Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Deadline for Crystal Star Nominations is June 30. Forms are available on our web site.

Top Stories
The U.S. Department of Education will host a series of roundtable discussions around the country this spring and summer. http://www.teacherquality.us/TeacherToTeacher/Roundtables.asp


Competitive job market squeezes out those with limited skills, so dropouts try again. http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/05/20thousandsofdrop.html

Funding Sources
The Jordan Fundamentals Grants are awarded to teachers or paraprofessionals who work with students in grades 1-12 in a U.S. public school who also demonstrate instructional creativity and exemplify high learning expectations for economically disadvantaged students. Deadline: June 15, 2004. http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz_jhtml;bsessionid=ZHRNO04OF4ZRGCCQGIUSF4YKAIZDOIZB?page=26&item=jordan


The National Geographic Society’s Education Foundation gives teacher grants directly to educators to facilitate their work in the classroom, school, district, and community within the United States or Canada. Application deadline: June 10, 2004. http://www.nationalgeographic.com/education/teacher_community/get_grant.html


Policy Updates

Progressive Policy Institute’s 21st Century Schools Project has a new blog (Eduwonk) covering education policy and politics. http://www.eduwonk.com/

International Notes
For the past 16 years, the United Kingdom has pursued a national education strategy that bears a striking resemblance to elements of the No Child Left Behind Act and to the test-based accountability systems in individual states. Lessons learned there may prove a harbinger for the United States. http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=34uk.h23

**Students With Disabilities**
*A National Study on Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Youth with Disabilities*
updates the status of graduation policies nationwide.

For hundreds of thousands of students across the United States, virtual schooling has opened educational doors previously inaccessible. But for students who are blind, visually impaired, or who have certain other disabilities, cyber-education programs might actually create more barriers than they remove.  http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5071

**Effective Strategies**

**Early Literacy**
Reading books is found to ward off summer slump.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/ew_printstory.cfm?slug=34Read.h23

Researchers have found that students score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer than they do at the beginning. http://www.readingr ckets.org/lp.php?SSID=24

**Educational Technology**
This free resource guide offers tips and advice on how to effectively implement provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. http://www.setda.org/toolkit2003/


**Family Engagement**


**School-Community Collaboration**
Fostering community relationships is an effective, low-cost business strategy available to school leaders. http://www.scholastic.com/administrator/march04/articles.asp?article=spotlight

*Reengaging Disconnected Youth Action Kit* contains a wealth of new policy and program ideas for municipal leaders and draws upon the latest research and best practices from across the nation. http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site//display.cfm?id=3DA0D49D-1139-4EB8-894137F2AAFD04AD

**Resources & Tools**
Teaching Point is developing a complete series of teacher preparation materials in all subjects for grade levels PK-12. http://www.teaching-point.net/authoremail.html

Marvin Marshall has developed a discipline system to promote learning. http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0403mar.htm

Testing specialist Lloyd Bond tackles the thorny issue of high-stakes testing and the pressures on teachers to "teach to the test." http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/perspectives/perspectives2004.Apr.htm

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu
Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, eSn, PEN Weekly, TLN Resources