

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The horrendous national tragedy has touched all of our lives, and especially our children's lives. The immediate crisis is over and now we must deal with the aftermath. The following Web sites may offer some helpful resources.

There are several sites that have lesson plans and activities.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/crisis/crisis.pdf> go to pages 37-42 on Aftermath Classroom Activities

The Public Broadcasting System has lesson plans for most students

<http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/educators.html>

The New York Times has lesson plans for grades 6-8, 9-12

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20010912wednesday.html>

Funding Sources

Spirit of Community Awards

Applications are currently being accepted for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, which recognize community service performed by students. The deadline is October 31.

<http://www.jointogether.org/jtodirect.jtml?U=126648&O=545721>

As the fall sports season begins, kick off a search for grant resources provided by the professional leagues. There are links to leagues', teams' and individual player's foundations and charitable activities, usually found under community or community outreach link.

National Football League (NFL) <http://www.nfl.com/fans/index.html>

National Basketball Association (NBA) <http://www.nba.com/features/community.html>

Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)

http://www.wnba.com/news/read_to_achieve_010910.html

National Hockey League (NHL) <http://www.nhl.com>

Major League Baseball (MLB) <http://www.mlb.com>

Policy Updates

Acting Governor of Massachusetts Jane Swift proposed awarding grants of up to \$1,000 to the families of students who repeatedly fail the state exam (Greenberger, BOSTON GLOBE, 8/30). The funds could be used for private tutoring. For more information, visit the Massachusetts Governor's Office at <http://www.state.ma.us/gov>

State and federal policymakers should give more backing to the connection between high-quality care for infants and toddlers and their preparation for school states a report published in *The Future of Children*.

<http://www.ecs.org/html/offsite.asp?document=http://www.edweek.com/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=03packard.h21>

Effective Strategies

Community Collaboration

October is the Month of the Young Adolescent. This year's theme is "Young Adolescents Adding Value...in their homes, in their schools, in their communities, in our nation, in our world" <http://www.nmsa.org>

Early Childhood Education

Early Learning Can Help Close Achievement Gap" (2001) in *Gaining Ground*, the Council of Chief State School Officers' newsletter.

<http://www.ccsso.org/pdfs/ggjul01.pdf>

Family Involvement

The School Mental Health Project of the UCLA Department of Psychology has compiled a variety of sources for schools and parents on the next steps to take in responding to the national tragedy <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu>

Both Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Dept. of Education have compiled resource materials and links related to the tragedy. See:

<http://www.mentalhealth.org/cmhs/EmergencyServices/index.htm>

<http://www.ed.gov/inits/september11/index.html>

Educators for Social Responsibility has developed a free guide called *Talking to Children about Violence and other Sensitive and Complex Issues in the World*

<http://www.esrnational.org>

Violence Prevention/Conflict Resolution

Ideas for comprehensive safe school planning are available in the "School Violence Issue of *Juvenile Justice Journal*" (2001).

http://www.ncjrs.org/html/ojjdp/jjjournal_2001_6/contents.html

Resources & Tools

Dropping out is not an isolated event, but a gradual process that begins long before a student actually leaves school, says a new National Academies' report. "Understanding Dropouts: Statistics, Strategies and High-Stakes Testing (2001)

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/topnews/#0723>.

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please keep writing (to ndpc@clmson.edu) so we can do a better job of providing you with timely information that you can use.

Sources: Education Commission of the States, Foundation & Corporate Funding Advantage, SMHP, JTO Direct, The National Academies, NEGP