

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**June 1, 2002- Volume 1- No. 12**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Deadline for Crystal Star Award nominations has been extended until June 30, 2002.**

**Top Stories**

As test-based grade retention policies leave more over-age students in the middle grades, more students are dropping out from Boston's middle schools, according to data compiled by retention/dropout expert Anne Wheelock. Middle grades dropouts quadrupled from 1996 to 2000, and the number of African American students who dropped out doubled in one year alone. <http://www.fairtest.org/care/boston%20dropouts.html>

In spite of their concerns about national security and the economy, American voters continue to list education and school funding among their top priorities.  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=32PEN.h21>

**Funding Sources**

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants provide grants to States to promote improvements in the quality of new teachers with the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement in the nation's pre-K-12 classrooms. Deadline: July 1, 2002.  
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/050102f.html>

The Migrant Education Even Start (MEES) program is designed to help break the cycle of poverty & improve the literacy of participating migratory families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education (including English language training, as appropriate), & parenting education into a unified family literacy program. Deadline: July 5, 2002.  
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/052002b.html>

Grants are available for mentoring programs that provide assistance to promote mentoring programs for children with greatest need. Deadline: July 2, 2002.  
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/052402c.html>

Applications are now available for the Department of Education's Parental Assistance Centers program. Deadline: June 27, 2002. [http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/goals/84.310A\\_2002.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/goals/84.310A_2002.pdf)

**Policy Updates**

A 37-year-old lawsuit that became one of the landmarks of the desegregation era reached a quiet conclusion with a one-sentence order from the U.S. Supreme Court.  
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a57018a92915319a11>

For many in the mostly African-American, working-class community of Roosevelt, N.Y., an impending state takeover of schools signals an ominous blow to local control, and has come to symbolize the historical neglect of predominantly black districts.  
<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a58321a92915319a7>

**Effective Strategies**

**Early Childhood**

The transition to formal schooling is a landmark event for millions of children, families, and educators. This 4-page policy brief outlines key issues in preparing children for formal schooling, examines current practices, and makes policy recommendations.  
<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncedl/PAGES/prdcts.htm#BriefsAnchor>

A new study finds that better caregiver training and lower staff-child ratios in childcare settings lead to improvements in children's cognitive skills and social competence.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/features/mccartney05052002.html>

A booklet for parents of newborns and a guide for preschool teachers & child care providers is available at <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/earlychildhood>

### **Instructional Technologies**

Teacher Listservs are a great way to collaborate.

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_issues/issues305.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_issues/issues305.shtml)

Instructional technology specialist Laurie B. Dias provides a workable road map for technology integration. <http://www.iste.org/L&L/archive/vol27/no3/features/dias/index.html>

A report on eLearning raises many policy questions

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=3719>

### **Out-of-School Experiences**

The Forum for Youth Investment's recent report *Moving an Out-of-School Agenda* looks at common challenges cities face "as they attempt to saturate their neighborhoods with high-quality supports and opportunities for learning and development.

<http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/grasp/graspexecsumm.pdf>

An advocacy group is calling for more supervised after-school programs after a report revealed about half of all elementary schoolchildren say they care for themselves before or after school because their parents work. [http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw55931\\_20020516.htm](http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw55931_20020516.htm)

### **Professional Development**

*Four Important Lessons About Teacher Professional Development*, a report from the Center for Prevention Research & Development, stresses the importance of professional development at the middle school level. [http://www.cprd.uiuc.edu/schools/MSJ%20article%20\(May%2002\).pdf](http://www.cprd.uiuc.edu/schools/MSJ%20article%20(May%2002).pdf)

Mike Schmoker describes ways that teachers and staff development specialists can improve student achievement, despite demographic disadvantages and a history of low achievement.

<http://www.nsdcr.org/library/jsd/schmoker232.html>

### **Resources & Tools**

The NCES publication, *Public School Student, Staff, and Graduate Counts by State, School Year 2000-01*, provides data on the number of students enrolled in elementary and secondary public schools in 2000-01 by grade and race/ethnicity.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002348>

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has created an electronic *Success in School/Skills for Life Online Resource Kit*. The *Kit* is free and has fact sheets on a variety of learning and developmental issues. Many handouts are available in English and Spanish.

<http://www.naspcenter.org/resourcekit>

This newsletter from the Annenberg Institute for School Reform shares a variety of ideas on building district capacity and assessing school district central offices.

[http://www.schoolcommunities.org/SCTW\\_newsletter\\_v2\\_n1.html](http://www.schoolcommunities.org/SCTW_newsletter_v2_n1.html)

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: ED Week, EdInfo, eSn School Technology Alert, Middle Web, NASSP Bulletin, NCES, NCPI Update, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, RFP Bulletin, School Administrator Network