

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**November 1, 2001- Volume 1- No. 5**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

State governors gathered at an "education summit" to talk about ways to improve the nation's schools. This time, only 15 of them came. The other 35 stayed home to manage their National Guard units or monitor budget crises.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a43999a92915319a7>

The complex system of teacher licensing and certification is being challenged by a newcomer to the field who promises to streamline and make the system more meaningful.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a43999a92915319a10>

**Funding Sources**

School Grants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

The eSchool News School Funding Center has up-to-the minute grant programs, funding sources, and technology funding. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/funding>

**Policy Updates**

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige today announced the award of \$5 million over two years to the National Council on Teacher Quality to launch the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE). The ABCTE will implement two levels of certification in teaching: the Passport System for New Teachers and the Master Teacher Certification.

<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/10-2001/10052001e.html>

Nonprofit organizations working with school districts in 19 states will receive a total of \$11.7 million to set up local parent information and resource centers in communities across the nation.

<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/09-2001/09282001a.html>

**Effective Strategies**

**Community Collaboration**

Racine, Wisconsin, boasts a unique program that began with local police officers giving books to children when they made traffic stops or visited homes. Other programs are operating in Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey and Texas. <http://www.cops-n-kids.org>.

Rich Harwood cautions school boards against adopting a customer service mentality. He recommends that schools focus on rebuilding school/community relationships and helping the public reclaim a sense of stake in public schools. <http://www.theaasb.org/asb.cfm?docID=692>

**Family Involvement**

Philadelphia's landmark Children Achieving Challenge was a sweeping system reform initiative. A new report argues that without parental pressure, reform is unlikely to alter the educational experiences of urban children.

[http://www.gse.upenn.edu/cpre/Publications/Publications\\_Research.htm](http://www.gse.upenn.edu/cpre/Publications/Publications_Research.htm)

Suggestions are offered on how middle and high school principals can recruit and actively involve parents and community volunteers at school sites to nurture the academic success of culturally and economically diverse community groups.

[http://www.principals.org/news/btn\\_rcrt\\_vlntnrs1001.html](http://www.principals.org/news/btn_rcrt_vlntnrs1001.html)

### **Early Childhood Education**

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics joined forces with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to produce a joint position statement regarding appropriate math instruction for 3- to 6-year-old children.

National Council for Teachers of Mathematics at <http://www.nctm.org>

The article by Clements, "Mathematics in the Preschool".

<http://www.nctm.org/tcm/2001/01/p270.htm>.

NAEYC can be found at <http://www.naeyc.org>

The Texas Center for Reading and Language Arts at the University of Texas -Austin received \$500,000 to develop a national training model for kindergarten through second-grade teachers in effective early reading instruction. <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/10-2001/10092001b.html>.

### **Instructional Technologies**

When the Los Angeles Unified School District was caught and fined for using 1,400 unauthorized copies of software programs, school districts nationwide considered the implications.

[http://www.techlearning.com/db\\_area/archives/WCE/archives/radams.htm](http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/radams.htm)

### **Resources & Tools**

Search for over 15,000 Public Schools, Private Schools, Colleges and Universities, and Public Libraries across the United States by name, city, and zip code. <http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/>

"The American Teacher 2001: Key Elements of Quality Schools" examines the components of school life through the eyes of students, teachers and principals.

<http://www.metlife.com/Companyinfo/Community/Found/Docs/2001pdf.html>

The online newsletter of the National Clearinghouse for Comprehensive School Reform reviews recent research about the connection between systemic school reform and individual learning needs. <http://www.goodschools.gwu.edu/pubs/book/jul01.html#2>

This issue of *The Future of Children* examines the available research on how computer use affects children's development, whether it increases or decreases the disparities between rich and poor, and whether it can be used effectively to enhance learning.

[http://www.futureofchildren.org/information3134/information\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=78957](http://www.futureofchildren.org/information3134/information_show.htm?doc_id=78957)

### **Position Openings at the National Dropout Prevention Center**

Assistant Director and Associate Director

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

### **Feedback**

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

Sources: Education Commission of the States, NCES, NEGP, OESE, Pen Weekly, and SMHP