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SECTION : FEATURES



March 27 [The Guardian] Prospect of more teachers' strikes in England as union 'insulted' by pay offer. A major teaching union has criticised ministers' "insulting" new pay offer, raising the prospect of further walkouts in schools this spring. Talks between the government and four teaching unions ended on Monday with the unions considering the offer from the Department for Education. However, the NEU said the government was only offering to fund half a percentage point of the pay increase, with the rest expected to come out of existing school budgets. [LINK](#)



March 27 [UNESCO Bangkok] UNESCO launches professional development online course on equitable and inclusive education. What does equity mean in educational contexts and how does it differ from equality? What is the current understanding of inclusion in educational settings? What about marginalization, disparities, or intersectionality? only by taking informed action to bridge current gaps in access to education, educational outcomes, and achievement, can countries reach their higher societal, economic and cultural potential, no less their future prosperity and longevity for all. [LINK](#)

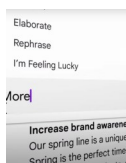


March 28 [BBC News] Afghanistan girls' education: 'When I see the boys going to school, it hurts'. "Every day I wake up with the hope of going back to school. They [the Taliban] keep saying they will open schools. But it's been almost two years now. I don't believe them. It breaks my heart," says 17-year-old Habiba. Habiba and her former classmates Mahtab and Tamana are among hundreds of thousands of teenage girls who have been barred from attending secondary school in most of Afghanistan by the Taliban - the only country to take such action. [LINK](#)



March 28 [UNESCO] UIL supports launch of prison library project in the Philippines. To help remedy this situation, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) supported the launch of 'Read Your Way Out: Advancing Prison Reform through Libraries for Lifelong Learning in Places of Detention', a project, run by the Criminal Justice Team of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Philippines. The project and event were organized jointly with the national Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the National Library of the Philippines. [LINK](#)

SECTION : TECHNOLOGY



March 27 [Highed Ed Dive] AI is coming to Google Workspace, too. Imagine writing up a meeting summary or business proposal in Google Docs, and the doc talking back. Google developers are aiming to incorporate AI "as a collaborative partner" that is "always there to help you" while working in Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, as well as Google Meet and Chat. Google leadership emphasized the importance of the human element, saying that the technology gets better with feedback. [LINK](#)



March 28 [African Development Bank Group] Gender in Focus: How Technology and Education can Transform the Water Sector and Improve the Lives of Women and Girls. In many African countries, girls spend time collecting water for the family and thereby miss classes or are unable to attend school. Worldwide, girls and women spend an average 200 million hours every day collecting water, according to UNICEF. Lack of inadequate sanitation also makes it difficult for girls to attend school during their menstruations, thereby affecting their right to education. [LINK](#)



March 29 [K-12 Dive] Ed tech experts urge caution on ChatGPT's student data privacy. School districts should be concerned about ChatGPT's terms of use when permitting the artificial intelligence tool on school devices, especially when it comes to protecting students' personally identifiable information, according to Pete Just, founding chair of the Indiana CTO Council, speaking during the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) conference this month. [LINK](#)



March 31 [The Hindustan Times] India and the G20: Prioritizing education technology for global growth. The G20 Presidency lends India the unique opportunity to put its imprint on the global education agenda. "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." The quote by Benjamin Franklin summarizes the quintessential role played by education in our lives. To get to an ideal world where every child has access to quality and affordable education, global leaders and policymakers around the world realised that unity was needed among countries to achieve such social goals. [LINK](#)

SECTION : **LIFELONG LEARNING**



March 27 [CNA] Children are the 'best educators': How the Young Scientist Badge can teach sustainability to adults. The Young Scientist Badge scheme has been around for four decades – but with climate change a priority today, can the long-standing initiative be key to building a culture of sustainability from young? Students get to learn and accomplish a list of tasks to obtain badges representing various science disciplines, from mathematics to meteorology. [LINK](#)

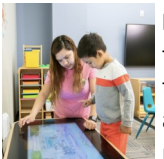


March 27 [CNA] China to launch rural pilot scheme for renewable energy. China will launch a pilot scheme to promote the development of renewable energy in rural areas, according to an action plan released by the National Energy Administration (NEA) on Thursday (Mar 23). Under the scheme, provincial-level government departments are to identify rural "pilot counties" for the construction of renewable energy projects and submit development plans to the NEA for evaluation and approval by the end of May this year, according to the statement. [LINK](#)

SECTION : **HIGHER EDUCATION**



March 27 [Higher Ed Dive] Transforming institutional effectiveness to drive student success and future proof your campus. Seeking deeper insights to help your campus be its best has never been more important. Colleges and universities are responding to unprecedented challenges. So are their students. With the high cost of college, enrolling and choosing a major have become big risks for parents and students. Will the knowledge and skills students learn prepare them for post-graduation success? [LINK](#)



March 29 [Inside Higher Ed] Academic Success Tip: A (Study) Room of Their Own. Proponents of these spaces say they help students who are parents and signal something deeper about belonging when they're part of a suite of family-friendly policies. It is said that one in four of its students have children living at home with them. Nationally, about one in five college students is a parent. While these students are more likely to drop out than their nonparent peers due to family, financial and other pressures, parenting students tend to have higher grade point averages than other students. [LINK](#)



March 29 [UNESCO] Improving quality of secondary and higher education statistical data in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Technical support to a cooperative endeavour between the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Institute of Statistics and the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics. In particular, the Antenna in Sarajevo of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe helped create more reliable and quality statistical data and information for secondary and higher education in relation to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-F 2013). [LINK](#)



March 30 [Indian Express] Life in a Foreign University: Dropped engineering for hospitality business programme, this student already runs 2 start-ups in Switzerland. 'What the Indian school failed to teach me, Switzerland's higher education and Hong Kong's fast-paced life have successfully instilled in me,' says Sarthak Sharma, who believes patience, hard work and determination are important for students abroad. Students tell us how life is different in those countries and things they are learning other than academics and how they benefit from it. [LINK](#)



March 30 [The Straits Times] Why university rankings are pointless exercises for students in Singapore. A number of prominent universities have spoken out against such rankings, which cannot measure the multifaceted goals of higher education. The Straits Times reported that the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) had been rated the top universities in Asia based on the QS or Quacquarelli Symonds rankings by subject areas involving 1,594 universities in 93 countries and territories. A similar report in 2022 recapped how both also ranked well in the QS World University Rankings. [LINK](#)

SECTION : **SCHOOLS**



March 27 [K-12 Dive] How have state ed leaders prioritized academics and mental health in ESSER initiatives? At CCSO's legislative conference, top state education leaders discussed pandemic emergency funding for recovery efforts and plans for sustainability. The pandemic exacerbated students' academic and mental health struggles — but in developing recovery programs, states made several positive reforms in the hope for change and development in the field. [LINK](#)



March 29 [TheirWorld] Girls in Nigeria use STEM skills to break down gender barriers. A project supported by Theirworld's Small Grants Programme educates and mentors schoolgirls to become advocates for science, technology, engineering and mathematics in their communities. "The society has said we don't have the power to be an engineer. I want to show them that I can do it," she said. She has her sights set on becoming an engineer and breaking down some gender barriers along the way. [LINK](#)