



Horace Mann League of the USA

Founded in 1922 to Support Public Education

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**An Honorary Association of
Public Education Leaders**

July 21, 2026

Greetings!

**Welcome
The HML Post,**

**News, Insights, and Perspectives
Shaping Public Education**

The HML Post is published every Tuesday to engage and inform the League's members of trends and issues facing public school leaders.

*If you change your email address, **please send us a note** so you can continue receiving the Post.*

Editor
James Minichello, Executive Director, The Horace Mann League

Thought of the Week

"A quality leader leads with honesty, authenticity, and integrity, consistently aligning actions with deeply held values. They embrace leadership as an act of stewardship, measuring success not by personal achievement but by the growth, development, and success of the people they serve."



— Jim Lloyd, Supt., Ohio's Olmsted Falls City School District;
member, Horace Mann League Board of Directors

HML News



Editor's Note: A Season to Recharge

As we reach the midpoint of summer, we hope you've had the opportunity to spend meaningful time with family, friends, and your community. These moments remind us of what matters most and provide the perspective that helps sustain us throughout the year.

Summer also offers an opportunity to invest in your own well-being. Whether that means taking a walk, reading a good book, spending time outdoors, pursuing a hobby, or simply slowing the pace for a while, caring for yourself is an important part of leading others. We hope the weeks ahead leave you feeling refreshed, inspired, and ready for the new school year. On behalf of the Horace Mann League family, thank you for your continued leadership and steadfast commitment to public education.

We hope the weeks ahead leave you feeling refreshed, inspired, and ready to lead with renewed energy and purpose in the new school year.

(Photography by James Minichello, Oceanside, Calif.)

An Update About The Post

Beginning later this summer, *The Post* will transition to a biweekly publication schedule. This change will allow us to devote more time to developing original content, including member profiles, leadership conversations, interviews, and stories highlighting the outstanding work taking place in school districts and organizations across the country.



Our goal is simple: to make each edition of *The Post* even more timely, engaging, and valuable to our members. As always, we welcome your feedback and ideas as we continue to evolve the newsletter. If you have suggestions or thoughts you'd like to share, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Feature Stories



A Superintendent's Vision Turned an Oil Site Into a Career Launchpad

by Arianna Prothero / *Education Week*

A Houston-area superintendent turned a bankrupt industrial site into a CTE powerhouse and revenue source for her district.

[Read More](#)



A Checklist to Evaluate Educational Apps for Distractions

by Liz Kolb, Thomas Drake, Heidi Bennett / *Edutopia*

Many learning apps contain features that distract from actual learning. Here are easy ways to spot them without doing hours of research.

[Read More](#)

Issues of the Week



How States Are Streamlining College Admissions-and Who Benefits

by Evie Blad / *Education Week*

Direct-admissions programs aim to streamline the college admissions process.

[Read More](#)



New data reveals the depth of the teacher turnover crisis. Join Chalkbeat's virtual event.

by **Caroline Bauman** / Chalkbeat

Tens of thousands of teachers have left the classroom beyond normal trends. What is driving the exodus, and what helps schools stabilize? Join our July 30 event to find out.

[Read More](#)

OPINION: We need to ask better questions about how and if career pathways are working

by Luke Rhine for the Hechinger Report.

To evaluate the success of career pathways programs, we need more detailed information about what actually happens to pathways students after high school. A new report provides a start.

[Read More](#)

Leadership Ideas



The Leadership Skill No One Taught You

by Renee Giarrusso / *CEOWorld* via *SmartBrief*

As many leaders will recognize, most were never actually taught how to lead people. They were promoted because they were brilliant at the job, being the best salesperson, the sharpest analyst, the most technically gifted person in the room.

[Read More](#)



How Can I Attract Good Candidates When I Can't Pay More?

by Alison Green / *Inc.com*

Inc.com columnist Alison Green answers questions about workplace and management issues.

[Read More](#)



3 ways Miguel Cardona suggests school leaders should innovate

by Anna Merod / *K-12 Dive*

The former U.S. education secretary shared lessons learned from his career, including the value of collaboration, during the National School Leaders Conference.

[Read More](#)

AI



Exclusive: OpenAI's CFO pitches a new way to measure AI's value

by Madison Mills / *Axios*

The framework is OpenAI's response to a growing enterprise AI cost reckoning.

[Read More](#)



A Step-by-Step Guide to AI in Schools - How Much to Use and When

by Jennifer Weber for *The 74 Million*

Weber: Let artificial intelligence help build critical thinking in elementary school, teach AI literacy in middle school, and use it for personalized learning in high school.

