

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

Congress and the Bush administration are aiming to base school improvement efforts less on intuition and experience and more on research-based evidence. But the question arises: Who decides what counts as such? <http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a51461a92915319a3>

The General Educational Development (GED) test has been revamped for the first time since 1988. The reason for its new look is to keep the GED test in line with what high school students must know and be able to do in today's schools.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6071-2002Jan6.html>

Funding Sources

The Gateway Foundation has announced that it is now accepting applications for its Teach America Program, which seeks to provide teachers with the skills and knowledge they need to enhance student learning through the effective use of technology. No deadline given.
<http://www.gateway.com/about/coinfo/teachamerica/index.shtml>

Verizon Foundation. Eligible groups for the grant must focus on technology applications and programs in one or more areas: literacy, digital divide, workforce development, employee volunteerism or community technology development. Grant applications received continuously between January and November. <http://foundation.verizon.com/06007.shtml>

Beginning February 1, 2002, the Wallace Funds will accept applications for grants of up to \$50,000 each to organizations with new approaches to strengthening the ability of superintendents and principals to improve student learning. <http://www.wallacefoundation.org>

Policy Updates

The revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act sets in place requirements that will reach into virtually every public school in the nation.
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a50013a92915319a14>

Based on a strict interpretation of the ESEA legislation, few states currently meet its requirements for an unprecedented expansion of state testing systems.
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a50013a92915319a15>

Effective Strategies

Family Involvement

Taking the Measure of a School. In this simple and clear article, John Merrow poses 10 questions every parent should ask about their schools.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/01/13/edlife/13END.html?ex=1012034994&ei=1&en=ac411330ab614db2>

Teaching Teachers, Reaching Parents, Respecting Kids. Author, Dorothy Rich says that classic indicators of parental involvement are over-valued.
http://www.connectforkids.org/benton_topics1544/benton_topics_show.htm?doc_id=97544

Early Childhood Education

Quality Counts 2002: Building Blocks for Success examines which states are getting the message that when it comes to early learning, quality is just as important as in K-12 education.

<http://www.edweek.org/sreports/qc02/templates/article.cfm?slug=17exec.h21>

Or go directly to state report cards on K-12 improvement efforts:

http://www.edweek.org/sreports/qc02/rc/rcard_frameset.htm

In an unusual move, an Oklahoma school district and a nursing home have joined forces to build and run an early-childhood facility that brings together young and old.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a50579a92915319a3>

Learning Styles

Researchers: Nature x Nurture = Startling Jump in IQs. If people's intelligence is due mostly to heredity, as many experts believe, why is it that IQ scores have been rising?

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a51143a92915319a12>

Educators have been slow to recognize that boys and girls often have different styles of learning and varying classroom needs. <http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a51143a92915319a11>

Service Learning

Community Service Participation as Enrichment: Rationale, Outcomes, and Best Practices reviews research on the outcomes for youth—including youth with emotional and behavioral disorders—from participation in community service.

<http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/FPinHTML/FocalPointFA01/pgFPfa01ComService.shtml>

The National Research Council report: *Community Programs to Promote Youth Development* examines what we know about community-based programs that promote positive development for youth. <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10022.html>

The National Commission on Service-Learning, chaired by John Glenn, has just released its report, *Learning In Deed: The Power of Service-Learning for American Schools*.

<http://www.servicelearningcommission.org/report.html>

Violence Prevention

A new report shows that children who have witnessed violence are more likely to miss days of school, get poor grades, and exhibit emotional problems.

<http://www.jointogether.org/gv/news/summaries/reader/0%2C2061%2C547392%2C00.html>

At what age are children most likely to be bullied at school? by Mike Eslea and Josette Rees.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/issuetoc?ID=86513518>

Resources & Tools

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) has released its annual data report on child and teen gun violence. http://www.childrendefense.org/ss_gv_gunrep_2001.php

The YouthLearn Guide: A Creative Approach to Working with Youth and Technology supports after-school technology programs.

<http://www.eschoolnews.org/news/showstory.cfm?ArticleID=3463>

Annenberg Program Helps Close Achievement Gap. One of the most intriguing findings of the 15-member research team is that minority students are catching up with their Anglo counterparts.

<http://www.utexas.edu/projects/annenberg/index.html>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: ED Week, eSN Technology Alert, JTO Direct, NCES, NEGP, PEN NewsBlast, RFP Bulletin, SMHP, TechGrants