

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

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**Top Stories**

*L.A. Weekly* examines how fraudulent dropout rates are being reported at some schools in California. A federal study used a mathematical model to estimate that California undercounted dropouts in one recent year by more than 70%.

<http://www.laweekly.com/ink/02/35/features-dockstader.php>

The Grable Foundation, Heinz Endowments and Pittsburgh Foundation announced that they have lost all faith in the leadership of the Pittsburgh Public Schools and are suspending all funding to the district. <http://www.post-gazette.com/columnists/20020710sallycol2p2.asp>

**Funding Sources**

The Coca-Cola Foundation supports quality education and funds innovative K-12 public school programs. Deadline: September 1, 2002.

[http://www2.coca-cola.com/citizenship/foundation\\_guidelines.html](http://www2.coca-cola.com/citizenship/foundation_guidelines.html)

The goal of the Barbara Bush Foundation Family Literacy National Grant Program is to develop and expand family literacy efforts nationwide, and to support the development of literacy programs that build families of readers. No grant exceeds \$65,000. Deadline: September 6, 2002.

<http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>

Newman's Own is accepting applications. Eligible categories include children and youth, health, education, elderly, the environment, the arts, literacy, and substance abuse education. Deadline: September 1, 2002. [http://www.newmansown.com/5b1\\_grants.html](http://www.newmansown.com/5b1_grants.html)

**Policy Updates**

Read summaries of the education-related cases decided by the Supreme Court in its 2001-02 term.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=42roundup.h21&keywords=Supreme%20and%20courts%20and%20decisions>

The U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling upholding the Cleveland voucher program has rejuvenated the school choice movement and reinvigorated the debate over how best to improve the nation's education system.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=42vouch\\_home.h21](http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=42vouch_home.h21)

**Effective Strategies**

**Family Involvement**

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans recently unveiled a new website to provide parents with a one-stop center of information to increase college knowledge. <http://YesICan.gov> (<http://YoSiPuedo.gov>)

The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPiE) provides a framework for family involvement. <http://www.ncpie.org/DevelopingPartnerships/>

**Instructional Technologies**

Janna Siegel Robertson gives an overview of current federal guidelines regarding Web site accessibility for individuals with disabilities. <http://ts.mivu.org/default.asp?show=article&id=948>

The Northeast and Islands Regional Technology Consortium (NEIRTEC) has created a series of *Technology Briefs for NCLB planners*. The topics were selected to reflect the U.S. Department of Education requirements for state and local applications.

<http://www.neirtec.org/products/techbriefs/default.asp>

### **Reading and Writing Programs**

Language arts teacher Linda Rief describes what she's learned about effective reading practices in the middle grades in *The power of reading: Practices that work*.

<http://www.ncte.org/pdfs/subscribers-only/vm/0082-dec00/VM0082Power.pdf>

Youth Matters has a goal that every child in the Richmond region will read at grade level by grade three by 2010. In the City of Richmond, more than 60% of children enter kindergarten without the necessary pre-reading skills. <http://www.urbanhealth.org/>

### **Systemic Renewal**

David Ericson and Frederick Ellett, Jr. argue, students are as important as educators in bringing about higher educational achievement. <http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v10n31/>

Bryk and Schneider contend that improvements in instruction and curriculum have little chance of succeeding without improvements in a school's social climate.

<http://www.edletter.org/current/reform.shtml>

### **Violence Prevention**

Although violent behavior peaks at 16 to 17 years of age, a new report shows that such behavior begins during the early elementary grades.

<http://www.jointogether.org/gv/news/summaries/reader/0%2C2061%2C552536%2C00.html>

Oakland's Safe Passages provides funding for the training and material for a curriculum, called *Second Step*, a nationally renowned curriculum that gives tools to help every student learn the social and emotional skills to be empathetic, less impulsive and better able to solve problems and manage anger. [http://www.urbanhealth.org/print\\_friendly/oak\\_mid\\_learns.htm](http://www.urbanhealth.org/print_friendly/oak_mid_learns.htm)

### **Resources & Tools**

American Association of School Administrator's (AASA) *Center for Best Practices* is a new online resource focused on the No Child Left Behind Act. AASA has compiled useful tools, helpful resources and proven best practices to provide a one-stop resource for ESEA implementation.

[http://www.aasa.org/issues\\_and\\_insights/ESEA/ESEA\\_best\\_of\\_web\\_index.htm](http://www.aasa.org/issues_and_insights/ESEA/ESEA_best_of_web_index.htm)

Does going to school pay off? The Census Bureau has released the results of study that says it does: *The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings*.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p23-210.pdf>

Public Agenda Online recently published *When It's Your Own Child: A Report on Special Education from the Families Who Use It*, a report on a national survey of over 500 families with children receiving special education.

<http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/specialed/specialed.htm>

*Fires in the bathroom: Advice from kids on the front lines of high school.* Teens in urban public schools tell their own stories, giving new and veteran teachers a window into how to reach adolescent learners, particularly those whose background and skin color they do not share.

<http://www.whatkidscando.org/PDFlibrary.html>

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: ED Week, eSn, JTO Direct, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, Technology Source, Urban Health Initiative Newsletter

