

## Coffee & Conversation Podcast Sources – 10/26/20

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/10/22/kids-activity-covid/>

Politco Weekly Education - Coronavirus Edition (See below for article)

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-announces-series-regional-meetings-gather-stakeholder-input>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/29/well/family/teenagers-motivation-school.html>

### **From The Politco Weekly Education - Coronavirus Edition Are students at your school missing classes?**

**HOW BIG IS THIS PROBLEM?** — Bellwether Education Partners estimated that 3 million students have been missing school by calculating a likely percentage of at-risk groups not in school, based on media reports and available data. “If even one in four students with disabilities, English learners, students in foster care, migrant students, and homeless students have been shut out of education for months, that adds up to over three million students, as if the entire school-aged population of the state of Florida dropped out of school,” the report says.

— **The consequences highlighted in the report are dire.** Much shorter disruptions can affect students’ knowledge and skills, achievement, path to college and a career, as well as lifetime wages, the report says.

— **Daily student absence rates have nearly doubled, from an average of 6 percent before the pandemic to 10 percent this fall,** according to an online survey of educators from Sept. 30 to Oct. 8 by the EdWeek Research Center. Absence rates are highest, at 12 percent, in districts doing full-time remote learning. But the absence rate is at 8 percent even in districts offering full-time in-person instruction, the report says.

— **But average daily attendance rates can “mask” high levels of chronic absence,** defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, said Hedy Chang, who directs Attendance Works, an initiative targeting chronic absenteeism. “I am seriously concerned that we have a much bigger absenteeism problem than we actually recognize.”

