






**Education/Self Sufficiency**


: [Studying Young Minds, and How to Teach Them](#)  
 Many 4-year-olds cannot count up to their own age when they arrive at preschool, and those at the Stanley M. Makowski Early Childhood Center are hardly prodigies. Most live in this city's poorer districts and begin their academic life well behind the curve. Skip to next paragraph. But there they were, three months into the school year, counting up to seven and higher, even doing some elementary addition and subtraction.


: [Getting With the Program: Community College Students Need Access to Federal Loans](#)  
 Examines the availability of federal loans to community college students by race/ethnicity and state, default rates, borrowing trends, and reasons why colleges opt out of federal programs. Argues for access to federal loans as a safe and equitable option.

: [Student Debt and the Class of 2008](#)  
 Analyzes state-by-state trends in the average debt of 2008 graduates and percentages of graduates with debt. Lists high- and low-debt states and campuses. Interactive map provides campus-by-campus data on tuition and percentage of Pell Grants recipients.

: [Williams backs more charter schools](#)  
 At the request of Superintendent Williams, the Buffalo Board of Education last month urged the state to impose a moratorium on new charter schools in and around Buffalo. But Williams is now about to endorse a state grant application that calls for a major expansion of charter schools in NYS. The reason for the turnaround is money. The state seeks as much as \$700 million from the federal Race to the Top grants, which will be awarded to states later this year on a competitive basis.


: [Williams denied backing for U. S. aid](#)  
 The Buffalo Board of Education balked at supporting a state reform plan, leaving Superintendent James A. Williams seeking millions of dollars in federal aid without the backing of the board or the district's teachers union.

: [Working poor upset over cut in day care subsidies](#)  
 Under County Executive Collins, officials have grown tired of county taxpayers shouldering a larger share — as much as \$10 million this year — of a county, state and federal program that subsidizes day care costs for lower-income families. So as a way to spend less, the county will make it more difficult for families to qualify.


: [With Their Whole Lives Ahead of Them: Myths and Realities About Why So Many Students Fail to Finish College](#)  
 Based on a survey, explores the barriers to graduation college students face, examines common assumptions about college dropouts and realities, and compares the views of those who graduate and those who do not on solutions to help raise graduation rates.


**Philanthropy/Grantmaking**

: [Social Innovation Fund to Encourage Public-Private Partnerships](#)  
 As more philanthropists try to leverage their gifts by teaming up with public agencies, the federal government is opening up a new avenue for public-private partnerships through its [Social Innovation Fund](#), the *Wall Street Journal* reports.


: [A Great Reckoning: Healing a Growing Divide: A Summary of the Boston Indicators Report](#)  
 Summarizes the Boston Indicators Project's findings on the city's economic, social, and technological progress in civic vitality, cultural life and the arts, economy, education, environment, health, housing, public safety, technology, and transportation.

**Regional Assets**

: [Agreement near on parks plan](#)  
 After a flurry of meetings, the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy appear closer to agreeing on a management plan for the historic parks system. The latest sign: a letter indicating the city will abide by the contract between Erie County and the conservancy that governed the Olmsted parks for five years before the city regained control of them Jan. 1.

: [Preservation Groups Find Bargains in Housing Bust](#)  
 The purchases by conservationists and state and local governments assure that thousands of acres will be put aside in perpetuity for parks, watershed protection or simply preservation of open space. The victories reveal a green lining of sorts in a credit crisis that has depressed real estate prices, spawned foreclosures and derailed development projects across the nation.

**Stable Neighborhoods**

: [Paterson on Buffalo: Sustainable Neighborhoods Project](#)  
 In State of the State address, Governor David Paterson not only recognized Buffalo's struggle with abandoned housing, but he has put the City of Buffalo first in line, saying, "With more than 23,000 vacant housing units, Buffalo will serve as the starting point for the project which will expand to cities across New York State." Governor Paterson proposes the Sustainable Neighborhoods Project as a national model for affordable housing and urban revitalization, starting here.