

Press Clippings 10/17/19

---Education Dive---10/17/2019

As 'green wave' spreads, marijuana funds create new dilemmas for education leaders

Eleven states and D.C. permit recreational use, and more are expected to enact legalization laws in 2020.

By: Linda Jacobson



Adistrict leader's visit to the workplace of a potential business partner would usually be considered a wise move in the effort to attract future financial support for education initiatives — but not when the business owner grows cannabis for a living.

Diana Rigby, superintendent of the Carpinteria Unified School District in California, drew criticism from members of the community last month when she and four principals in the district were photographed wearing hard hats in a greenhouse full of cannabis plants.

Glass House Farms — where the photo was taken — is part of the Cannabis Association for Responsible Producers, which offered to pay for a counselor from the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in Santa Barbara to work in the district's middle school. While some in the community argued accepting the donation was inappropriate, Graham Farrar, the company's CEO, said the gesture makes perfect sense in a state that has legalized adult recreational marijuana use. He called it a "good example of community supporting community."

Ultimately, the board voted 4-1 to accept the donation, but the controversy is an example of how the clash between shifting regulations and longstanding beliefs is affecting many district leaders.

"Marijuana is a drug, and basic common sense tells me that drugs and children are a bad mix," Rogelio Delgado, the Carpinteria board member who voted against accepting the donation, wrote in a letter to the editor. "Accepting these donations shows disturbing and unethical behavior on the part of district leadership."

A new source of revenue

In a so-called "green wave," 11 states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use, and more states — including Arizona, Florida, New Mexico and those

in the Northeast — are poised to move that way, either through a ballot or legislative initiative.

Based on how other states have directed tax revenue from the cannabis industry, education or other programs serving children and youth are likely to be considered as potential recipients of those funds.

“Like most states, we will project a large new source of general fund revenue that the governor and legislators can allocate as they see fit,” says Pat Davis, an Albuquerque, New Mexico, city councilor who chairs a statewide working group on legalization. “We did hear from various advocates, including those in education and higher ed, alongside behavioral health and economic development groups, interested in lobbying the legislature for those purposes.”

He added that past polling results in the state showed 69% of residents would support legalization if it included funding for purposes such as education. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has made legalization a priority of her administration.

Colorado, Michigan, Nevada and Oregon direct a portion of cannabis tax revenue toward education, and in California, the 2019-20 state budget includes \$80.5 million “to subsidize child care for children from income-eligible families to keep these children occupied and engaged in a safe environment, thus discouraging potential use of illegal substances or drugs.”

But revenues from so-called “sin taxes” are considered unreliable. And in the case of cannabis, experts warn the market will continue to be unpredictable for several reasons, including the lack of historical data, understanding what consumers want and sales across state borders.

“Forecasting revenue from a product that was illegal just a few years ago, and remains so under federal law and in most states, presents a unique challenge for state budget planning,” according to a brief from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

In California, for example, tax revenue is falling far short of projections. In Colorado, total revenues now top \$1 billion, but it took five years. But in Nevada, where revenue from a 10% excise tax goes toward education, revenues have exceeded estimates.

Increases in marijuana vaping

While most school and district leaders would welcome new sources of revenue, they are also responding to what officials have called a vaping epidemic, and deaths that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say are largely due to products containing tetrahydrocannabinol — the psychoactive chemical within cannabis.

Overall, marijuana use among teens has remained stable over the past few years in spite of more states legalizing the substance, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. And while marijuana vaping is still relatively low, use has increased by more than half among 8th-, 10th- and 12th-graders since the Monitoring the Future Survey began tracking it 2017.

The Federal Communications Commission stopped allowing TV and radio ads for cigarettes in 1971, but TV ads for vaping products are growing more common, with one e-cigarette being marketed as a technological “innovation.”

Researchers are also learning the earlier people begin using cannabis, the more likely they are to develop cannabis use disorder, marked by symptoms such as anxiety, irritability, withdrawal symptoms and craving, explains Ziva Cooper, research director at the University of California, Los Angeles' Cannabis Research Initiative.

“A lot of people aren’t aware that withdrawal or dependence actually occurs,” she says.

Tony Sanders, superintendent of **School District U-46** in Elgin, Illinois, says school leaders likely wouldn't know whether a student caught vaping is using cannabis or nicotine. But he added that if a student distributes cannabis to another student, he or she could be expelled, while distributing nicotine-based products is not an expellable offense.

With the Illinois legalization law going into effect in January, **Sanders** has also raised several other issues related to the impact of legalized marijuana on school districts in a paper he wrote for the educational leadership program he’s currently enrolled in at Aurora University.

These include students’ increased access to cannabis products, the use of school facilities by outside groups for events, and whether workplace policies should be updated. He also notes districts might be faced with the decision over whether to allow a high school student to participate in a dual credit program at a community college related to earning a certificate to work in the cannabis industry.

And while the law states a portion of the cannabis tax revenue will go toward public schools, Sanders writes there’s no guarantee general fund revenues won’t decline by the same amount.

“School district boards and superintendents need to take an active stance to advocate for funding to support drug prevention and intervention strategies, and for the support of a health curriculum focused on prevention,” he writes. “We know schools will be on the frontline of this issue, and funding should be in place from the outset to help address the needs of schools relative to drug prevention.”

‘Uncharted territory’

As both the medical and recreational cannabis markets expand, the location of dispensaries and billboards is another aspect of the industry affecting school districts.

Earlier this year, the National Poll on Children’s Health, conducted by the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital at the University of Michigan, showed almost 75% of parents think dispensaries should not be allowed near schools, regardless of the grade level. Support was also high for restricting dispensaries near child care centers and family child care homes.

And in California, the San Diego Planning Commission is considering a plan to keep cannabis billboards at least 1,000 feet away from schools, public parks, youth centers and child care centers. The Washington State Legislature has also been weighing a bill that would ban cannabis billboards altogether.

"The district cannot risk compromising [federal] funding sources which are relied on heavily for the education of students."

Shelley Arrott

Superintendent, Ponca City Public Schools, Oklahoma

The Ponca City Public Schools, in northern Oklahoma, also recently faced a decision regarding a monetary gift from a business profiting from cannabis sales — a chain of medical marijuana dispensaries. The business owners didn't see a conflict because the state allocates 75% of the tax revenue collected on sales to public education.

At this point, the U.S. Department of Education is saying decisions to accept such funds is "a state and local issue, not a federal one."

The Ponca district decided to turn down the dispensary's offer.

"Accepting donations from a medical marijuana dispensary is uncharted territory for Oklahoma school districts in relation to federal funding sources," Superintendent Shelley Arrott wrote in a statement. "At this time, the district cannot risk compromising these funding sources which are relied on heavily for the education of students."

---IASA---10/17/2019

Name

SD #U-46

Description

Type: preK-12

Enrollment: 38,764

FY 18: \$22.4 million

FY 19: \$21 million

FY 20: \$20.5 million

How EBF has Made a Difference

The passage of Evidence-Based Funding has provided significant support to the more than 38,000 students in SD #U-46 and has helped the district abate property tax levies for residents.

The increased funding allowed the state's second largest school district to lower class sizes for kindergarten through second-grade students. In addition, the district added more instructional coaches, giving teachers the ongoing guidance needed to improve professional practice in order to reach all learners.

Last year, SD #U-46 also restored guidance counselors to each of its middle schools and added assistant principals to more buildings, including to 10 of its larger elementary schools this school year.

Additional state funding also made it possible for the district to roll out its 1:1 technology program last year with Chromebooks for all high school students. This year,

SD #U-46 expanded the program to fifth- through twelfth-graders, distributing a total of 26,000 Chromebooks since last year.

Finally, SD #U-46 was able to make some long-needed upgrades to its more than 55 school buildings and facilities with new high school libraries, including some much-needed paint, as well as less visible changes that impact heating and cooling, building structures and general maintenance.

“The commitment to funding public education in a fair and equitable manner is already benefiting students in need,” Superintendent Tony Sanders said. “The continued focus will benefit the state of Illinois for generations to come.”

Continued Support of EBF Would ...

SD #U-46 plans to continue to make investments that go directly into the classrooms and provide students with more support and opportunities. Future increases will support a new teacher salary schedule that includes a higher starting wage and recognizes teachers financially for engaging in professional learning, collaborating and investing their time in strategies to improve outcomes for students.

The district is also working to implement educational pathways towards college and careers in all five of its high schools, which also will result in a refresh of the district’s middle school curriculum.

Other future plans include a review of the district’s 57 buildings to develop a long-term facilities master plan in hopes of making significant investments to repair or replace the district’s oldest buildings.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---10/17/2019

Boys soccer: Elgin adds blemish to West Chicago's record

By: Chris Walker



West Chicago's Ben Suddeth and Elgin's Ivan Sanchez compete for the ball in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.



West Chicago's Ben Suddeth takes a big kick against Elgin in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.



Elgin's Jefferson Paulino makes a save against West Chicago in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.



West Chicago's Brayam Barrios controls the ball against Elgin in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.



West Chicago's Jahir Martinez and Elgin's Christian Guerrero concentrate on the ball in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.

Upstate Eight Conference games between Elgin and West Chicago are often unforgettable battles regardless of the records.

Wednesday night was no different, although it paired a Maroons squad that's having a good year with a Wildcats one that's have an outstanding one.

Elgin made the trek into West Chicago and held on for a thrilling 3-2 victory to keep West Chicago from finishing its conference schedule undefeated.

"It's always a tough one when we play West Chicago," Maroons coach David Borg said. "Whenever we play West Chicago, Larkin or Streamwood, you can throw the records out. It's always a good game. All these guys know each other and they're playing for pride, but it's always better to win your last one going into the playoffs than to lose it."

Elgin (11-5-3, 3-3-3) played with confidence from the get-go and got a huge boost just a little more than four minutes into the action when Ivan Sanchez buried a shot for a 1-0 lead.

West Chicago (16-2-3, 7-1-1) had opportunities to net the equalizer, including on five corner kicks in the opening half, but had nothing to show for it until Jahir Martinez

found an opening and made the Maroons pay for it with the game-tying goal with 36:45 still remaining in the game.

The Wildcats haven't had to come from behind often this season. Their only other loss was a 1-0 decision against St. Patrick on Sept. 21.

"It was a good opportunity to find ourselves in that situation to see how we'd respond," Wildcats coach Jose Villa said. "I was happy with how we responded and I think if we would've had a couple more minutes we maybe get the tying goal. I felt like we had the momentum."

Jean Padilla-Lopez's breakaway tally with 24:41 remaining gave the Maroons the lead once again.

"I saw the play happen," he said. "It was a long ball and I won a header from the middle and came in and controlled it. I took a touch and let it rip."



West Chicago's Jessie Hernandez takes the ball between Elgin's Jose Ramirez and Eduardo Berrum in a boys soccer game in West Chicago Wednesday.

Elgin then extended its lead and seemingly put the game away at 3-1 with 17:27 remaining after Eduardo Berrum converted a penalty kick, just slipping his shot past the goalkeeper.

"He got a hand on it, but not enough," Berrum said. "It had the heart to keep going. I was trying to go top left corner but didn't hit the ball like I wished, but fortunately it went in, which was great for us."

It proved to be a huge goal. Moises Morfin scored with 2:57 left to pull the Wildcats to within 3-2 and give them confidence and momentum that they would net the game-tying goal before regulation ended. But they didn't.

"It's a big win," Berrum said. "I think this means a lot because at the beginning of the season we weren't at our best, but we picked it up. It doesn't matter how we started but how we end and we've been playing pretty good. We were focused and knew what we needed to do today."

West Chicago hadn't allowed three or more goals in a game this season.

