

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**February 1, 2003- Volume 2- No. 8**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

A group of parents whose children attend poorly performing public schools sued school systems in New York City and Albany, New York. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52089-2003Jan27.html>

Five states - Colorado, Massachusetts, New York, Indiana, and Ohio – have won approval for their plans to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/01-2003/01082003a.html>

ECS has a new interactive Internet database that uses color-coded maps to help policymakers and the public track their states' progress on NCLB.

<http://nclb.ecs.org/nclb/>

**Funding Sources**

Oracle's Help Us Help Foundation assists K-12 public schools and youth organizations in economically challenged communities. Applicants must document that their school is designated low-income and must provide test scores that show their students are struggling to meet achievement standards. Deadline: February 28, 2003.

[http://www.helpushelp.org/pages/grant\\_index.html](http://www.helpushelp.org/pages/grant_index.html)

The Laura Bush Foundation will make grants of amounts up to \$5,000 to school libraries. Priority for grants will be given to those schools in which 75 to 100% of the school population receives free or reduced lunch. Deadline: February 28, 2003. <http://www.laurabushfoundation.com>

The State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award is available to teachers and youth (ages 5 to 25) to implement service-learning projects on National Youth Service Day 2003, April 11-13. Deadline: February 21, 2003. [http://www.ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm)

**Policy Updates**

The U.S. Education Department released an updated version of guidance on standards for highly qualified teachers to help states & schools comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/12-2002/12202002.html>

The Center for Education Policy has developed several recommendations to help citizens and policymakers guide the creation and regulation of K-12 online and virtual schools.

[http://www.cep-dc.org/democracypublicschools/preserving\\_principles\\_online\\_world\\_full.pdf](http://www.cep-dc.org/democracypublicschools/preserving_principles_online_world_full.pdf)

**International Notes**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released *World Report on Violence and Health*.

[http://www5.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/main.cfm?p=000000117](http://www5.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/main.cfm?p=000000117)

**Effective Strategies**

**Family Involvement**

*New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement* suggests that parental involvement may be an important tool in closing student achievement gaps. <http://www.seidl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

*Public School Choice* provides guidance on the choice provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which give options to parents of children who attend schools needing improvement. <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/schoolchoiceguid.doc>

### **Instructional Technologies**

In a milestone for student achievement and state pride, Mississippi has become one of the first states to have an online computer in each of its public-school classrooms. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4190>

Teachers say hand-held organizers and pocket PCs increase attentiveness and creativity. <http://tinyurl.com/4b15>

Thousands of Maine students will receive free home Internet access for laptop computers assigned by their schools, thanks to millions of dollars worth of cash and in-kind donations. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4193>

### **Reading/Writing**

*On the Same Page: Shared Reading Beyond the Primary Grades* by Janet Allen explores the use of shared reading as an instructional approach for readers and writers at all levels of language proficiency. <http://www.stenhouse.com/0332.htm>

Struggling readers participate in brain-scan experiment that may lead to a reading revolution. [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/text/134601991\\_brain240.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/text/134601991_brain240.html)

### **Violence Prevention/Conflict Resolution**

Philadelphia opens its first two teen centers to help stem youth violence and crime. But what sets these teen centers apart from other traditional community centers is that they will actively recruit and engage youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who have been identified as high-risk - those who have, by admission or adjudication, broken the law. [http://www.urbanhealth.org/print\\_friendly/firsttwoteencenters.htm](http://www.urbanhealth.org/print_friendly/firsttwoteencenters.htm)

Elementary school principals and safety experts say they're seeing more violence and aggression than ever among their youngest students, pointing to what they see as an alarming rise in assaults and threats to classmates and teachers. <http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20030113/4773169s.htm>

### **Resources & Tools**

The Southern Regional Education Board has outlined 12 key goals for southern states that challenge them to lead the nation in improving schools. <http://www.sreb.org/main/Goals/goals.asp>

A new study by researchers at Arizona State has concluded that standardized testing might actually lower academic achievement. <http://www.asu.edu/educ/epsI/EPRU/documents/EPSSL-0211-126-EPRU.pdf>

*Quality Counts 2003* focuses on the "teacher gap"--the dearth of well-qualified teachers in high-need schools. <http://www.edweek.org/sreports/qc03/>

Certain neighborhoods in the South are weathering a new version of an old phenomenon: white flight. Across the region, white, often middle-class, teachers are leaving schools dominated by African Americans almost as fast as they arrive. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0121/p01s03-usgn.html>

### **Feedback**

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