

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>

The Presidential Candidates: Proposals to Increase High School Graduation Rates is continually updated. <http://www.all4ed.org/publications/ThePresidentialCandidates/index.html#New>

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=ZHRNO04OF4ZRGCGIUSF4YKAIZDOIJB?page=26&item=jordan>

The Angel Soft Angels in Action Program recognizes children, ages 8-15, for executing exemplary acts of service to benefit their community, a charity or cause. Deadline: June 19, 2004. <http://angelsoft.com/angelsinaction/>

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

The U.S. Department of Education has just announced the availability of nearly \$30 million in grants through "Mentoring Programs." Deadline: July 7, 2004. <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html>

Policy Updates

In Peoria, Arizona, students get a second chance if dog eats their homework. <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0514latework14.html>

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>

According to a report from the new Basic Education Coalition, 115 million of the 680 million children of primary school age in the developing world still do not attend school. http://www.aed.org/publications/teach_a_child_as_printed.pdf

Students With Disabilities

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

<http://education.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/TechReport36.pdf>

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.readingresources.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/>

The long-heralded but seldom-seen move from paper-based to digitized learning has arrived in Arizona. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/ctq/2004summer/ballman.html>

Family Engagement

A well-organized program of family and community partnerships yields many benefits for schools and their students. http://www.ascd.org/publications/ed_lead/200405/epstein.html

The Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE) serves as a hub of resources for family engagement in children's education.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/fineresources.html>

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@clemsn.edu Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, eSn, PEN Weekly, TLN Resources