

AMERICAN STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE GETTING LOST IN AN AVALANCHE OF CONFUSING INFORMATION BY DAVID KEELING.

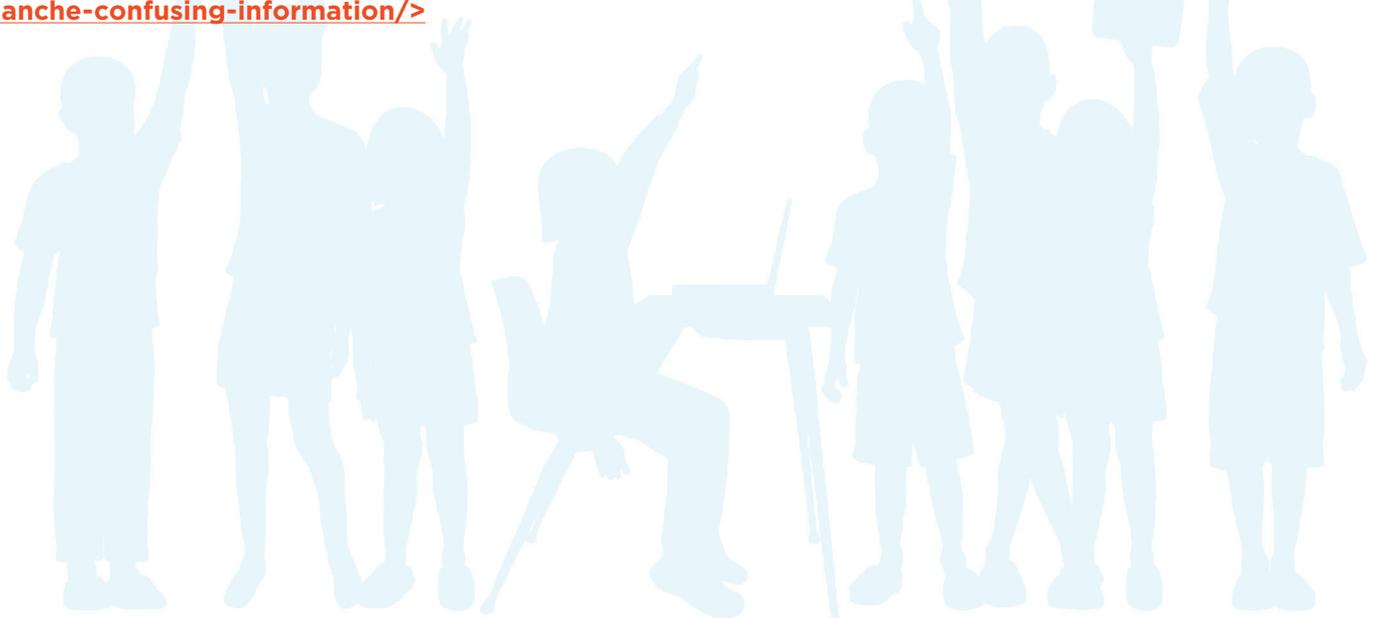
It's confusing, at best, to get a clear picture of how students are performing in school; parents get lost and overwhelmed by the huge amount of data that is available, all intended to track student progress.

In an essay compiled as part of a Carnegie Corporation of New York-commissioned challenge to explore the role of family engagement in student success, author David Keeling adds another explanation for why American students are not doing as well as their counterparts from other countries. Keeling concludes that it's confusing, at best, to get a clear picture of how students are performing in school. Keeling says it's very easy for parents to get lost and overwhelmed by the huge amount of data that is available, all intended to track student progress. Specifically, Keeling takes aim at:

- Report cards - He tells the story of one New Orleans mother who thought her son was doing well when his report card showed the letters "AB." As it turns out, "AB" stands for "approaching basic." Keeling urges schools to ensure that their systems of measurement are clear for families.
- Fragmented information - He said that families often get bits and pieces of information, including report cards, state examination results and other tests, and rarely are allowed to see the entire picture. Keeling offers the story of a New Orleans student who earns straight As on her report card but who scores below grade level on state tests. He explains that parents don't know how to interpret this information.
- Language barriers - Report cards and other data about students' progress are often shared with families only in English when some parents don't speak or read it and, therefore, will have no way of monitoring their children's progress. He said federal law requires schools to communicate information in a language they understand.
- Misleading language - Keeling says that some schools "sugar-coat" bad news with terms like "progressing" when they need to come out and be more direct if they want families to respond appropriately.

Keeling, David. (October 2019). "American Students and Families are Getting Lost in an Avalanche of Confusing Information." Challenge Paper for the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

<https://www.carnegie.org/news/articles/american-students-and-families-are-getting-lost-avalanche-confusing-information/>



Thanks to generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, *Our Neighborhood*, is a compilation of stories and research from the family engagement field. It is intended to be a living repository and guide for STEM Learning Ecosystems and other communities interested in cultivating strong community partnerships to prepare the next generation.

This annotated bibliography was compiled by TIES for *Our Neighborhood*.