

Dropout Prevention Update
January 1, 2004- Volume 3- Number 7
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Please join us in welcoming Dr. Loujeania Bost as the director of the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students With Disabilities.

Top Stories

As you may know, on December 31, because of restructuring within the U.S. Department of Education, the ERIC Clearinghouses closed. Some of the universities who had responsibility for the Clearinghouses will continue to operate them, but with a new name and some with reduced services. <http://www.eric.ed.gov/> ERIC/ACVE archives <http://www.cete.org/acve/> AskERIC <http://www.eduref.org>

Funding Sources

The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) funds up to \$5,000 per project to public educators for break-the-mold innovations that significantly improve achievement for underserved learners. Application deadline: February 1, 2004. <http://www.nfie.org/programs/howtoapply.htm>

Electronic Data Systems (EDS) sponsors \$1,500 grants to teachers through their schools, which must be located within 50 miles of where EDS does business. Grants must be used to pay for technology products, training, and services. Deadline: January 23, 2004 http://www.eds.com/community_affairs/com_tech_sponsors_04.shtml

The National PTA and AT&T Wireless have teamed up to bring PTA members a fundraising program. When you sign up for new AT&T Wireless service through a qualified calling plan, a \$50 donation will go directly to your local PTA. <http://attwireless.com/attwirelessforschools/index.jhtml>

Policy Updates

High school exit exams tend to increase student dropout rates and can cost more than \$1,000 a year per student, according to a study reviewed by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. <http://www.ascd.org/cms/objectlib/ascdframeset/index.cfm?publication=http://www.ascd.org/publications/researchbrief/volume1/v1n24.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has unveiled an important new resource for state and local education officials and educators in implementing the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ies/news.html#guide>

International Notes

Mexico's Dropout Economy. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A8909-2003Nov23¬Found=true>

At the United World College, high school students from around the world find a home, and mutual understanding. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=13world.h23>

Effective Strategies

Alternative Schooling

Jeff Brosbe has limited time to reform poor work habits and pump potential high school dropouts with credits. http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/education/20031211-9999_1mc11help.html

Read how educators and parents pulled together to support a program based on the principles of expeditionary learning. http://glef.org/php/article.php?id=Art_1065

Family Engagement

Eight Tips on Reading a School Report Card, a new publication helps parents understand the expanded information available to them because of No Child Left Behind.

<http://www.plassociates.org/eight.html>

National PTA, and the Ad Council launch a campaign to encourage parent involvement in schools. <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=103-12102003>

Educational Technology

There are lots of great resources for integrating technology into core subjects at this website developed to support Mississippi teachers. <http://www.create4ms.org>

A new survey shows that students with home Internet access are becoming increasingly disappointed with their online experience at school.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4781>

At the Enterprise Charter School in Buffalo, NY, a controversial new technology is now in play that administrators say can detect whether students are in school or playing hooky using microchips embedded inside their student ID cards.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4770>

Systemic Renewal

Staying on Course explores what states have accomplished in the last five years and identifies challenges that could slow the push to improve schools and boost student achievement.

[http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/5YearReportfinal/\\$file/5YearReportfinal.pdf](http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/5YearReportfinal/$file/5YearReportfinal.pdf)

This meta-analysis reviews the overall achievement effects of comprehensive school reform (CSR). <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/crespar/techReports/Report59.pdf>

Only in the past decade, as education reform increasingly has taken shape in legislative mandates, has evaluation become regarded as a vital component of school improvement.

<http://www.ncrel.org/info/nlp/lpf03/forgood.htm>

Resources & Tools

NCES has released, *Projections of Education Statistics to 2013*. This publication provides projections for key education statistics.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004013>

Parsing the Achievement Gap: Baselines for Tracking Progress identifies 14 factors that "create and perpetuate the well-documented gaps" in student achievement. The factors reflect both the school environment and the home and community environment.

<http://www.ets.org/research/pic/parsing.pdf>

Franklin Schargel, Chair of the American Society of Quality's Education Division, describes the components needed for educational teams to effectively address, prevent, and solve many of the problems in education today. <http://www.guidancechannel.com/ezone.asp?index=1338&cat=1>

Best wishes for a healthy and productive new year.

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: CSS List, ECS, ED Week, EducationNews, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, ESN, PEN Weekly, TLN