

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**March 1, 2002- Volume 1- No. 9**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

The United States General Accounting Office has released a report entitled *School Dropouts. Education Could Play a Stronger Role in Identifying and Disseminating Promising Prevention Strategies*. GAO-02-240. Order your free copy by telephone 202-512-6000, or download it at <http://www.gao.gov> click on GAO Reports, click on FIND GAO Reports, type in GAO-02-240.

Edison Schools Inc. is the Enron of education, according to education researcher, Gerald Bracey. Edison has never turned a profit and entered the 2001-2002 school year with cumulative losses of \$197 million. [http://www.educationnews.org/edison\\_schools\\_inc.htm](http://www.educationnews.org/edison_schools_inc.htm)

The Kentucky Department of Education honored Walton-Verona High School for a dropout rate of zero. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0129/p11s02-legn.html>

Parents will be able to withdraw their children from the federal assessment program, and students themselves now will be able to bow out, under a provision that experts warn could undermine the accuracy of test scores. <http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a52051a92915319a8>

**Funding Sources**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has issued a program announcement for the Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP). JUMP supports one-to-one mentoring projects for youth at risk of failing in school, dropping out of school, or becoming involved in delinquent acts, including gang activity and substance abuse. Deadline: March 25, 2002. <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/jump/grants.html>

The NEA Foundation will award up to 200 grants of \$2,000 each for unique and creative ideas that improve student achievement. Applications are invited from teams of two or more public school teachers, education support professionals, or public higher education faculty and staff. Deadline: March 15, 2002. <http://www.nfie.org/programs/innovation.htm>

The Youth Service Action Fund (YSAF) is a grant program that helps underwrite youth service projects for National Youth Service Day 2002 on April 26-28th, 2002, and beyond. Deadline: March 15, 2002. <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/index.html>

**Policy Updates**

This report draft outlines the US Department of Education's priorities for education for the next five years. <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/stratplan2002-07/index.html>

This brief presents an overview of the Title I program, including recent legislative changes, and highlights three strategies that community leaders, program developers and school officials can employ to access these funds to support out-of-school time and community school initiatives. <http://www.financeproject.org/newproducts.htm>

**Effective Strategies**

**Family Involvement**

The Education Trust's "Parents as Standards Bearers" training "grew out of the belief that schools will not change unless there is a demand for change from the community," says this article from FINE Forum, the on-line publication of the Harvard Family Research Project. <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/Forum/forum3/spotlight.html>

Last resort against truancy: jailing parents.

[http://www.sptimes.com/2002/01/28/TampaBay/Last\\_resort\\_against\\_t.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2002/01/28/TampaBay/Last_resort_against_t.shtml)

### **Instructional Technology**

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, researchers are studying ways to link new technologies to student learning.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a51461a92915319a10>

Study finds most Americans clueless about technology.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=3527>

### **Professional Development**

Individual teacher learning plans; it's a set of four worksheets that can help teachers develop their own professional development goals

<http://www.nsd.org/library/tools/tools2-02rich.html>

Researchers identify six key characteristics of good Professional Development that helps improve classroom practice. <http://www.aera.net/communications/news/020128.htm>

### **Systemic Renewal**

Lloyd H. Elliot, president emeritus of George Washington University, offers a prescription to revive schools: substantially higher teacher salaries and year-round school.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a52510a92915319a7>

The Brookings Institution convened a panel to discuss whole school reform. While some schools have shown great success, and the concept carries much potential, many pitfalls remain in packaging and mass-producing systems for school improvement, panelists said.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=20whole.h21>

### **Violence Prevention**

In Chicago and across the country, educators are taking a controversial new step. Their aim is to bring order to dangerous, unruly public schools and coherence to chaotic lives. The experiment is military rule. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/686928.asp>

Harlem Youth Court meets twice weekly after school. The young teens are learning the workings of the justice system and meting out sentences to young offenders.

<http://www.whatkidscando.org/featurestories/YouthCourt.html>

### **Resources & Tools**

Take Our Daughters to Work Day has been hailed as one of the most successful public education campaigns in history. In order to quantify and measure the effect of the program the Ms. Foundation commissioned a research study to examine how the day impacts girls' lives.

<http://www.takeourdaughtersstowork.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=219>

The *Children and Welfare Reform* journal issue charges that although federal welfare reform has successfully moved many mothers from welfare to work during the past five years, more needs to be done to ensure that children in low-income families have an adequate standard of living, stable and supportive homes, and access to quality child care and after-school programs.

[http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc\\_id=102547](http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=102547)

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: ED Week, ESN School Technology Alert, JTO Direct, Middle Grades Web, NEGP Week, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, School Administrator News