids who fall behind typically stay behind, warn both the parent guide and Cowen. [Testing 1-2-3 expert and author Dale Chu echoed the sentiment](#) in his own post sharing the guide. “To be sure, test scores aren’t destiny, but we see time and time again that low performing students in elementary school remain low performing through high school-unless academic interventions are provided,” Chu wrote. Fortunately, “EdNavigator offers some sound advice on what parents can do - all of which require them to take test results seriously and to be proactive in addressing their students if they struggle,” Chu concludes.



## IN THE NEWS

**A Teacher’s Perspective on Testing in a Pandemic (and Beyond)** | Bellwether - Ahead of the Heard  
Of course, parents aren’t the only ones who should be prioritizing the collection and use of student learning data. Kate Keller, a high school algebra teacher and a project intern at Bellwether, took to a new post to describe her own process from reacting negatively to the continuation of spring testing this school year to an acknowledgement that “the most urgent priority for educators and school administrators should be marshalling all resources and information at their disposal to support all students in recovering lost instructional time due to the pandemic.” However, Keller firmly states that district and state education leaders must ensure that testing data is delivered to and used by educators effectively. Keller argues that teachers should be able to review their students’ test scores by mid-summer, that data should be shared between agencies more smoothly, that schools should identify students missing from testing who may need additional supports, and that data should inform the spending of billions in new school relief funding.



**Common Core Is a Meal Kit, Not a Nothingburger** | Education Week

In a response to conservative commentator Rick Hess’ argument describing Common Core state standards as a “Big Nothingburger” and writer Tom Loveless’ new book critiquing the initiative, the Chamberlin Education Foundation’s Caroline Damon uses Hess’ own burger metaphor to show how he sold high-quality standards short. “The flaw in this line of thinking is that Common Core was never intended to be a burger at all, or any fully cooked meal that is immediately ready to academically nourish every child in America. Common Core, I would instead suggest, is a meal kit that provides beautiful nutrient-rich ingredients for a teacher to cook up,” argues Damon. Damon adds that “in the years ahead, we should double down on our investments to help teachers leverage the high-quality CCSS-aligned curricula and resources created in the past few years, rather than perpetuating a defeatist narrative that Common Core is a useless failure.” We agree that’s time to focus on getting teachers and

students the high-quality instructional materials, supports, and training needed to turn standards into success. As Damon concludes, “The meal kit is in the fridge. It’s time to get cooking.”



**Analysis: Call to Action — the Data Moment Has Arrived. Education Advocates Must Seize It to Improve Learning for the Students of Today and Tomorrow** | The 74 Million

“The data moment has arrived,” says Data Quality Campaign President and CEO Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger in a piece for the 74 Million. Citing the prioritization of data collection and use throughout a number of executive orders and strategies employed by President Joe Biden, Bell-Ellwanger says, “it’s a brand new day, and it’s time to pivot from tinkering around the margins on data to thinking big about how to begin to use new information and tools to solve the nation’s most complex and vexing problems” - including education. She continues by highlighting ways states can or already have begun revamping their data systems using existing laws and funding streams, like those detailed in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Perkins V career and technical programs, and the spate of COVID relief bills pumping money into schools.



**THE QUICK LIST**

**The Education Data That Matter Most to Parents and School Stakeholders** | Center for American Progress

**U.S. Schools Fight to Keep Students Amid Fear of Dropout Surge** | AP News

**Newsom Proposes Prekindergarten For All and Sweeping Education Initiatives for Low-Income Californians** | San Francisco Chronicle

**Angry White Parents vs. the Public School System** | US News & World Report

**Inequality in Higher Education Costs the U.S. \$965 Billion a Year, Georgetown Research Says** | MarketWatch