



Horace Mann League of the USA

Founded in 1922 to Support Public Education

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**An Honorary Association of
Public Education Leaders**

September 15, 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



"Effective leadership is about creating the conditions for people to thrive, empowering others to grow, and turning a shared vision into meaningful action."

**— Ray Sanchez, Supt., Public Schools
of the Tarrytowns, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.; HML Board Member**

HML News



Editor's Note: We Remember

Twenty-five years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, our nation—and people around the world—paused last week to remember the lives lost and to honor the extraordinary courage and selflessness demonstrated in the face of unimaginable tragedy.

For those who remember that day, the images and emotions remain deeply personal. For a growing generation of students, however, September 11 is history—an event that occurred before they were born. That makes the role of our schools especially meaningful. Through thoughtful teaching, reflection, and conversation, educators help young people understand not only what happened, but also the remarkable acts of courage, service, and humanity that emerged during one of our nation's darkest moments.

Schools do more than prepare students for what lies ahead. They help them understand what came before. They bring generations together, preserve our collective memory, and provide young people with opportunities to consider what it means to serve others, strengthen their communities, and respond with compassion in difficult times.

As we remember September 11, the Horace Mann League extends its gratitude to the educators and school communities helping to ensure that its lessons endure. May we continue to honor those we lost, remember those who ran toward danger to help others, and teach future generations the enduring value of courage, service, compassion, and coming together for the common good.

(National September 11 Memorial, New York City. Photography by James Minichello)



Earlier this month, Carl Hermanns, president of the Horace Mann League, highlighted the League's work to strengthen public education and collective advocacy at the [Arizona School Administrators](#) Member Meeting in Phoenix.

Materials shared with attendees included the League's:

- [5-Year Vision Statement](#)
- [Public Education Narrative](#), Public Schools for the Public Good
- [PowerPoint presentation](#), "Thinking Together About Collective Advocacy"

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to share the Horace Mann League's vision with Arizona's school leaders," said Hermanns. "By bringing together district leaders and other public education advocates across the country, we can strengthen our collective voice, advance the League's mission, and build even greater support for our public schools."

Questions? Contact Carl at carl.hermanns@asu.edu



Horace Mann League Podcast Series: Laurie Barron and Patti Kinney

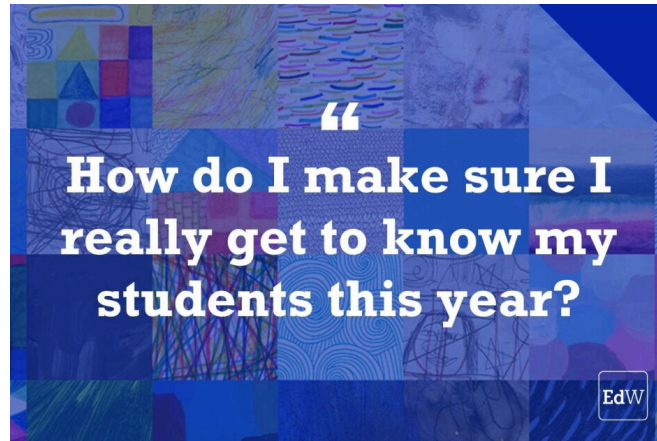
In this episode of the [Horace Mann League Podcast Series](#), we welcome Laurie Barron and Patti Kinney, co-authors of the new book, *Expect! Engage! Empower!*

Barron, superintendent of Montana's [Evergreen School District](#) and a member of the Horace Mann League, and Kinney, an educational consultant, explore how meaningful expectations, authentic

engagement, and student empowerment can help create stronger learning environments. They also discuss leadership, relationships, school culture, and practical ways educators can put these principles into action.

[Click to listen.](#)

Feature Stories



What 9/11 Can Teach Us Today (Opinion)

by Pamela Cantor for *Education Week*

We can only guess at what weighs on other people. Hurts and wounds are not always visible on the outside.

[Read More](#)



This Superintendent Couldn't Read as a Kid. Now He Wants to Ensure Every Kid Can

by Jessika Harkay / *The 74*

Providence Public Schools' Javier Montañez taps into his personal experience to help his district beat the odds when it comes to third grade literacy.

[Read More](#)



AI Videos Are Warping Early Learning, Teachers Say - EdSurge News

by Adam Stone / *EdSurge*

The rise of so-called "baby slop" is turning early childhood educators into media critics.

[Read More](#)

Issues of the Week



Not enough students know about work-based learning opportunities

by Karen Gardiner for *K-12 Dive*

Proving the effectiveness of paths such as apprenticeships can help students know their options, writes an Urban Institute senior fellow.

[Read More](#)



More than half of colleges show signs of money problems. Students will suffer the consequences

by Marina Villeneuve / *The Hechinger Report*

More than half of four-year colleges are facing financial stress. Many will resort to laying off faculty, cutting services and increasing prices.

