

## SECTION : **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION**



**June 1 [Science Daily] Scientists say active early learning shapes the adult brain.** An enhanced learning environment during the first five years of life shapes the brain in ways that are apparent four decades later, say Virginia Tech and University of Pennsylvania scientists writing in the June edition of the Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience. [LINK](#)

## SECTION : **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

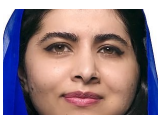


**May 30 [Forbes] How LEGO foundation is building new ways to include autistics children in play.** The LEGO Foundation and Play Included are partnering in training and resources for health and education professionals to help practitioners understand how to support children on the autism spectrum with social development through collaborative play with LEGO bricks. [LINK](#)

## SECTION : **COVID-19**



**June 5 [BBC] Covid: Pupils fell behind again in second lockdown.** Pupils fell behind again in the second lockdown, losing progress in maths and reading from the autumn term. New research for the government also reveals large regional differences across England in learning loss. It follows the resignation of Sir Kevan Collins, education recovery commissioner for England, whose plans for helping pupils catch up were rejected by ministers as too expensive. [LINK](#)



**June 3 [Daily Mail] Malala Yousafzai tells Tim Cook pandemic stunted education for millions girls.** The COVID-19 pandemic could force some 20 million girls in the developing world to return to their homes and help support their families, likely denying them an education for life, activist Malala Yousafzai told Apple CEO Tim Cook. [LINK](#)



**June 3 [BBC] School catch-up tsar resigns over lack of funding.** The education recovery commissioner for England, Sir Kevan Collins, has resigned in a row over the lack of "credible" Covid catch-up funding. He took on the role as catch-up tsar in February to develop a long-term plan to help pupils make up for lost learning during the pandemic. But he stepped down saying the government's funding for the plan "falls far short of what is needed". [LINK](#)



**June 2 [BBC] Covid-19: Tutoring sessions in £1.4bn catch-up school plan.** Tutoring sessions for pupils in England are being promised in school catch-up plans that will cost £1.4bn over three years. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will do everything we can to support children who have fallen behind." The extra funding will help pupils whose learning has been disrupted by the pandemic. [LINK](#)



**June 1 [Education Technology] Why positive change and technological intervention is needed to close the COVID learning gap.** Terms like 'catch-up' are casting a significant shadow over education. It might seem like a helpful phrase, but there's a need to adopt a more positive approach and look at how we can work more closely to support schools with tools such as virtual tutoring systems. Virtual tutors can be a cost effective and efficient way to help children get back on track. [LINK](#)



**May 31 [Guardian] Students in England call for 30% Covid discount on tuition fees.** University students in England are offering to accept higher interest rates on their loans in exchange for an immediate £2,700 discount on their tuition fees as compensation for the disruption to their education caused by the Covid pandemic. [LINK](#)

## SECTION : **EXAMINATIONS**



**June 2 [Straits Times] Meritocracy is work in progress 'to refine and improve' upon, says Chan Chun Sing.** Meritocracy in Singapore is a constant work-in-progress and care should be taken to avoid possible downsides. This means keeping the definition of meritocracy broad instead of appreciating talent in a one-dimensional way. It also means ensuring that meritocracy is continuous, rather than having "one high-stake exam defines anyone for life". [LINK](#)



**May 30 [Straits Times] Children to sit PSLE, O-level oral exams in person this year despite tighter Covid-19 measures.** The Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board (SEAB) said children will sit the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) and oral examinations are conducted in person to align with teaching and learning methods for language subjects in schools that focus on face-to-face communication. [LINK](#)

## SECTION : HIGHER EDUCATION



**June 4 [Straits Times] Asia University Rankings 2021: results announced.** Japan achieves best performance in six years, but China still tops the regional ranking with Tsinghua University and Peking University placing first and second respectively. National University of Singapore retained third place while Nanyang Technological University has been ranked fifth in the latest rankings by Times Higher Education. [LINK](#)



**June 3 [Guardian] Alan Tudge tells universities Covid's impact on international student enrolments not as bad as expected.** Education minister attempts positive spin on downturn and says he's optimistic international students will return soon in 'small pilot programs'. [LINK](#)



**June 1 [Vox] Is it time to rethink the value of college?** Higher education may not be doomed, but it's in trouble. The pandemic hit almost every industry hard, but few were hit as hard as higher education. Times were already tough for many American universities, mostly because of declining enrollment numbers and weakening financial support from state governments. [LINK](#)



**June 1 [Forbes] New study provides evidence that diversity enhances higher education outcomes.** A new study by four legal scholars has provided some of the first empirical evidence in support of the diversity rationale for affirmative action in higher education. It's sure to stir heated debate as lawsuits challenging race-conscious college admission policies continue to be filed and heard. [LINK](#)

## SECTION : TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



**June 3 [UNESCO-UNEVOC] TVET provides a lifeline to Thai farmers.** In the village of Giang, in the province of Chiang Rai, successive lockdowns have prevented farmers from tending their rice crops and closed the fruit canning factories that provided an extra source of income. Dean of the Faculty of Technical Education at Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi (RMUTT), a UNEVOC Centre near Bangkok, decided that giving affected communities the opportunity to diversify and rapidly learn new skills was the best way of improving their situation. [LINK](#)



**June 2 [SEA-VET] Tapping into the potential of big data for skills policy.** This article has been prepared by the inter-agency technical vocational education and training (TVET) group on skill mismatch in digitised labour markets, to support experts and policy-makers who wish to engage in discussion on the potential of web-based big data for skills policy. It outlines how such data can be used to mitigate labour market challenges, reduce skills mismatches and strengthen the links between the labour market and education and training. [LINK](#)



**June 2 [Irish News] 'FE for me' initiative to help build skills and stem brain drain.** The north's six regional further education colleges are uniting behind a unique vocational learning system aimed at helping build tomorrow's skilled workforce and also stem the brain drain of students leaving and not returning. Backed by the Department for the Economy, the Advanced Technical Award and traineeships scheme will help school leavers acquire new professional and technical skills in a range of vocational sectors. [LINK](#)

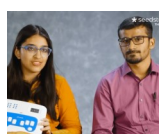
## SECTION : EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY



**June 2 [eSchool News] How the EdTech Industry can help get education back on track.** As we reflect on the last 14 months in the education space, we all understand the toll the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students, teachers, and schools in the U.S. and around the world. With this understanding, we must look for ways that we, the EdTech industry, can add true value to these groups in order to help get them back on track in the current and post-pandemic worlds. [LINK](#)



**June 2 [Education Technology] Beyond the buzz: far off from a quality hybrid learning environment.** The 'hybrid' or 'blended' learning model fast became buzzwords in education over the last 12 months. While specific definitions vary, the terms generally refer to greater adoption of technology within the classroom or a model whereby some students attend class in-person, while others join the lesson virtually from home. [LINK](#)



**May 31 [Next Web] How emerging technologies can create a more equitable world.** Emerging technologies are transforming our lives in ways we've never seen before. From algorithms anticipating financial opportunities to fridges compiling your grocery list, there's no doubt tremendous technological leaps are being made. However, too often, the economic and social benefits of these technologies remain concentrated in developed countries. [LINK](#)



**May 31 [Tech Edvocate] 5 Steps to Ensure Inclusive Technology for all Learners.** If incorporated correctly, EdTech can be used to create an engaging and efficient learning environment. However, if misused, EdTech can shine a light on the inequalities in our education system. Here are the five steps to ensure inclusive technology for all learners in the classroom. [LINK](#)