

Coffee & Conversation Podcast Sources – 11/9/20

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/11/08/what-public-education-advocates-want-see-bidens-pick-succeed-betsy-devos/>

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

<https://www.the74million.org/makeup-of-senate-means-biden-will-likely-lack-votes-and-big-buckets-of-funding-for-expansive-education-agenda/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/09/us/thanksgiving-break-college-students-safe-advice.html>

<https://www.newsday.com/sports/high-school/winter-sports-long-island-high-risk-cuomo-covid-1.50061241>

THE CASE FOR ‘KINDERGARTEN AND A HALF’ — Petrilli of the [Fordham Institute](#) wants educators and officials to think bigger than just sending kids to the next grade. “Maybe we have all the kids that did kindergarten remotely start with something that looks a lot like kindergarten again next fall, rather than doing it on a case-by-case basis,” he said. “That should at least be on the table.”

— **He describes the approach as “kindergarten and a half,”** a concept that would bring this school year’s kindergartners into a year of learning not-quite-kindergarten but not-quite-first-grade material, as educators get them back on track to grade-level material. “I do think we should be thinking about — especially for these younger kids in high-poverty elementary schools — giving them extra time and potentially a whole extra year to get back on track,” Petrilli said.

— **This idea likely wouldn’t make sense for older students**, Petrilli noted. Still, he said an at-scale strategy targeted at young students can avoid the social stigma of repeating a grade. Intensive tutoring is another idea, but schools have to solve how to finance and staff such programs. “I just think there’s a big risk that, at the end of the day, next year is just going to be back to business as usual and we’re just going to keep pushing these kids along pretending like this horrific thing never happened,” he said.

