Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The Big Apple could be called Dropout City—a staggering 350,000 public high-school students
have quit or flunked out of since 1986. http://www.nypost.com/news/regionalnews/23232.htm

More U.S. residents than ever have high school and college diplomas, although rates still vary
greatly by race and ethnicity, the U.S. Census Bureau reports. http://www.census.gov/Press-
Release/www/releases/archives/education/001863.html
http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-550.pdf

Kids Count finds rising numbers of "disconnected" young adults -- those who have no job, are not
in school and have not progressed beyond a high school diploma.
http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook/essay.htm

Funding Sources

The NASDAQ National Teaching Awards are designed to advance economic literacy in schools
nationwide by recognizing middle and high school teachers. Deadline July 31, 2004.
http://www.ncee.net/ea/program.php?pid=6

The PowerDsine Education Grant program will award $100,000 in Power over Ethernet (PoE)
hardware to educational institutions operating in the United States and Canada. Deadline: July
31, 2004. http://www.powerdsine.com/Solutions/Education

Two students from every high school in the United States are eligible to receive $1,000
Presidential Freedom Scholarships in recognition of their outstanding service to the community.
Deadline: July 16, 2004. http://www.nationalservice.org/scholarships

Policy Updates
The Kentucky Department of Education will consider a proposal to allow someone to obtain a
General Education Development certificate more quickly after dropping out of school.
http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/news/local/8807972.htm

Florida teacher certification is now a $500 click away. Online test lets would-be teachers get
certified without taking teaching courses in college.
http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/content/local_news/epaper/m1a_eTEACHER_0623.html

International Notes
A recent study indicated more than 70% of Beijing children under the age of six are being
educated by their grandparents.
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2004-06/02/ content_335896.htm

A small Japanese island is home to an unusual program that tries to help children go back to
school. http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/06/international/asia/06japa.html

Students With Disabilities
The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) has completed the redesign and re-launch
of its Get Ready to Read! early literacy Web site. http://www.getreadytoread.org/

Increasing Rates of School Completion: Moving from Policy and Research to Practice describes eleven proven interventions for increasing school completion among youth with disabilities. http://www.ncset.org/publications/essentialtools/dropout/default.asp

Effective Strategies
Alternative Schooling
Faced with embarrassingly high dropout rates, the New York City Department of Education is moving aggressively to expand or create alternative high school programs for students who are behind in their credits. http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/29/nyregion/29school.html

The Young Women's Leadership School of Chicago (YWLCS), a one-of-a-kind public school that provides inner-city girls a college-preparatory education focusing on math, science, and technology, recently graduated its first senior class. http://www.ywlcs.org

Faculty at Landry Middle School use a "teaming" approach, to craft sophisticated curricula featuring monthly project-based interdisciplinary units custom-tailored for the school's population. http://www.glef.org/1142

Early Literacy
Each week, the students enrolled in Parkway Elementary's Head Start class eagerly receive a new red bag filled with four carefully chosen books. http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/9518797p-10442639c.html

Twenty-five percent of the nation's secondary school students read considerably below grade level. Alliance for Excellent Education released a new issue brief that provides initial criteria for choosing an adolescent literacy program. http://www.all4ed.org/press/pr_060204.htm

Educational Technology
Group of school boosters creates hi-tech alternative to bake sale. http://www.pressherald.com/news/local/040607met.shtml

Do you have pirates in your classroom? A comprehensive, free curriculum to educate students about cyber-ethics is available. http://www.educationnews.org/pirates-in-the-classroom.htm http://www.playitcybersafe.com/

The dust found on many computer processors and monitors used today in schools and other locations contains chemicals linked to reproductive and neurological disorders. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5104

Resources & Tools
NCES has released *The Condition of Education 2004.* http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/2004077.pdf

KnowledgeWorks Foundation has announced the publication of *Public Schools and Economic Development*: *What the Research Shows*. http://www.kwfdn.org/ProgramAreas/Facilities/weiss_release.html

A new report documents the progress of Latino students from eighth grade to the workforce. http://www.educationalpolicy.org/pdf/Latino_Youth.pdf

A two-year study by the National Research Council concludes that after-school programs should support and complement classroom learning by emphasizing social, emotional, and physical development. http://www.asbj.com/current/research.html

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, Pen Weekly, RFP Bulletin, rtcUpdate