

Dropout Prevention Update
November 1, 2003- Volume 3- Number 5
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

Bruce and Diane Halle, owner of Discount Tire Co., have donated over \$1.15 million for a five-year project to find out why Arizona students drop out and how to stop them.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/1002dropout02.html>

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige unveiled a package of steps to help promote educational excellence in secondary education.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2003/10/10082003.html>

Third Annual National Inclusive Schools Week, December 1-5, focuses on families. A free celebration kit is available from the National Institute for Urban School Improvement.

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/kit2003.html>

Funding Sources

The Corporation for National and Community Service has approximately \$4 million for Generation Grants to eligible nonprofit organizations. Deadline: November 17, 2003.

<http://www.cns.gov/whatshot/notices.html>

The State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award is available to implement service-learning projects for National Youth Service Day 2004. Deadline: December 8, 2003.

www.ysa.org/awards/profile/login_parent.cfm

Dollar General's community grants program provides support for non-profit organizations committed to the advancement of literacy, drop out prevention and character education. Deadline: December 5, 2003.

<http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/communityinvestments.aspx?Category=Community&SubCategory=Community%20Investments#CommunityGrants>

Policy Updates

A new report details the patchwork of ways in which states plan to count graduates under the No Child Left Behind Act. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=05Grad.h23>

Some members of the education community are questioning the U.S. Department of Education's recently announced \$35 million, multiyear allocation to an alternative teacher-credentialing test.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=06ABCTE.h23>

International Notes

Russia's lower house passed the first reading of amendments to a law that would restore mandatory military training in schools. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/11/international/europe/11RUSS.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1066050291-ajpX2a21T5F3t6cYp/ByzA>

A recent international study, which found that Canadian students do quite well despite relatively large classes, has Canadians rethinking the merits of class-size reduction as an education strategy. <http://www.educationnews.org/smaller-classes-mean-less.htm>

Effective Strategies
Family Involvement

SEDL is trying to raise parent awareness, via a media kit, about the growing evidence that shows family and community connections with schools make a difference in student success. <http://www.sedl.org/new/bspkit.html>

A free new national guide for families looking for extra academic help during the school year is available from Partnership for Learning. <http://www.partnershipforlearning.org/article.asp?ArticleID=1999>

Henry Levin and C.R. Belfield make a modest proposal for considering families as contractual partners in K-12 education. http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2003_09/Levin.htm

A free DVD from National Fatherhood Initiative gives dads a road map to getting and staying involved in the lives of their children. <http://fatherhood.org/>

Instructional Technologies

Cyber-ethics training is becoming more important with 80% of children accessing the Internet in school. <http://www.educationnews.org/talking-to-students-about-cyber.htm>

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards recently completed an online library of models for how to use technology in the classroom. www.ali.apple.com/deli
<http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=07Tech.h23>

Rate My Teachers, a two-year-old, for-profit Web site, has become a hot spot for middle- and high-school students who want to voice their opinions about teachers. <http://www.ratemyteachers.com/index.jsp>

Professional Development

Japanese Lesson Study is a favored form of professional development among teachers in Japan and is emerging in many parts of the United States. <http://tinyurl.com/ghd5>

From the Annenberg Foundation and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting comes a new web-based professional development tool designed to give educators free, 24-hour access to more than 25 workshops and hours of streaming video. <http://www.learner.org/>

Resources & Tools

No exit: How lack of educational choice shortchanges Hispanic students, documents educational roadblocks encountered by Latino students. <http://www.hcreo.org/study/Manhattan%20Institute%20Educational%20Choice%20Study.pdf>

NCSSR Newsletter on what Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) means. <http://www.goodschools.gwu.edu/pubs/book/oct03.html#2>

This article identifies numerous sources of teacher stress and numerous strategies for alleviating the effects. <http://www.asbj.com/current/research.html>

Classroom management guru Fred Jones shares his ideas on ways to arrange your classroom and "work the crowd." http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/jones/jones001.shtml

Most American students spend less than an hour a day on homework. http://www.edweek.org/ew/ew_printstory.cfm?slug=06Homework.h23

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews Commentaries & Reports, ED Week, eSn, NCSSR, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin