



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact John Robbins 832-280-5815 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Trump promises successor to Ginsburg ‘without delay’, sparking political battle



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Monday, September 21 , 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

ByteDance plans TikTok IPO to win U.S. deal as deadline looms: sources

(Reuters) - China’s ByteDance is planning a U.S. initial public offering of TikTok Global, the new company that will operate the popular short video app, should its proposed deal be cleared by the U.S. government, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

ByteDance is racing to clinch an agreement with the White House that will stave off a U.S. ban on TikTok that President Donald Trump has threatened could happen as early as next week.

Trump ordered ByteDance last month to divest TikTok amid U.S. concerns that the personal data of as many as 100 million Americans who use the app could be passed on to China’s Communist Party government.

On Wednesday, he reiterated he was opposed to ByteDance retaining majority ownership of TikTok.

The White House and ByteDance have agreed to a term sheet on some aspects of a deal, although Trump has not yet approved it, one of the sources said. Top ByteDance U.S. investors, Oracle Corp and potentially Walmart Inc would hold at least a 60% stake in TikTok’s U.S. operations, the source said.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said the situation was still fluid.

“There’s no definite proposal that the president’s being asked to consider or reject at this point,” Meadows told reporters.

Trump says TikTok deal could move ‘quickly,’ there are great options The new company, dubbed TikTok Global, will have a majority of American directors, a U.S. chief executive and a security expert on the board, the source added. Oracle has agreed to eventually own a 20% stake in the company, according to the source. If Walmart also successfully negotiates acquiring a stake, its CEO, Doug McMillon, would get a seat on TikTok Global’s board, the source said.

Trump said that his administration talked with Walmart and Oracle on Thursday but “nothing much has changed” regarding a deal.

He added, without giving details, “I guess Microsoft is still involved.” Microsoft said on Sunday its offer for TikTok was rejected. Microsoft did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday

“We’ll make a decision soon,” Trump said.

An IPO of TikTok would be one of the technology sector’s biggest-ever stock market debuts, given that the app was recently valued by ByteDance investors at more than \$50 billion. It would further reduce ByteDance’s stake in the company to appease U.S. officials who want to see the Chinese firm loosen its grip on the video app.

The filing of the IPO would be on a U.S. stock exchange and could come in about a year, the sources said.

Flags of China and U.S. are seen near a Bytedance logo in this illustration picture taken September 18, 2020. REUTERS/Florence Lo/Illustration There is no certainty over whether Trump will sign off on the agreement. It was also not immediately clear what assets TikTok



Global would own beyond the app’s assets in the United States. ByteDance has offered to create 25,000 new U.S. jobs with TikTok headquartered in the United States as it seeks to win Trump’s blessing for a deal, Reuters has reported.

It was also not clear whether ByteDance could present the deal to China as keeping majority ownership of TikTok. Chinese officials have said they do not want ByteDance to agree to a forced sale, and the company’s proposal to the White House this week called for it to retain majority ownership of TikTok.

The board of TikTok Global would include a national security director, who will be approved by the U.S. and chair a security committee overseeing the protection of user data, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The term sheet will grant Oracle the right to inspect TikTok’s source code and includes numerous provisions to ensure data security and requirement that all U.S. users data remains in the United States housed by Oracle, the source said.

It is not clear what Oracle or Walmart will pay for a stake. Oracle, Walmart and Treasury did not immediately comment.

Meadows said on Thursday that the administration is still looking at details of the deal and whether it meets national security thresholds. Meadows said if TikTok remains predominantly Chinese-run under the Oracle deal, that would

not meet Trump’s objectives.

CHINA APPROVAL ByteDance said on Thursday it would need China to approve the proposed deal with the White House, indicating how its bid to stave off a ban in the United States could be further complicated.

As many as 40% of Americans back Trump’s threat to ban TikTok if it is not sold to a U.S. buyer, a Reuters/Ipsos national poll found last month. Among Republicans - Trump’s party - 69% said they supported the order, though only 32% expressed familiarity with the app.

