

Dropout Prevention Update
May 1, 2002- Volume 1- No. 11
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

School Dropout Prevention Program Grants. State educational agencies (SEAs) & local educational agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply. Please note that annual school dropout rates must be greater than the state average. **Deadline: May 20, 2002.**

<http://www.ed.gov/GrantApps/#84.360>

Wendy Puriefoy, president of Public Education Network says the United States needs nothing short of a Marshall Plan for education if the country wants to bring all children to high standards.

http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20020416_city16.2e8e589.html

Funding Sources

Partners in Education and the SBC Foundation invite you to apply for the 2002 National Telecommunications Partnership Awards. This year's award will honor partnerships that successfully help teachers fully integrate technology to substantially change the way teaching and learning takes place. Deadline: June 17, 2002. <http://www.partnersineducation.org>

The Washington Mutual Foundation is providing \$1 million in scholarships for public school teachers nationwide to pursue National Board Certification.

http://www.nbpts.org/about/supporters/scholarships_available.htm#1

The SDFSC National Coordinator Program provides grants to local educational agencies to recruit, hire, & train individuals to serve as drug prevention and school safety program coordinators in schools with significant drug and school safety problems. Deadline: May 28, 2002.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/041202b.html>

Policy Updates

According to education reporter John Merrow, summer school is little more than mindless repetition of failed practices. Yet summer school is being mandated in a growing number of public systems around the country. <http://usatoday.com/usatoday/20020415/4026760s.htm>

A case going before the U.S. Supreme Court could either strengthen the power of the U.S. Family Policy Compliance Office to enforce FERPA, or result in federal judges taking a greater role in reviewing such complaints. <http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a56558a92915319a12>

Effective Strategies

Community Collaboration

Improving Public Schools Action kit highlights the many roles that municipal leaders can play in enhancing the quality of public education in their communities. To request a copy contact Andrea Reid at (202) 626-3006 or send an e-mail to: reid@nlc.org

New poll says public sees schools as center of the community.

<http://communityschools.org/newsletter/v.2.7.html#poll>

Early Childhood

Starting Early Starting Smart, focuses on enhancing access to health and social services for at risk children. Among the findings are indications of improved learning skills and stronger family ties. <http://www.casey.org/sess/index.htm>

Under a series of early childhood initiatives announced by President Bush, Head Start programs across the country would be asked to prove how well they are preparing some 900,000 low-income students for the rigors of school. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A56972-2002Apr15.html>

Family Involvement

This issue of Harvard's *Evaluation Exchange* looks at family support evaluations and their role in moving the family support field forward. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue18/index.html>

This resource-rich site aims to inform and educate families and advocates about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997 and promising practices. <http://www.ideapractices.org/about/index.php>

Systemic Renewal

The Carnegie Corporation of New York, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Open Society Institute have contributed \$10 million each to create small high schools in New York City. Most of the new schools will be located in the South Bronx, where many of the city's large, low-performing high schools are located. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/10/education/10HIGH.html>

Wide-ranging reforms in San Diego City Schools illustrate how a district can use the power of central office to shift schools toward a focus on teaching and learning, according to a recently published report by Stanford University researcher Amy Hightower. <http://www.nsd.org/library/results/res4-02rich.html>

Detroit schools chief Kenneth Burnley unveiled a plan that would require principals to develop individual academic plans for each student. <http://detnews.com/2002/schools/0204/17/a01-466613.htm>

Resources & Tools

According to the report *Before and After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program*, students who participated in after-school programs showed improvement in attendance, behavior, and achievement in school. http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/issues284.shtml

What will far-reaching new federal education mandates mean for the middle grades?
http://www.emcf.org/pdf/student_2001nochildleftbehindanalysis.pdf

Public High School Dropouts and Completers From the Common Core of Data: School Years 1991-92 through 1997-98 presents dropout and four-year high school completion rates by state is broken out by state, race/ethnicity, grade, and locale. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002317>

This unique resource for middle and high school teachers -- especially new teachers and those in high-poverty schools -- provides tips, tools, and tried-and-true strategies for building partnerships with parents to help all students reach their potential. <http://www.recruitingteachers.org/news/2002toolkit.html>

This dedicated website presents materials from the Annenberg Challenge Meeting on Closing the Achievement Gap (February 7-9, Providence, Rhode Island). http://www.annenberginstitute.org/convening/gap_overview.html

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: ED Week, eSn School Technology Alert, Middle Web, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, RFP Bulletin, SMHP