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Inquiry-based instruction can help guide student learning, according to educator Diana Laufenberg, managing director of Inquiry Schools and a former history teacher. Her best practices include leveraging students' curiosity and using the element of surprise. KQED.org

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Some high schools in Maryland, California and Maine have launched bicycle-technology classes. In one program, students apply core subjects such as geometry to bicycle maintenance, design, marketing and production. U.S. News & World Report

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Washington, D.C., officials will expand a program that seeks to tackle chronic absenteeism in elementary and middle schools. The program uses school clubs and mentors to help students feel more connected to school. Early data from a pilot of the program show improved school attendance. [The Washington Post \(tiered subscription model\)](#)

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New Jersey has created a teacher-leader licensing credential. The credential will allow educators to advance their careers outside of taking on supervisory roles. The law calls for the creation of a training program for earning the endorsement.

[The Record \(Woodland Park, N.J.\)](#)

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