The White House has stepped up efforts to purge what it deems “untrusted” Chinese apps from U.S. digital networks. Beyond TikTok, Trump has also issued an order prohibiting transactions with Tencent Holding Ltd’s messenger app WeChat.

Earlier this year, Chinese gaming company Beijing Kunlun Tech Co Ltd sold gay dating app Grindr, bought in 2016, for \$620 million after CFIUS ordered its divestment.

ByteDance acquired Shanghai-based video app Musical.ly - whose user base was largely American - for \$1 billion in 2017 without seeking CFIUS approval, relaunching it as TikTok the following year. Reuters reported last year that CFIUS was investigating TikTok.



www.afnb.com





恆豐 銀行

American First National Bank



借記卡手機管理

24小時保護你的賬戶



Houston Area: Main Office 713-596-2888 Dallas Area: Richardson Branch 972-348-3488	Spring Branch 713-273-1838 Harry-Hines Branch 972-348-3433	Katy Branch 281-762-6688 Legacy Branch 972-348-3466	Harwin Branch 713-273-1888 Carrollton Branch 972-428-5088	First Colony Branch 713-596-2588 Arlington Branch 817-261-5585	Nevada Area: Las Vegas Branch 702-777-9988 Garland Branch 972-272-3375	Pahrump Branch 775-751-1773 Plano Branch 469-429-2422	Amargosa Valley Branch 775-372-1100 California Area: City of Industry Branch 626-667-3988 Alhambra Branch 626-863-1980
---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---

Trump promises successor to Ginsburg ‘without delay’, sparking political battle

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A fierce political battle shaped up over the future of the U.S. Supreme Court on Saturday, with President Donald Trump saying he would quickly nominate a successor to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a move that would tip the court further to the right. Ginsburg's death on Friday from cancer after 27 years on the court gave Trump, who is seeking re-election on Nov. 3, a chance to expand its conservative majority to 6-3 at a time of a gaping political divide in America.

His short list of potential nominees includes two women jurists he previously elevated to federal appeals courts: Amy Coney Barrett of the Chicago-based 7th Circuit and Barbara Lagoa of the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit, according to a source close to the White House.

“We were put in this position of power and importance to make decisions for the people who so proudly elected us, the most important of which has long been considered to be the selection of United States Supreme Court Justices,” Trump said on Twitter. “We have this obligation, without delay!”

Any nomination would require approval in the Senate, where Trump's Republicans hold a 53-47 majority. Democrats are still seething over the Republican Senate's refusal to act on Democratic President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, in 2016 after conservative Justice Antonin Scalia died 10 months before that election. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said then that the Senate should not act on a court nominee during an election year, a stance he has since reversed.

Even if Democrats win the White House and a Senate majority in the November election, Trump and McConnell have time as the full new Congress would not be sworn in until Jan. 3

Senior congressional Democrats raised the prospect of adding additional justices next year to counterbalance Trump's nominees if they win control of the White House and Senate in the November election.

McConnell, who has made confirmation of Trump's federal judicial nominees a top priority, said the chamber would vote on any Trump nominee.

RELATED COVERAGE

Trump mulling Appeals Court judges Barbara Lagoa, Amy Coney Barrett for Supreme Court - source
Given that they have few tools to block the eventual nomination from passing, Democrats plan to try to rally public opposition to the move.

“The focus needs to be showing the public what’s at stake in this fight. And what’s at stake is really people’s access to affordable healthcare, workers’ rights and women’s rights,” said Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen in a telephone interview.

Obama himself on Saturday called on Senate Republicans to honor what he called that “invented” 2016 principle.

“A basic principle of the law — and of everyday fairness — is that we apply rules with consistency, and not based on what’s convenient or advantageous in the moment,” Obama said in a statement posted online.



AMY CONEY BARRETT AND BARBARA LAGOA
Even before Ginsburg's death, Trump had made public a list of potential nominees.

