

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**July 1, 2002- Volume 2- No. 1**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

In a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court said a controversial school voucher program does not constitute the establishment of religion.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a60759a92915319a1>

The states that are applying for their share of \$900 million in grants under a new federal reading program may be headed for a rude awakening.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a60300a92915319a13>

**Funding Sources**

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program: Teacher Recruitment Competition provides grants to states and to partnerships to promote improvements in the quality of new teachers with the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement in pre-K-12 classrooms. Deadline: July 25, 2002. <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2002-2/062002c.html>

Early Reading First Program (OESE). Support is provided to create preschool centers of excellence by improving the instruction and classroom environment of early childhood programs that are located in urban or rural high-poverty communities and that serve primarily children from low-income families. Deadline: The July 15, 2002 deadline is for pre-applications. [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-14383-filed](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-14383-filed)

Several generous grant-writers have shared successful proposals they've written with SchoolGrants. These samples are provided for your use as examples of what a successful proposal is all about. [http://www.schoolgrants.org/proposal\\_samples.htm](http://www.schoolgrants.org/proposal_samples.htm)

**Policy Updates**

States vary widely in school spending. New York and New Jersey spend more than twice the amount that Utah and Mississippi spend on each student in elementary and secondary schools, according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<http://www.you-click.net/GoNow/a15864a59454a92915319a12>

At the first annual Teacher Quality Evaluation Conference, Secretary Paige called on states to "radically transform their teacher certification systems." He also issued the first annual report to Congress on teacher quality, "Meeting the Highly Qualified Teachers Challenge."

<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/06-2002/06112002.html>

**Effective Strategies**

**Family Involvement**

Read about the barriers to involving Latino parents in improving school climate and student achievement and what engagement strategies have been successful.

<http://www.buildassets.org/products/latinoparentreport/latinoparentrept.htm>

*Supporting Parents as Leaders: Stories of Dedication, Determination, and Inspiration* profiles successful parent leaders and also has interviews with educators who describe their experiences building partnerships that improve student outcomes.

<http://www.responsiveeducation.org/html/Supporting.pdf>

### **Instructional Technologies**

Lorrie Jackson provides some beginning steps for teachers who want to integrate technology into their classrooms. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech130.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech130.shtml)

A survey by the National School Boards Foundation found that uneven teacher preparation hinders school tech use. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=3785>

### **Professional Development**

Dennis Sparks' new on-line book *Designing Powerful Professional Development for Teachers and Principals* is available as a free download at the National Staff Development Council website. <http://www.nsdc.org/sparksbook.html>

*Islands of Hope in a Sea of Dreams* highlights the eight characteristics of schools that have won the National Award for Model Professional Development

<http://www.wested.org/wested/pubs/online/PDawards/07context.shtml>

### **Reading and Writing Programs**

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory displays the complete framework for the cognitive foundations of learning to read, with links to background information about each component. <http://www.sedl.org/reading/framework/>

The Collaborative Assessment Conference developed by Harvard's Project Zero provides a structure for teachers to look together at a piece of student work.

[http://www.lasw.org/CAC\\_description.html](http://www.lasw.org/CAC_description.html)

### **Systemic Renewal**

The Houston public schools have documented phenomenal gains on student achievement tests. Since 1994, the percentage of Houston students passing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills mathematics exam rose from 49% to 81%.

<http://www.aecf.org/publications/advocacy/spring2002/paulrevere.htm>

*First Things First* is a comprehensive intervention to transform low-performing public schools.

[http://www.mdrc.org/Reports2002/FirstThingsFirst/FTF\\_Scaling\\_Summary.htm](http://www.mdrc.org/Reports2002/FirstThingsFirst/FTF_Scaling_Summary.htm)

### **Resources & Tools**

Chicago's Child-Parent Centers have proven the value of early childhood programs. By age 20, participating children had higher high school completion rates, more years of educational attainment, and lower juvenile arrest rates than youth in a comparison group.

<http://www.aecf.org/publications/advocacy/spring2002/index.htm>

This short new fact sheet from Teach Baltimore outlines several key research findings about maximizing student learning during the summer and non-school hours.

<http://www.jhu.edu/teachbaltimore/>

Current research and analysis of effective instructional practices for improving the schooling experiences of African-American students are presented in this issue of *Educational Horizons*.  
<http://www.pilambda.org/horizons/recent.html#Spring%202002>

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) assesses the state of children in our nation in *The State of Children in America's Union: A 2002 Action Guide to Leave No Child Behind*.

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/release020508.php>

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemson.edu) Sources:  
ED Week, EdInfo, eSn, Middle Web, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, RFP Bulletin, SMHP