[Read More](#)

HML Wants to Hear From You

Share Your Story With the League

One of the greatest strengths of the Horace Mann League is the remarkable work our members do every day on behalf of students, schools, and communities.



As we continue planning upcoming editions of The Post, we encourage you to share your accomplishments—or those of a member of your staff—including publications, awards, leadership transitions, innovative programs, noteworthy events, and other news that may be of interest to fellow members.

Your stories help strengthen our community, celebrate the important work taking place across the country, and inspire fellow League members. We look forward to hearing from you.

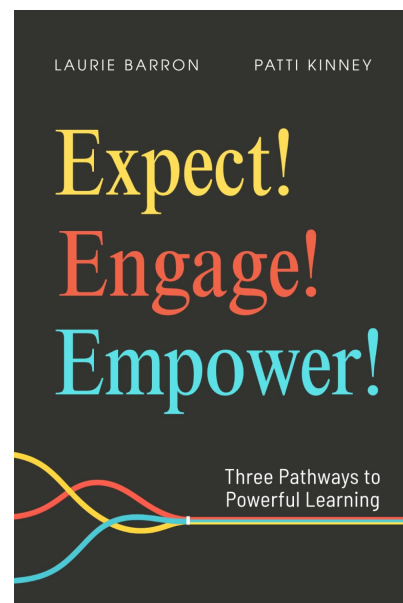
Please send submissions and ideas to James Minichello, executive director of the Horace Mann League, at jminichello@hmleague.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Featured Book

Expect! Engage! Empower! shows how to unlock that potential using three interconnected pathways that lead to powerful learning. Through the pathways of Expect, Engage, and Empower, authors Laurie Barron and Patti Kinney invite educators to create classrooms where every learner thrives:

Expect highlights the power of teacher beliefs. What teachers expect shapes how students perform, behave, and see themselves. When expectations are high and support is tailored, students rise to meet the challenge of thinking critically, applying learning, and growing in confidence.

Engage is all about bringing learning to life. True engagement means students are thinking, feeling, and actively involved, not just going through the motions. When lessons are meaningful and challenging, motivation and collaboration grow. Boredom fades when students see the relevance of what they're learning.



Spotlight Conversations



Tobin Novasio, Superintendent of Montana's Hardin Public Schools

"In rural education, our greatest strength is the power of relationships."

"The future of rural communities depends on our ability to attract, support, and retain great educators."



Louis Wool. Superintendent of New York's Harrison Central School District

"If we don't see that connection, that very precious thing that has defined my life, given me so much opportunity, can soon be gone. And when we lose public school, in my mind, we lose America."



The Horace Mann League's Video Archives

HML Gallery 1996-2023

2023 Annual Meeting Video -Presidents and Boards

HML Board Meeting and Annual Meeting 2015

The Iceberg Effect - Student Achievement

Special Reports for League Members

Click on the title to view (and download) the topic of interest.

1. [Wisdom and Leadership](#) (updated on May 11, 2026)

2. [Letters to the Editor from the Superintendent](#)
(updated on June 9 2026)
 3. [Arguments by Conservatives to Diminish Public Schools. \(New\)](#)
 4. [OP-ED Letters to the Editor: Ideological and Policy Arguments About Public Education \(new\)](#)
 5. [Most Common Theories of Leadership](#)
 6. [Long-Range Planning](#)
 7. [Quotes for Leadership](#)
 8. [Good to Great: The Guide to the Superintendent's Success](#)
 9. [The Blueberry Story: Operating Schools Like a Business.](#)
 10. [What Teachers Make: Wow! You Asked Me What I make?](#)
 11. [Better Interview Questions and Possible Responses](#)
 12. [Suggestions Guidelines for Better Presentations](#)
 13. [Opening the Schoolhouse Door for Patrons](#)
 14. [Signals in the Life of the Superintendent](#)
 15. [Best Leadership Quotes of All](#)
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Podcasts by Education Leaders

The Horace Mann League's Podcast Series. (Click on the [blue](#) title to listen.)

Glenn Robbins: Nationally recognized leader in education technology.

Glenn was recently honored with the 2026 School Leader of the Year Award from EdTech Digest. During the conversation, he reflects on what the recognition means to him, his district, and the Brigantine community.

A Tribute to David Berliner by Dr. Gene Sharratt.

We honor the life and legacy of Dr. David Berliner, one of the most influential education researchers of our time and a steadfast advocate for public education and democracy.