Barrett has generated perhaps the most interest in conservative circles. A devout Roman Catholic, she was a legal scholar at Notre Dame Law School in Indiana before Trump appointed her to the 7th Circuit in 2017. A Barrett nomination would likely ignite controversy, as her strong conservative religious views have prompted abortion-rights groups to say that if confirmed by the U.S. Senate, she would likely vote to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Lagoa has served on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for less than a year after being appointed by Trump and confirmed by the Senate on an 80-15 vote. Prior to that she also spent less than a year in her previous position as the first Latina to serve on the Florida Supreme Court. She previously spent more than a decade as a judge on an intermediate appeals court in Florida.

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

January Set As Target Date, Shipments Promised Day After FDA Gives Its OK

HHS Outlines U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Strategy

The Health and Human Services (HHS) department on Wednesday unveiled general outlines for how the first COVID-19 vaccine doses will be shipped and administered. Developed with the Department of Defense (DOD), the four-part strategy addresses engagement with state and local partners and other stakeholders; distribution under a “phased allocation methodology” still to be developed; safe vaccine administration and availability of auxiliary supplies; and data gathering via information technology to track distribution and administration. The strategy gives January 2021 as the target to begin distribution of an FDA-approved or authorized vaccine. Also released Wednesday was a COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook from the CDC to assist local, state, tribal and territorial partners in rolling out their COVID-19 vaccination programs. The CDC handbook tracks different phases of vaccine dose availability, from the first “potentially limited” phase, to a second phase when a “large number of doses [are] available,” to a third phase of “continued vaccination.” In the earliest phase of vaccine distribution, “vaccine efforts may focus on those ... providing critical care and maintaining societal functions, as well as those at highest risk for developing severe illness as a consequence of COVID-19,” explained Robert Redfield, CDC director, on a call with reporters that included other federal health officials.



The playbook identifies healthcare personnel and other essential workers as among the “critical populations,” although final decisions remain to be made by the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The playbook also encourages jurisdictions to establish a “COVID-19 Vaccination Program” implementation committee that includes representatives from local health departments, pharmacies, churches or other religious institutions, correctional facilities, educational agencies, and other stakeholders.

Additionally, the guidance includes three hypothetical scenarios for the first phase of distribution intended as exercises for any such committee to workshop or practice. “CDC’s goal, and that of the U.S. government, is to have enough COVID-19 vaccines for all people in the United States who wish to be vaccinated,” Redfield stated. He added that the playbook will be updated as soon as new information -- for example, vaccination guidance for pregnant people or for children -- becomes available. Both the HHS strategy document and the CDC playbook still lack many key details, such as who is to receive the first doses, or how exactly the particular vaccines will be transported from factories and warehouses to immunization sites. The latter is a special challenge given that federal officials promised to begin shipping doses the day after the FDA approves or authorizes a product.



Moreover, plans must be laid without knowing for sure what vaccine or vaccines will get the green light. Paul Mango, HHS deputy chief of staff for policy, described the vaccine process as a “logistically complex undertaking” taking place in a “world of uncertainty.” “We don’t know the timing of when we’ll have a vaccine. We don’t know the quantities. We don’t know the efficacy of those vaccines,” he said. Mango pointed out that current vaccine candidates use different types of needles and syringes, as well as require different storage and dosing methods, all of which further complicate preparations. Nevertheless, he declared, “we are prepared for



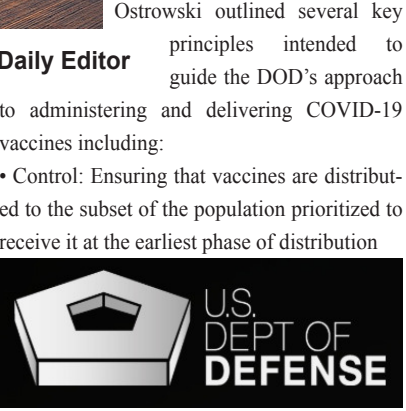
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

all of those uncertainties.” Mango also echoed President Trump’s goal that no American should “pay a single dime” for the vaccine and said “we’re getting very close to that aspiration right now.” There are currently three vaccine candidates, from AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Pfizer, in phase III clinical trials. Other companies are expected to begin phase III trials in the next 30 days, while others are expected to kick off trials before the end of the year, with each candidate vaccine enrolling 30,000 participants per trial, explained U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski, director of supply, production, and distribution for Operation Warp Speed.



Researchers anticipate that more than one vaccine will be approved by the FDA, either through a biologic license application or an emergency use authorization. **A ‘Herculean Task’** The distribution of potentially six COVID-19 vaccines in the midst of a pandemic is a “Herculean task,” said Ostrowski, and one that HHS lacks the personnel to manage on its own. The DOD’s role in Operation Warp Speed will be

to provide “the bandwidth and the enablers.” The DOD has the program management and contract expertise to ensure the government gets what it paid for from each of the vaccine developers, he said. Additionally, the DOD will be responsible for logistics, such as securing supply chains for raw materials and other equipment associated with the vaccine.



Ostrowski outlined several key principles intended to guide the DOD’s approach to administering and delivering COVID-19 vaccines including:
• Control: Ensuring that vaccines are distributed to the subset of the population prioritized to receive it at the earliest phase of distribution
• Visibility: Knowing where each vaccine is throughout the distribution chain
• Uptake: Identifying shortages or overages of vaccine and make certain that supply matches demand
• Traceability: Knowing which vaccine a person received, on what date, and at what facility; the ability to issue a reminder to that person, if necessary, regarding a second dose
Most of the vaccine candidates require two doses, Ostrowski explained. “We have to be able to... tell the person that we vaccinated, when it’s time to come back in for the second shot,” after the appropriate time period, likely 21 or 28 days. And because a Pfizer vaccine cannot be substituted for Moderna’s product, these details matter, he stressed. Providers will need to know “what vaccine did a person receive, when did they receive it, and where did they receive it,” Ostrowski stated. All of this information must be traceable and requires the interoperability of public and private databases, so that if a person receives a vaccine in one state, and 28 days later needs to get the second dose in another location or state,

they will have access. The DOD is currently working to “allow those different databases to talk with one another through a data-link that we’re developing and testing as we speak,” Ostrowski said.



He also stressed that vaccine accessibility is paramount. “We have to be able to go beyond the pharmacies, the hospitals and so forth to get after nursing homes; to get after meatpacking facilities; to get after those that are sheltered [at home]. We have to get this out to all four corners of this nation,” he said. Asked how soon a patient could receive the vaccine once the FDA has given the green light, Ostrowski said that a central distributor, McKesson, will move the vaccine “within a day or so” to administration sites. As for Trump’s aspiration that no American will pay out of pocket for the vaccine, Mango stressed that providers will still be paid for administering the vaccine by commercial insurers and Medicaid. For uninsured patients, a “sub-fund” of the Provider Relief Fund has been earmarked for the cost of administering these vaccines. However, for full payment by Medicare, “there’s a couple of complications,” Mango acknowledged. Under current rules, a beneficiary might have to pay \$3.50 out of pocket for the vaccine, but “we are working to eliminate that,” he stated. Ostrowski said contracts with vaccine manufacturers -- which so far haven’t been made public -- are “releasable” to some degree and “will be made available at some point in time.” (Courtesy <https://www.medpagetoday.com/>)

Editor's Choice



Firefighter Jake Henschen of Las Vegas protects a fire line next to a firing operation near the Obenchain Fire in Butte Falls, Oregon, September 15, 2020. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



A firefighter looks on while defending the Mount Wilson Observatory in the Angeles National Forest during the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles, California, September 17, 2020. REUTERS/Ringo Chiu



Elizabeth Wright of the U.S. Forest Service watches a helicopter as it makes a water drop in the Angeles National Forest during the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles, California, September 16, 2020. REUTERS/Patrick T. Fallon



A firefighter carries hoses during the Elkhorn Fire near Red Bluff, California, August 29, 2020. Matthew McFarland/Unified Fire Authority/Handout via REUTERS



Firefighters walk in line in the Angeles National Forest during the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles, California, September 17, 2020. REUTERS/Ringo Chiu



Farmer displays wheat grains at field in the Beheira Governorate



FILE PHOTO: A security guard stands guard outside a branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in Paranaque city, Metro Manila



FILE PHOTO: An electric vehicle charging cable is seen on the bonnet of a Volvo hybrid car in this picture illustration



Louisville, KY, USA; An exercise rider works Kentucky Oaks entry Monomoy Girl at Churchill Downs. Mandatory Credit: Jamie Rhodes-USA TODAY Sports

Rapid Progress Has Spurred Hopes That Several Vaccines Could Succeed

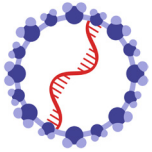
The Coronavirus Vaccine Frontrunners Have Emerged



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

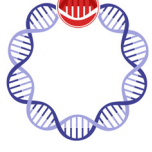
Scientists, drugmakers and governments are moving with unprecedented haste to develop a vaccine against the new coronavirus. The fastest of them have already delivered promising data from initial human studies, and further results from larger tests should come quickly over the next three to six months. The goal, at least in the U.S., is to have a vaccine ready for use in some fashion by the end of the year, or early next. Doing so would be a scientific feat with few parallels. No vaccine has ever been developed so quickly, never mind manufactured for the world. Researchers’ success or failure could determine whether the virus becomes endemic, recurring in countries around the world year after year, or is ultimately checked. Here’s where things stand for nine of the most advanced, most promising or best funded vaccine candidates in the pipeline.

The Coronavirus Vaccine Top Frontrunners



Moderna

Updated September 10, 2020



Inovio

Updated Sept. 10, 2020

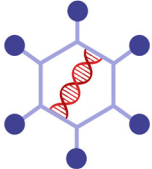
Vaccine type Messenger RNA Genetic instructions for the coronavirus spike protein are encoded in mRNA, delivered via lipid nanoparticle.

Target supply With Lonza, 500 million to 1 billion doses per year

External funding Up to \$2.48 billion



CEPI Undisclosed



CanSino Biologics

Updated Sept. 10, 2020

Vaccine type Non-replicating viral vector DNA sequence for coronavirus spike protein delivered via adenovirus type 5 vector

Target supply Undisclosed

External funding China: Amount undisclosed

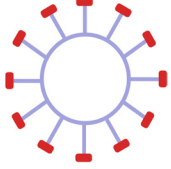
Vaccine type DNA plasmid encoding coronavirus spike protein delivered via electroporation

Target supply 100 million doses in 2021

External funding \$83 million



CEPI \$17 million



Sinovac

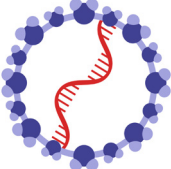
Updated Sept. 10, 2020

Vaccine type Inactivated virus SARS-CoV-2 is isolated, expanded and then made uninfec-tious via chemical treatment

Target supply 100 million doses annually

External funding \$15 million from Advantech Capital, Vivo Capital

(Courtesy [https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/coronavirus-vaccine-pipe-line-types/579122/](https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/coronavirus-vaccine-pipeline-types/579122/))



BioNTech, Pfizer

Updated Sept. 15, 2020

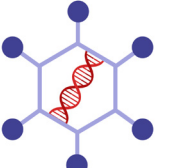
Vaccine type Messenger RNA Genetic instructions for the coronavirus spike protein are encoded in mRNA, delivered via lipid nanoparticle

Target supply 100 million doses in 2020 1.3 billion doses in 2021

External funding \$1.95 billion



\$445 million



Univ. of Oxford, AstraZeneca

Updated September 15, 2020

Vaccine type Non-replicating viral vector DNA sequence for coronavirus spike protein delivered via chimpanzee viral vector

Target supply With partners, 2 billion doses

External funding

Up to \$1.2 billion

CEPI Up to \$383 million

Gavi Up to \$367 million

About \$80 million

Undisclosed



Novavax

Updated Sept. 15, 2020

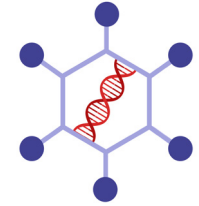
Vaccine type Protein-based Coronavirus-derived protein produced in insect cell lines, extracted and delivered alongside an adjuvant

Target supply 100 million doses for U.S. by late 2020 2 billion doses globally beginning in 2021

External funding

Up to \$1.66 billion

CEPI Up to \$388 million



Gamaleya Research Institute

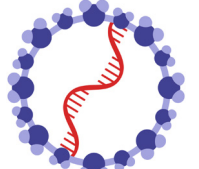
Updated September 11, 2020

Vaccine type Non-replicating viral vector DNA sequence for coronavirus spike protein delivered via adenovirus type 5 and type 26 vectors

Target supply 200 million doses by year end

External funding

Undisclosed



CureVac

Updated Sept. 10, 2020

Vaccine type Messenger RNA Genetic instructions for the coronavirus spike protein are encoded in mRNA, delivered via lipid nanoparticle

Target supply Hundreds of millions of doses, expanding to billions

External funding

\$640 million



Up to \$85 million

CEPI \$8 million

In the U.S., the Trump administration has unveiled “Operation Warp Speed,” so far pledging more than \$11 billion in funding and support for seven candidates. Concerns have grown, however, that President Donald Trump, looking to boost his reelection prospects, will pressure the Food and Drug Administration to grant an early emergency authorization. Expect a flurry of data, new answers and likely fresh questions to come through the remainder of 2020. (Courtesy-[https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/coronavirus-vaccine-pipe-line-types/579122/](https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/coronavirus-vaccine-pipeline-types/579122/))



Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster.

Your donation can help impact lives.



American Red Cross

HELP NOW

redcross.org



教育另一面 美国：快乐背后竞争无处不在

近年来，随着国外教育信息渠道越来越多样，越来越多的中国家长似乎觉得“国外的月亮”更圆——发达国家的教育公平又高质，发达国家的学生和家没有学业之忧，学生能够快乐、轻松地进入大学，成为社会精英。

但是，事实并非如此。从学生到学校，从区域到国家，世界各国都存在考核与竞争，发达国家也不例外。例如，美国的公立学校有打分和排名，家长也要面临择校和搬迁的问题；日本的学生要在节假日赶往补习班，以保证优秀的学业成绩；英国各类学校存在著“价格”和“质量”的差异与竞争，少数重点学校也有严苛的入学要求。

本版邀请对发达国家教育有亲身体验或深度研究的学者和

专家，解析他们亲历与观察的国外教育，从不同角度还原发达国家的教育真相。

美国：快乐背后竞争无处不在

提起美国基础教育的特点，很多国人的第一反应是学生没有课业之忧，家长没有择校之虞，其实并不尽然。在美国生活几年，就会发现很多与原来的刻板印象完全不同的教育现象。

择校并非个别现象

由于美国实行就近入学政策，择校在某种程度上表现为选择社区。

购买自己的住房之前，美国家长，特别是亚裔美籍家长，会很用心地选择即将居住的社区，其中一个很重要的考虑因素就是社区是否拥有高质量的中

小学。具体而言，美国的家长在选择新居前，会关注提供中小学教育质量信息的网站，上面列有对各州中小学教育质量做出的满分为10分的评价等级，并以此作为择校的参考依据。一般来说，拥有好学校的社区房产价格远远高于平均房产价格，但不妨碍学生家长趋之若鹜。选择社区在某种程度上来说就是择校。

众所周知，教育经费对于学校的质量来说至关重要，充足的教育经费意味着精良的教学设施和优秀的教师队伍。美国私立学校的经费来源主要是学生的学费、私人捐赠以及基金会资助，而公立学校的经费来源则主要是各级政府的拨款。按照美国的教育经费分担办法，基础教育阶段的公立学校经

费很大一部分来源于社区的税收，所以，居民纳税多的社区的学校就能够获得比其他学校更多的教育资源，从而保证学校拥有更高的教育质量。

一般来说，好的社区拥有好的治安条件，多数居民有较高的收入，缴纳高额税收；高额税收为当地学校提供了充足的经费，使学校能够聘请高质量的师资并提供高水平的教学设施，从而保证学校较高的教育质量；反过来，高质量的学校又吸引更多高收入人群来社区定居，从而增加了税收的数量，形成了经费与质量之间的良性循环。

快乐教育只是局部表象，掩盖了很多家庭为孩子拥有光明前途付出大量时间、精力和金钱的事实。

美国的确存在很多随遇而安的学生，在校平均成绩（GPA）是美国学生在校的平均成绩，满分为4分，如果学生选修难度系数大的课程并通过考试，也会得到4分以上的成绩）从来没有超过3分，高中毕业之后或选择上社区大学，或选择直接工作，毫无压力轻轻松松地过日子。据笔者观察，这部分学生中，父母没有受过高等教育的西班牙裔学生占绝大多数。但是大部分美国学生，特别是亚裔美国学生，完全是另一种状态。

进入以常春藤大学（简称“藤校”）为代表的美国一流大学是众多有志学子走向成功的第一步。熟悉美国大学招生

情况的人都知道，学业成绩并不是这些一流大学招生的唯一标准，学生的特长和领导能力是

增加被录取砝码的重要因素。因此，为了能够进入心仪的大学，美国学生积极参加各种竞赛和社会公益活动，接受各种特长训练和培养，以增强自己在申请大学时的竞争能力。

从一定意义上来说，一流大学的招生要求也对美国基础教育阶段，特别是初中和高中阶段的学生起到了指挥棒的作用。

美国学生参加课外活动的方式很多，归纳起来有以下几种。

第一种是参加学校里的兴趣小组或运动队，如国际象棋小组、学校篮球队等。

第二种是个人聘请教练或导师来提高孩子的特长专业素养。美国是一个崇尚竞技的国家，选择体育项目作为孩子兴趣培养的家庭比例很高，包括不少美籍华人家庭，为男孩子选择网球、游泳，为女孩子选择钢琴、舞蹈的现象十分普遍。经济条件好的家长会为孩子聘请相关领域的专业人士，对孩子进行一对一的训练和培养，条件一般的家庭也会通过其他途径寻找资源为孩子提供必要的训练条件。同样，除了支付不菲的学费之外，家长依然要承担接送孩子参加比赛和演出的任务和费用。

第三种是名副其实的补习班。尽管美国大学录取学生时很看重学生的特长和领导能力，但是文化课成绩毕竟是基础和前提。为了在美国高考（SAT或ACT）等考试中取得好成绩，不少美国学生都选择上专门的补习学校，因为补习学校会针对入学考试内容为学生提供讲解和模拟训练。

中小学生的压力并非一概快乐。高中的孩子学业压力巨大，其中很多痛苦不为常人所知。

和中国一样，美国的中小学生的压力也并非整齐划一。尽管美

国采取就近入学政策，但同一学区内，进入质量好的公立学校总是要排队很久，进入可以跨学区自主招生的优质私立学校更是要经过严格的选拔。即使幸运地进入了心仪的学校，激烈的竞争也令很多孩子不堪重负。

美国高中学生的负担本来就很重，不仅要完成规定的学业，预选大学的课程，还要继续自己的兴趣培养，进行公益活动。越是在优秀的学校里，更多出类拔萃的孩子在一起，竞争尤其激烈，其巨大的压力使有的孩子无法承重。最近连续几年，每年都有孩子选择在学校附近轻生。尽管校方采取了很多措施，家长也积极配合，但能否中止这个“魔咒”，目前还不得而知。虽然这个例子比较极端，但还是可以看到美国中学生承受的巨大压力，显然完全不是我们印象中的快乐教育的结果。

那么，为什么美国的基础教育会给人快乐教育的印象呢？笔者认为，主要原因是制度设计。美国基础教育阶段的课程设置和要求充分遵从了学生心理发展的特点和规律，在幼儿园和小学阶段，尊重儿童活泼好动乐于探究的天性，给予学生大量的时间去探索和接触大自然和社会，从中获得基本常识；在初中阶段开始，加大课业负担，通过提供选修课等方式，让学生发现并强化自己的爱好和特长，为学生的个性发展提供选择空间；在高中阶段，在提供选修课的同时提供大学预选课程，满足不同学习能力的学生需求，同时为学生开放各种展示自己能力的机会，为进入大学进一步深造或就业做好准备。另外一个原因是尊重孩子的个体差异，鼓励孩子做最好的自己。

