

Did You Know?

2021 SAS Institute

This year's SAS Institute, **Focusing Forward: Creating Innovative Educational Pathways**, scheduled for December 5-8, 2021, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (virtual option also available) will center around five major strands designed to transform learning:

- Pathways to Quality Instruction
- Pathways to a Healthy Learning Environment
- Pathways to Prepare for the Future
- Pathways to Continuous School Improvement
- Pathways for Accelerating Learning



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Request for Proposals

The theme, **Focusing Forward**, encourages the forging of new educational pathways to promote student learning, wellness, and career awareness through intentional use of strategies and action plans.

Submit a Proposal

Digital Nonfiction Reading

Rather than having students freely surf the web, many teachers say they send students to handpicked education sites to read and do research on nonfiction topics. These popular sites all have free content, though some offer additional features for a fee.

<https://www.peterpauper.com>



BrainPOP -- This group of websites features short, animated videos on topics in science, social studies, English, math, the arts, health, and engineering.

Newsela -- This website takes the daily news and makes it student-friendly, adapting each article for five different reading levels.



The Kids Should See This -- This library of more than 2,500 educational videos, curated from across the internet, has the tag line "not-made-for-kids, but perfect for them." The videos cover a range of topics, though the site has an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Tween Tribune -- Hosted by the Smithsonian, this free website, geared toward 8- to 15-year-olds, is updated daily with high-interest news articles at four different reading levels.

Wonderopolis -- This website provides daily articles about interesting phenomena in science, social studies, math, and other subject areas, including answers for questions like, "Why are flamingos pink?"

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Educator Effectiveness Observation & Practice

Act 13 of 2020, signed into law by Gov. Tom Wolf on March 27, 2020, revises the Act 82 Educator Effectiveness (EE) process used to evaluate professional employees in PK-12 education across the commonwealth. Effective the 2021-2022 school year, the revised rating system will take effect for classroom teachers, non-teaching professionals, and principals.

SAS Resources



Act 158 of 2018 (Act 158) provides alternatives to Pennsylvania's statewide requirement of attaining proficiency on the three end-of-course Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology) for a student to achieve statewide graduation requirements. Effective with the graduating class of 2023, students have the option to demonstrate postsecondary preparedness through one of four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness.

Interactive Act 158 Toolkit

Email questions to:
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