Welcome

What you’ll learn

Newsela + Education Week: The survey

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Survey background and methodology

- 1,123 educators from around the country
- Questions developed by EWRC
- Included a mix of classroom teachers and administrators of all levels
We asked about 9 in particular:

1. Social-emotional learning
2. School safety
3. Race/ethnicity
4. National politics
5. Media literacy/fake news
6. LGBTQIA issues
7. Immigration
8. Climate change
9. Reproductive rights

Complex topics belong in classrooms and schools
Why do these topics have a place in classrooms/schools?

- Improve critical thinking
- Learn to engage in civil discourse with people you disagree with
- Deal with students’ misconceptions
- Prepare students to participate in democratic society
What are the challenges associated with teaching complex topics?

A majority of educators say teacher’s aren’t well prepared to teach on issues ranging from SEL to national politics to LGBTQ issues

- 73% on average

In some areas, parent and community objections

- 44% on average

Shortcomings of instructional materials

- 87% say materials are not cutting edge
A majority of educators say better instructional materials would help in teaching complex topics – 57%
Only 10% give their instructional materials an A when it comes to complex topics
What are the topics where educators are the most unprepared?

- Reproductive Rights: 92%
- LGBT: 90%
- Immigration: 82%
- Race: 76%
- SEL: 58%
What teachers are most in need of better content?

- Elementary: 63%
- ELA: 63%
- Science: 56%
How is instructional content currently falling short?
Less than half of educators say that materials are up to date, with only 13% using the description “cutting edge”
Less than half also rated materials as balanced or accurate.

**MATERIALS**

- Fair and balanced: 45%
- Accurate: 41%
Only a quarter say the content is at the right challenge level, and additionally, tools aren’t differentiated or supportive of individual student needs.
Only 43% of educators reported that instructional content reflects experiences and demographics of their students.
Content isn’t standards-aligned, and it’s hard to prove it leads to better instruction
How does the right instructional content allow you to create space for these topics?
How does it lead to better outcomes?
You can address the instructional content gap for complex topics starting today.
Thank you.