

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Nomination forms for the Crystal Star Awards are now available on our web site.

Top Stories

Kids who won highly prized transfers out of failing Chicago public schools averaged much better reading and math gains during the first year in their new schools.

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-choice25.html>

Requiring high-school students to pass high-stakes exams to earn a diploma does not worsen graduation and dropout rates, according to a report by Greene and Winters.

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/ewp_05.pdf

Funding Sources

The Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators provides funds to help public and private school teachers continue their education. Deadline: May 15, 2004.

<http://horacemann.com/edscholarship/>

The Target Community Giving Grant program provides funding for local programs in the arts, reading, and family violence prevention. Deadline: May 31, 2004.

http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/local_giving.jhtml

All U.S. public school teachers in grades K-12, education support professionals, or higher education faculty and staff are eligible to apply for the NEA Foundation's Innovation Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants. Grant amounts are up to \$5,000 per project. Deadline:

June 1, 2004. <http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/grantguides.htm>

Policy Updates

Frustrated in their attempts to pass the state graduation test and receive high school diplomas, some Florida students are securing their credentials from a private school in Lewiston, Maine.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=33exit.h23>

A growing number of school districts in the Southwest are cracking down on the presence of illegal immigrants in their classrooms as education budgets tighten.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0326/p01s02-ussc.htm>

International Notes

School officials in St. Paul, Minn., have taken an unusual step to prepare to receive a new wave of refugees in their schools. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=31Hmong.h23>

Young people across the world urge their leaders to do more for children who do not receive an education. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/3639863.stm>

Students With Disabilities

This paper investigates teachers' and parents' perceptions of self-determination among young adults with disabilities in the school setting. <http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/pgPublications.php>

A research study conducted by Aness and Wichterle found five key elements that are fundamental in reducing the number of students who drop out of school.

<http://www.ncrel.org/policy/pubs/html/second/forms.htm>

Effective Strategies

After-School Opportunities

The Spring 2004 issue of *The Evaluation Exchange* examines assessing and improving the quality of out-of-school time (OST) and youth development programs.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue25>

The National Collaboration for Youth's *Partnerships for After-School Success* toolkits provide research supporting the need for school-CBO partnerships.

<http://www.nydic.org/nydic/toolkits/index.htm>

NCES has just released *Before- and after-school care, programs, and activities of children in kindergarten through eighth grade: 2001*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004008>

Educational Technology

Virtual-school costs under siege.

http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,62890,00.html?tw=wn_tophead_2

Kids + calculators = questionable mix, study suggests. Basic skills suffer, but there are pluses.

<http://www.usatoday.com/usatoday/20040415/6115645s.htm>

Systemic Renewal

A new report documents outstanding student-achievement gains by the America's Choice School Design, one of the nation's largest comprehensive school-improvement programs.

<http://www.ncee.org/pressroom/>

The Annenberg Institute has launched its Tools for School Improvement Web site, profiling several hundred tools that schools and districts have used successfully in their improvement activities. <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/tools/>

Resources & Tools

Losing our future: How minority youth are being left behind by the graduation rate crisis.

<http://www.resultsforamerica.org/calendar/files/1Losing%20Our%20Future%20-%20Main%20Report.pdf>

What is known about recruiting and retaining teachers for hard-to-staff-schools runs counter to many of the assumptions undergirding the teacher quality provisions of No Child Left Behind.

http://www.nassp.org/publications/bulletin/bltn_0304_berry.cfm

Freeport Intermediate School is one of six "positive deviant" schools studied by the National Staff Development Council that are helping their largely at-risk populations achieve at the same high academic levels as more affluent students attending suburban schools.

<http://www.nsd.org/library/publications/results/res2-04rich.cfm>

In *From the prison track to the college track*, JFF reports on four types of new school programs that effectively move low-income, out-of-school youth, ages 16-24, toward completing high school and postsecondary education and training, and gaining access to real employment opportunities.

http://www.jff.org/jff/newsroom/PR/2004/PR_4_14_2004.html

Andy Hargreaves and Dean Fink- describe seven principles of "leadership sustainability" that can lead to meaningful, long-term change.

http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200404/hargreaves.html

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu Sources: CCSSList, ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, Education Week, ENC, Middle Web, PEN Weekly