Growing Partnerships that Strengthen Learning Communities by David Law, President of AASA and Superintendent of the Minnetonka Public Schools.

Rural Schools are the Backbone of Many Communities by Dr. Melissa Sadorf, Executive Director of the National Rural Education Association.



On Fire, Under Fire, or Fired: Reclaiming Passion, Purpose, & Progress in Troubling Times by Dr. Kristi Wilson and Dr. Susan Enfield.

Schools Reimagined with Dr. Jacqueline Grennon Brooks. Unifying the Science of Learning.

Path to Leadership by Dr. Martha Bruckner
Suggestions for women educators striving to advance their careers in education administration.

Artificial Intelligence in School Settings by Dr. Ray McNulty

Equity Paradoxes Created by Educational Policies

Dr. Alfredo J. Artiles:

Diversity in America: Teaching Students to Know, to Care, & to Act in Global Times by Dr. James Banks

Women in Leadership by Andi Furlis
Andi Furlis describes her career journey and shares suggestions for women seeking to grow their public education careers.

The Journey with Dr. Jack McKay. An opportunity to meet some great public educators.

Artificial Intelligence, the Landscape of Public Schools by Joshua Starr

Artificial Intelligence and the impact it has on public education today by Ben Williamson

Equity and Leadership with Gary Orfield and Patricia Gande

The Future of Public Education with Gloria Ladson Billings, professor at the University of Wisconsin. (Annual Meeting Presentation)

Democracy and Education: The Crisis of our Times with David Berliner and Joel Westheimer

The Future of Public Education with Valerie Strauss, education journalist for the Washington Post. (Annual Meeting Presentation)

Why Public Education is the Best Safety Net for Democracy with James Harvey and Jimmy Minnichello.

Recent Supreme Court Decision and the Implications for Public Schools with Derek Black and Jessica Levin.

Equity and Equality in the Public Schools with Linda Darling Hammond and Joshua Starr.

The U.S. Dept. of Education and the Local Public School with Secretary Miguel Cardona and Julie Underwood.

Critical Race Theory and School Board Meetings with Bryan Brayboy, Adrienne Dixson, and Daniel G. Solorzano.

The Implications of Charters and Privatization of Public Education with Carol Burris and Kevin Welner

Challenges and Opportunities of Leading with Jeanne Collins, Doug Burge, and Laurie Barron.

Leading a School District During a Pandemic with Jim Sutfin, Luvelle Brown, and Andi Fourlis.

Thoughts on the State of Public Education by David Berliner and Diane Ravitch.

Notable Books and Reports for Members

Click on the title to download.

Long-Range Planning -
(Strategic Plans: Benefits and Consequences)

Good to Great: The Guide to the Superintendent's Success by Jack McKay



The Guide for Using AI - ChatGPT (Getting Started)

The Book of Wisdom (Good coffee - Great Friendships)

The School Leader's Special Topics

1. Better Interview Questions and Possible Responses
2. Suggestions Guidelines for Better Presentations
3. Opening the Schoolhouse Door for Patrons
4. Signals in the Life of the Superintendent
5. Best Leadership Quotes of All
6. Horace Mann: An Exemplar of Reform
7. The Blueberry Story

[Website](#)

[About Us](#)



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Purpose

The Horace Mann League, founded in 1922, perpetuates the ideals of Horace Mann, the founder of the American public school system. Its basic purpose and activities are to strengthen our public schools.

The League's members believe that the public school system of the United States is an indispensable agency for strengthening the ideals of our democracy and the most necessary unifying and dynamic influence in American life.

Accordingly, our public schools should be free, classless, non-sectarian, and open to all children of all the people. The school system should be dominated by such purposes that will insure the preparation of

The Horace Mann League Past Presidents

2025 Kevin Riley, (NE)
2024 Brent Clark, (IL)
2023 Bill Mathis (VT)
2022 Ruben Alejandro (TX)
2021 James Harvey (WA)
2020 Lisa Parady AK
2019 Laurie Barron, MT
2018 Eric King, IL
2017 Martha Bruckner IA
2016 Christine Johns, MI
2015 Charles Fowler, NH
2014 Gary Marx, VA
2013 Joe Hairston, MD
2012 Mark Edwards NC
2011 Julie Underwood, WI
2010 George Garcia, CO
2009 Steve Rasmussen, WA
2008 Fred Hartmeister, TX
2007 Colleen Wilcox, CA
2006 Walt Warfield, IL
2005 John Simpson, VA
2004 Spike Jorgensen, AK
2003 Larry Dlugosh NE
2002 Arthur Stellar, MI
2001 Ben Canada, OR
2000 Kenneth Bird NE
1999 Beverly Reep OH

