

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**September 1, 2003- Volume 3- Number 3**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

The 21 schools overhauled and given extra support by the Philadelphia district outscored both charter schools and those operated by private managers on state reading and math tests.  
<http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/news/local/6581701.htm>

A study by the Justice Policy Institute reports that too much money is spent on jails instead of schools, and that there is a racial gap in chances of incarceration.  
<http://www.sunspot.net/news/education/bal-te.prison28aug28.0.7709289.story?coll=bal-education-top>     <http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?list=type&type=52>

The U.S. Education Department and ABC Radio Networks have launched an education campaign to help close the achievement gap. <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/08-2003/08262003.html>

**Funding Sources**

Starbucks Foundation Youth Leadership Grant Program funds local programs that serve low-income, at-risk youth in two areas: Power of Literacy and Leaders in Diversity. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Deadline: October 1, 2003. <http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp>

The Southern Poverty Law Center provides Teaching Tolerance grants of up to \$2,000 to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance projects in schools and communities. Deadline: Ongoing. <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/expand/gra/guide.jsp>

This article shares teacher experiences, how-to tips, sources, and a grant match rubric that can help determine how close a match various funders might be. Especially good if you're fairly new at the grant-seeking game. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/profdev039.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev039.shtml)

**Policy Updates**

Critics predict the 2002 No Child Left Behind Act could power a new wave of costly lawsuits against the states challenging the allocation of state education funds, and in turn by the states against the federal government.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2003/EDUCATION/07/30/states.education.reut/index.html>

Passport to Teaching, a new Internet-based program, allows under qualified teachers, career changers and other professionals to bypass teacher colleges to become certified and meet the "highly qualified" requirements under No Child Left Behind.  
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=4583>

**International Notes**

This international study compares and contrasts teacher education and certification policies in the United States with those in Australia, England, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, and Singapore. <http://www.ets.org/research/pic/prepteach.pdf>

Doesn't everyone remember their first day of school? Over a hundred million children can't because they've never attended school. [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/about/film\\_s2\\_f8.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/about/film_s2_f8.html)

**Effective Strategies**

**Early Childhood Education**

This brief provides key guidelines and advice for everyday people for educating and working with policymakers to support initiatives that promote the well-being of young children and their families. <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/LegislativeStrategies.pdf>

Studies show that 7% to 9 % of kindergartners are enrolled a year later than they are eligible, to give them an edge, a practice known as "academic red shirting."  
<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/2787954p-2582338c.html>

### **Family Involvement**

Parental involvement in schools will never happen unless and until school staff and parents bite the bullet and invest in some serious face-to-face time with each other.  
[http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo\\_20030824\\_edwatch24.49eb0.html](http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo_20030824_edwatch24.49eb0.html)

A great homework assignment for parents is tell about your child in a million words or less.  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/pro\\_dev/profdev080.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/pro_dev/profdev080.shtml)

### **Instructional Technologies**

Is technology usage in your school or classroom "more glitz than guts"? Brenda Dyck offers several project ideas that can keep technology from turning into "mind candy."  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/profdev004.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev004.shtml)

The internet and its vast array of multimedia applications are fast becoming unparalleled classroom resources. Now, a new technology is emerging that would add touch.  
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4564>

### **Professional Development**

The Annenberg Channel offers a continuous stream of free professional development workshops.  
[http://www.learner.org/about/news/news\\_profdev.html](http://www.learner.org/about/news/news_profdev.html)

The Alabama Best Practices Center has developed a professional development self-assessment rubric for schools. <http://www.bestpracticescenter.org/pdfs/wte3-3.pdf>

### **Resources & Tools**

Dr. Karen Evans Stout's research reveals students in American schools are given less time to eat than prison inmates. Behavior may be affected, particularly in classes immediately following lunch period. <http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20030819.122329&time=13>

Icebreaker activities offer fun ways for teachers to get to know new students -- and for them to get to know one another. Twelve new icebreakers and links to an archive of more than 100!  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson317.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson317.shtml)

A report from the Public Policy Institute of California found that switching elementary students from a low-performing peer group to a high-performing one results in 9% gains in math scores.  
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=321>

Check out the new 50-state look at the NCLB indicators now included in reports to the public.  
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/46/85/4685.htm>

The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies has created a free educational web site for students, educators, and families. <http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/>

### **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, eSN, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin

