

Dropout Prevention Update
March 1, 2003- Volume 2- No. 9
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Christine Jackson, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, projects that Congress will not appropriate funding for Dropout Prevention Demonstration Grants in 2003. Continuation funding should be available to the 23 grantees awarded last year.

Top Stories

Congress has completed its overdue budget work, handing the Department of Education a raise of about \$3.2 billion. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=23budget.h22>

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. study finds federal after-school programs are ineffective. <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/Press%20Releases/21stcenturyfinal.htm>

Will slashed after-school care boost crime?
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=21331

Funding Sources

The new Institute of Education Sciences - -which recently replaced the Office of Educational Research and Improvement -- has made its first announcements inviting grant applications. Deadlines vary. <http://www.ed.gov/offices/IES/funding.html>

The Connections Program, sponsored by the The SMARTer Kids Foundation, equips grade five and six classes with leading-edge technology, promotes collaborative learning projects between schools, provides teacher training on the technology, and culminates with teachers and select students meeting for a fun-filled week in Calgary, Alberta. Deadline: March 14, 2003. <http://www.smarterkids.org/connections>

The Beaumont Foundation of America provides Toshiba technology to historically underserved schools and communities. Eligible applicants include any K-12 public, private, parochial, or charter school in which at least 50% of students qualify for the National School Lunch Program. Deadline: March 31, 2003. <http://www.bmtfoundation.com>

Policy Updates

In what some legal experts believe could be the initial wave in a tide of litigation, the first lawsuits have been filed charging that state or district officials are not living up to their obligations under the "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=21esea.h22>

Four New England states are working together to develop a series of grade-level standards and tests to meet the requirements of the new federal education law. http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo_20030221_test21.c04bc.html

International Notes

Education in China is being overhauled in the name of creativity. The aim is to make education more pleasant, more useful and, above all, to challenge students to think for themselves. http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displayStory.cfm?story_id=1548706

U.S. Secretary of Education Paige Helps Launch UNESCO Literacy Decade.
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=21066

Effective Strategies

Instructional Technologies

A growing number of studies indicate that girls are not involved in technology at the level needed to advance highly valued critical thinking skills, says the article "Geek is chic: Integrating technology into the lives of girls." <http://www.fetc.org/fetcon/0103/treyvaud.cfm>

Bullies who once cornered their victims on the playground are now tormenting them in cyberspace. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=21cyberbully.h22>

Mentoring

The President's initiative to support mentoring takes three forms: increased funding for Mentoring Programs grants; increased funding for Mentoring for Children of Prisoners grants; and a call for more volunteers to get involved with mentoring.

http://www.mentoring.org/take_action/hot_issues/president/index.adp

As mentoring programs cater more to busy adults, advocates stress the need for realistic expectations and long-term commitment. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=20633

Reading/Writing

Pat Heck created Reading Buddies to help high-schoolers work on their reading skills and grade-school children learn the pleasure of a good book.

<http://www.nea.org/neatoday/0211/reading.html>

"Wired and Inspired: Publishing Student Writing on the World Wide Web."

<http://www.ncte.org/pdfs/members-only/vm/0081-sept00/VM0081Wired.pdf> Another article at Education World shares publishing sites: http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech042.shtml

Systemic Renewal

Hayes Mizell states: "Without broad-based support by the community as a whole, school reform will either be short-lived or have limited effect."

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=19mizell.h22>

Mike Schmoker criticizes most "school improvement plans" for preventing -- rather than promoting -- better teaching, and hence higher levels of learning.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=22schmoker.h22>

Resources & Tools

The U.S. Department of Education's newly formed Institute of Education Sciences has released the first draft of its plan to evaluate education research as part of its web-based What Works Clearinghouse project. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4110>

When states put a school on probation, they need to provide the right mix of resources to help it turn around, a study suggests. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=20intervene.h22>

A new report from ACT finds that black students are less likely than their white peers to develop a strong bond with an adult at school. <http://www.act.org/news/releases/2003/1-21-03.html>

ECS' Closing the Achievement Gap Issue Site provides statistics, research summaries and a look at strategies being used to boost the achievement of poor and minority students.

www.ecs.org/html/IssueSection.asp?issueid=194&s=Selected+Research+%26+Readings

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ECS, ED Week, Education News/Commentaries & Reports, ENC, eSn, JTO Direct, Middle Web, NEA Weekly, PEN Weekly