Bd. of Governors, Metro
Comm. College, Omaha,
NE

Mr. Douglas Burge,
Supt., Zillah, WA

Dr. Roxann Caserio,
Supt. North Ridgefield,
OH

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University,
Palo Alto, CA

Dr. Jim Lloyd,
Supt., Omstead Falls
schools, OH

**Mr. Tobin
Novasio,** Supt, Hardin
School Districts,
Billings, (MT)

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Supt, Joliet Schools, (IL)

Dr. Ray Sanchez
Supt. of Schools
Tarrytown, NY

Dr. Michael Simeck,
Supt. Deerfield 109 (IL).

Dr. Kenneth Spells,
Supt., Hoke County
School District, Raeford,
NC

Dr. Jerry Thacker, Supt.
Penn-Harris-Madison
School, Mishawaka, (IN)

Dr. Louis N, Wool,
Supt of School, Harrison
Central School District
(NY)

Dr. Greg Wyman
Exec. Dir., Arizona Rural
Schools Association

Executive Director
of the HML
James Minichello
Alexandria, VA

Past Executive Directors

2025 Jack McKay
2023-24 Jeanne Collins
1993-23 Jack McKay
1992-93 Paul Rossey
1977-91 Robert
Fleischer
1972-77 Clayton
Hutchins
1963-71 William Early
1959-63 Benjamin Smith
1955-59 E.I. Williams

children and youth for
effective citizenship in
our democracy.

The League believes
that the American
tradition of separation of
church and state must
be preserved and should
be most vigorously and
zealously safeguarded.
The League grants the
right to special interest
groups, including various
religious sects, to
maintain their own
schools so long as such
schools meet the
standards defined by the
states in which they are
located.

The League believes
that these separate or
non-public schools
should be financed
entirely by their
supporters. It is therefore
unalterably opposed to
proposals to devote
public funds to the direct
or indirect support of
private schools.

The League favors the
generous financial
support of the public
schools by local, state,
and federal funds. It
believes, however, that
those federal grants
should be so made that
there will be no federal
control or interference in
local schools'
administration,
curriculum, personnel, or
instructional procedures.

1998 Jane Hammond CO
1997 Cleve Hammonds MO
1996 Terry Grier, CA
1995 Paul Houston, VA
1994 Edna Manning, OK
1993 Malcolm Katz, GA
1992 Bob Fortenberry, MS
1991 Ron Etheridge, OH
1990 John Prasch NE
1989 Jack Mawdsley, MI
1988 Linton Deck NC
1987 Patrick Hoban WA
1986 M Donald Thomas UT
1985 Anne Campbell NE
1984 Floyd W. Parsons AR
1983 Paul Shelly NJ
1982 Orvin Plucker KS
1981 Albert Ayers VA
1980 Ken Hansen CO
1979 Homer Elseroad CO
1978 W J. House NC
1977 Paul Rossey NJ
1976 Charles Weaver NC
1975 Frank Yulo CT
1974 Archibald Shaw MI
1973 George Brain WA
1972 Mildred F. Reed DC
1971 Eugene Mellon IL
1970 Walter Hetzel IA
1968 Chester Swanson CA
1967 Phillip Weaver NC
1966 Edward Rutter CT
1965 Shirley Cooper WV
1964 Lynn Bennion UT
1963 John L Buford IL
1962 Frank W. Cyr NY
1960 L. Stacy Weaver NC
1959 Edgar Fuller DC
1958 Richard Kennan MD
1957 Henry H. Hill TN
1955 Selmer H. Berg CA
1953 Virgil Rogers VA
1951 Mark A. Smith GA
1950 Benjamin L. Smith NC
1948 I. E. F. Williams OH
1947 James Edmonson MI
1946 Howard Driggs NY
1944 Homer Anderson MA
1942 Harold J.
Benjamin MD
1941 L.J. Nuttall UT
1940 Alexander Stoddard RI
1939 Willard Given DC
1938 John Sexton CA
1937 Millard Leffler NE

1946-54 Joy Elmer
Morgan
1925-45 Carroll Pearce
1924 Robert Wright
1923 John R. Kirk
1922 John A. Smith

1936 Ben G. Graham PA
1935 John K. Norton NY
1934 H Lester Smith IN
1933 E.E. Oberholtzer TX
1932 Fred M. Hunter OR
1931 George Strayer NY
1930 George M. Child UT
1926 Payson Smith ME
1922 Carroll Pearce WI



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