

Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2003- Volume 3- Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

Top Stories

A court jury will hear a case filed by an education activist against the Dallas Independent School District that raises explosive policy questions about how much the public should know about teacher performance.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/localnews/education/stories/093003dnmetdatafight.1a7fd.html>

U.S. Secretary of Education Paige announces the first list of No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2003/09/09172003.html>

A comprehensive, nationwide commitment is needed to reach all of our displaced and disconnected youths. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/>

[ewstory.cfm?slug=01freeland.h23&keywords=Freeland%20and%20Tucci](http://www.edweek.org/ew/story.cfm?slug=01freeland.h23&keywords=Freeland%20and%20Tucci)

Funding Sources

The ninth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honors outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 through 12. Deadline: October 31, 2003.

<http://www.prudential.com/spirit>

On Nov. 5, schools and libraries can begin applying for 2004 eRate discounts to help pay for their internet and telephone service, according to the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company. Deadline: February 4, 2004.

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org/>

Initiative to Develop Education through Astronomy and Space Science (IDEAS) Awards of up to \$40,000 will be made to instructors of kindergarten through college-age students. Deadline:

October 24, 2003. <http://ideas.stsci.edu/>

Policy Updates

The Teacher Preparation Policy Database provides a comprehensive look at state policies relative to undergraduate, graduate/post-baccalaureate and alternative teacher preparation programs. <http://www.tqsource.org/prep/policy/>

A study has found that high school exit exams have sparked improvements in many areas of curriculum and instruction, but they also have heaped new, hidden financial burdens on states that have put them in place. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=01exit.h23>

International Notes

In Germany, a special 'schooling-in ceremony' welcomes children on their entry into the education system. [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/main.jhtml%3B\\$sessionid\\$LD1](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/main.jhtml%3B$sessionid$LD1)

[UKRESL24UPQFIQMGSFFWAVCBQWIV0?xml=/education/2003/09/06/tefgerm06.xml&sSheet=/education/2003/09/06/ixtetop.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2003/09/06/tefgerm06.xml&sSheet=/education/2003/09/06/ixtetop.html)

NCES has just launched the International Education Indicators website. The indicators include comparisons between the United States and other industrialized nations with large economies.

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/international/IntlIndicators/>

Effective Strategies

Community Collaboration

Making the difference: Research and practice in community schools uses research and evaluation data to demonstrate how community schools are an effective strategy to educate all children. <http://www.communityschools.org/mtdhomepage.html#download>

Meier outlines four critical first steps to establish trust among school boards, schools, and the public. <http://www.asbj.com/current/coverstory.html>

Family Involvement

12 things parents should know about & expect from schools & themselves offers a handy 12-point reference tool to help parents become better advocates for student learning. <http://www.plassociates.org/twelve.html>

The U.S. Department of Education has a web site about NCLB for parents. A listserv provides electronic updates on materials, publications and resources that strengthen accountability and student academic success. <http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=pn>
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/partner-listserv.html>

Instructional Technologies

Looking for suggestions for top-quality instructional programs to use in your classrooms? <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/surveys/editorial/rca/k12soft/>

George Lucas Educational Foundation offers a free on-line technology integration training module. <http://www.glef.org/TI/index.html>

Microsoft Corp. has unveiled a new worldwide program to train teachers and students in technology and to help integrate technology into the curriculum and learning. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=4646>

Nominate your superintendent for the eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/surveys/editorial/savvy/savvy2004.cfm>

Resources & Tools

Public high school graduation and college readiness rates in the United States, by Jay P. Greene Greg Forster, finds that only 70% of all students in the public high school class of 2001 graduated, and only 32% left high school qualified to attend a four-year college. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ewp_03.htm

In a concise research brief, John H. Holloway highlights a number of recent reports that shed light on both the complexity of the challenges and some promising approaches for managing culturally diverse classrooms. http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200309/holloway.html

A new toolkit provides educators accurate, easy-to-understand information about No Child Left Behind. <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/nclb-teachers-toolkit.pdf>

The federal Resources for Education Excellence (FREE) Web site offers 1,200 educational resources supported by 30 federal agencies. <http://www.ed.gov/free>

"Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" is celebrating its 53rd year! This fall they are working to involve as many schools as possible in the nationwide campaign. <http://www.unicefusa.org/trickortreat>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: EDNews, Reports, & Commentaries, ED Week, ENC, eSn, JTO Direct, Middle Web, NASSP News, Pen Weekly, RFP Bulletin

