

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

ERIC is scheduled to be dismantled. Please voice your support for maintaining ERIC by May 9.
http://www.educationnews.org/in_my_opinion_and_experience.htm

The U.S. Department of Education announces the first topics for What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Reports. Preventing high school dropouts is one of them.
<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/04-2003/04022003b.html>

Two decades after the publication of "A Nation at Risk," research shows that significant gaps remain. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=32courses.h22>

Funding Sources

The Corporation for Business, Work, and Learning has grants available for its Diploma Plus Program—a GED program for alternative schools. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

The Teacher Professional Continuum addresses critical issues and needs regarding the recruitment, preparation, enhancement, and retention of science, technology, and mathematics teachers for grades K-12. Deadline: May 19, 2003.
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03534/nsf03534.htm>

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program provides grants to promote improvements in the quality of new teachers. Deadline for pre-applications June 2, 2003.
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2003-2/042103b.html>

Policy Updates

A new study of teacher turnover in Texas estimates that it costs \$56,115 to replace a teacher who leaves the system. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/researchbrief/volume1/v1n8.html>

The U.S. Department of Education has released preliminary guidance to help states and school districts ensure every homeless child or youth receives the same educational opportunities, as other children. <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/04-2003/04082003.html>

International Notes

Children are 'confused' and 'alienated' by military action in Iraq, say head teachers.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/2909179.stm>

Disruptive behavior is getting worse and some pupils are unteachable. It is one of the most quoted problems facing teachers, and one on which there is often conflict between them and parents. <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0%2C%2C591-656457%2C00.html>

Effective Strategies

Alternative Education

Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates is committing billions of dollars to radically redesign failing public high schools into smaller, more academically rigorous institutions.
<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030421-919737.htm>

The Foundation for California Community Colleges will create 15 Early College High Schools throughout the state. <http://www.earlycolleges.org>

Community Collaboration

The Education Policy Advisors' Network has been launched to develop and share ideas about ways that cities and school districts can work together to raise student achievement.

http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/newsroom/nations_cities_weekly/display.cfm?id=FADE3D4E-E7AC-4DC2-859DEDA9A429A13F

Building Bridges in the Community describes how a rural school district deals with a rapidly changing minority population by building awareness of and sensitivity to cultural differences in students and community members. http://www.principals.org/news/pl_building_bridges_0403.html

Instructional Technologies

The General Services Administration (GSA) is considering giving public schools and universities unprecedented access to a pre-negotiated list of deeply discounted technology tools and services once reserved solely for federal government agencies.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4358>

U.S. Department of Education officials and state ed-tech leaders have unveiled a new toolkit designed to help states and school districts implement the technology provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4361>

Systemic Renewal

A new report from Jobs for the Future offers strategies for personalizing large urban high schools. <http://www.jff.org/jff/PDFDocuments/Largetosmall.pdf>

Policy Initiative to Improve Urban Schools addresses the complex issue of how to improve urban schools. http://www.educationnews.org/education_and_urban_society.htm

Every school in the country can operate effectively, Robert Marzano says in his new book *What Works in Schools: Translating Research into Action*.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/102271/toc.html>

Peter Senge believes that, to educate children well, school superintendents and cafeteria workers alike need to scrutinize how they think about their jobs.

http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2003_05/SengeQ&A.htm

Resources & Tools

A New Wave of Evidence is a synthesis of 51 studies about the impact of family and community involvement on student achievement, and includes effective strategies to connect schools, families and community. <http://www.se dl.org/connections/resources>

According to Harvard's Program in Afterschool Education and Research There is growing evidence that good afterschool programming makes a difference in kids' lives.

<http://tinyurl.com/8u3p>

The President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans has released its final report. http://www.yesican.gov/releases/finalreport_april03.html

Four in five teachers say parents are not making sure their children study hard and behave well in school, according to a review of *American's Views on Schools*. Free registration required

<http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/wherewearenow/wherewearenow.cfm>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ECS, ENC, eSn, Education News/Commentaries & Reports, JFF Newswire, JTO Direct, NEWeekly, PEN Weekly