"I told the guys to think about how we feel right now at the end of a regular-season conference game and multiply that in a regional or playoff game," Villa said. "You don't want to have this feeling. We want to be able to dictate where we're at and kind of see what we have to do to get back on track."

South Elgin seeks revenge against rival Bartlett

By: Dave Oberhelman and Jerry Fitzpatrick

Bartlett's celebration of last season's 30-25 win over South Elgin was raucous enough to snap the bell off the traveling Rivalry Bell trophy's base, as Jerry Fitzpatrick wrote after the game.

The parts presumably are reassembled as are the sides for Friday's Upstate Eight Conference Rivalry Week contest in Bartlett.

"Obviously last year was my first Bartlett-South Elgin game experience, but from everything I've been hearing it doesn't matter what the records are, it's going to be a game," said Bartlett's second-year coach Matt Erlenbaugh, his Hawks coming in at 6-1 overall and in conference.

"We're excited about this year, the opportunity to get out there against a team that's tops in the state in points earned and points allowed."

Actually Peoria (408 points), Rochester (403) and, on the 8-man circuit Milford (408), top South Elgin's 378 points scored, but we get the point. And no team has allowed less than the unbeaten Storm's 7 points, which "all" came in South Elgin's 35-7 win over defending UEC champion Glenbard East in Week 5.

Thinking back on last season's second battle for the Rivalry Bell, which was also his first, South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic got the point, too. Like a poke from a sharpened stick.

The Storm allowed a Hail Mary touchdown at the end of the first half, committed 11 penalties for 125 yards, turned the ball over 5 times and allowed 3 fourth-quarter touchdowns including Bartlett's game-winner with 52 seconds left.

The cumulative effect of all that "sticks in our craw," Teonic said.

"This is one that we lived year-round," he said. "It's why we get up, why we go to work, why we lift weights. It's a big deal and it should be. It's definitely something that has been in the back of our minds for a long time."

It's no shock that Bartlett's football Twitter account posted a video Wednesday of the Hawks working feverishly in the weight room.

Both coaches believe the game will be decided by physical play.

"We know football comes down to the trenches," Teonic said.

Erlenbaugh agreed, and then some.

"The team that comes out more physical is going to have the upper hand," he said. "I think that's really the key to the game, is who's going to be tougher than the other team, who's going to set the tone, who will be tougher at the line of scrimmage, who's going to wrap up and make plays."

Young at heart: The high school football experience never gets old.

With that in mind the Marmion football team will conduct Thursday's practice under the gaze of some of the area's most experienced citizens.

The Cadets will hold their weekly walk-through before an audience of retirees at Covenant Living at the Holmstad, located in Batavia at the intersection of Fabian Parkway and Ill. Route 31. They will be joined by the Rosary cheerleaders.

The idea was presented to the Marmion coaching staff by a player's mother, who saw on social media that an Ohio team had recently done the same. Marmion coach Dan Thorpe liked the idea.

"If we can impact elderly people's lives positively, let's do it," Thorpe said. "We're hoping to bring memories for the residents of their high school times."

Thorpe said he hopes his players learn some important life lessons in the process.

"We're not about fielding football players," he added. "We're about building men who happen to play football."

The practice will run from 4-6 p.m. The residents are invited to sit in on the pregame meeting during which the team will focus on this week's opponent, St. Joseph. They are then invited to watch the team execute its final walk-through on the front lawn of the 38-acre facility.

Two residents who played football in their youth will take part in the walk-through and lend their expertise: former Northwestern Wildcat Wayne Glassman and Jim Covalsky, a former all-conference player at St. Charles High School.

"This type of intergenerational programming has tremendous mutual benefit for everyone involved," said Amanda Gosnell, executive director of the facility. "Our residents truly feed off the energy and passion displayed by these talented athletes and enjoy reminiscing about their own sports triumphs from generations ago. And in turn, hopefully, they are able to inspire students with their wisdom, encouragement and perspective."