[Read More](#)



How Veteran Teachers Keep Their Cool

by Paige Tutt / *Edutopia*

Go-to strategies from veteran teachers for maintaining a 'responsive,

not reactive' approach to classroom conflict.

[Read More](#)

Leadership Ideas



Inside the Box: How Constraints Make Us Better

by David Epstein for *Leadership Now*

We don't need more freedom; we need more helpful boundaries. David Epstein, author of *Inside the Box: How Constraints Make Us Better*, says we don't need to work outside the box as much as we need to be working inside the right box.

[Read More](#)



Principals Can't Manage Teacher Morale Alone. Enter the Go-Between

by Olina Banerji / *Education Week*

Principals can't check in with every teacher. Can a go-between leader help them out?

[Read More](#)



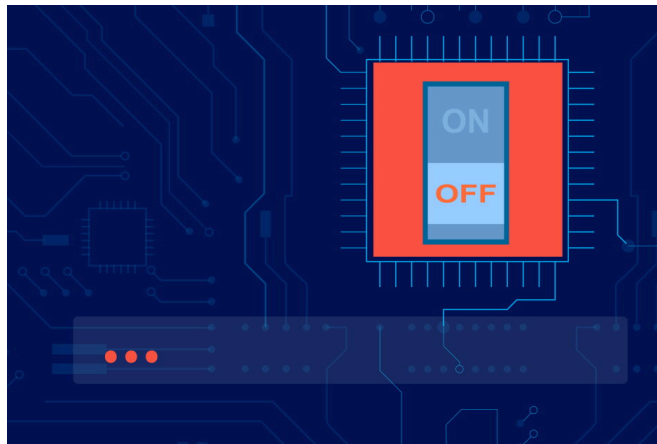
A rose by any other hashtag: Trending terms for a persistent problem

by Julie Winkle Giulioni for *SmartBrief*

Workforce problems have many names, from "lily-padding" to "task masking," but Julie Winkle Giulioni suggests retention strategies.

[Read More](#)

AI



AI Is Working Its Way Into Everything. Can School Districts Really Ban It?

by Alyson Klein / *Education Week*

It's very difficult-maybe even impossible-to turn off generative AI for entire school districts.

[Read More](#)



OPINION: Our Children Need More Protection from the AI That is Teaching Them

by Shauna D.A. Knox / *The Hechinger Report*

No AI tool that teaches, assesses or tracks a child should be eligible for a school district contract until it passes a bias test that is built around the very same students that digital tools have harmed before. Privacy protection is not enough; we must also protect against bias.

[Read More](#)



Teachers unions announce AI safety agreement with Microsoft

by Anna Merod / *K-12 Dive*

The legally enforceable protections require the company to safeguard student and teacher data and will be available to all districts nationwide Nov. 1.

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 a new academic year gets underway, we want to hear what's happening in your schools, districts, organizations, and communities. We invite 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. As we plan upcoming editions of *The Post*, we hope you'll share your story with us.

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

Embark on a journey through the inspiring narratives of retired female school superintendents who have revolutionized educational leadership in our upcoming release, *LEADING LEGENDS: Female Superintendents Breaking Barriers with Purpose and Power*.

This transformative anthology celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments of women who have triumphed in the historically male-dominated realm of educational administration.

"Authentic, bold, and unforgettable—these stories are the leadership lessons we've been waiting for."
Dr. Rachel H. Manárrrez — Superintendent Orange USD

Leading Legends

FEMALE SUPERINTENDENTS BREAKING BARRIERS WITH PURPOSE AND POWER



Real Voices. Bold Leadership.
Ten Women Lighting the Way
for Today's Women Leaders

From the Best-Selling Sister to Sister Leadership Series

Spotlight Conversations



Kenneth Spells, Superintendent of North Carolina's **Hoke County Schools**

"The Horace Mann League has always been a champion for public schools. I want today's students to have even more opportunities than I had and to be prepared to seize them when they arise."



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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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 Furlis.

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
 8. What Teachers Make. . .
 9. Examples of "Letters to the Editor" (updated)
-

[Website](#)

[About Us](#)



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[Get In Touch](#)

Past Presidents

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Arizona State Univ
President-elect
Jeanne Deweese
Ret. Supt. of Schools.
VT

Vice President

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Comm. College, Omaha,
NE

Mr. Douglas Burge,
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Dr. Roxann Caserio,
Supt. North Ridgefield,
OH

**Dr. Linda Darling
Hammond**

Professor, Stanford
University,
Palo Alto, CA

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

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

Dr. Theresa Rouse,
Supt, Joliet Schools, (IL)

Dr. Ray Sanchez
Supt. of Schools

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 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

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
1998 Jane Hammond CO
1997 Cleve Hammonds MO
1996 Terry Grier, CA
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1993 Malcolm Katz, GA
1992 Bob Fortenberry, MS
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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

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

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

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.

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
 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 Pearse WI

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