

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**December 1, 2004- Volume 4- Number 6**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Call for Presenters for the At-Risk Youth National FORUM and the 2005 Effective Strategies Institute Southwest are now available on our web site.**

**Top Stories**

Fifteen years ago, the Chelsea, MA School District was a case study in failure. Today, the 5,600-student district is one of only three urban districts in Massachusetts that met goals for adequate yearly academic progress. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/11/24/13chelsea.h24.html>

A new report from the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution finds that math items on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) lack challenging arithmetic. [http://www.brookings.edu/gs/brown/bc\\_report/2004pressrelease.htm](http://www.brookings.edu/gs/brown/bc_report/2004pressrelease.htm)

**Funding Sources**

The Advanced Placement Incentive Program awards competitive grants designed to increase the successful participation of low-income students in pre-advanced placement and advanced placement courses and tests. Deadline: December 15, 2004.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2004-4/110904a.html>

Mini-grants for National Youth Service Day are available from a variety of sources. Deadline: December 31, 2004. <http://www.fccla.com/fcclastop/resources/NYSDAApplication.pdf>

[http://www.youthcourt.net/NYSD/minigrant\\_application\\_form\\_2005.pdf](http://www.youthcourt.net/NYSD/minigrant_application_form_2005.pdf)

[http://ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm](http://ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm)

These creative fundraising ideas may come in handy. You'll find traditional and non-traditional strategies -- and a nice collection of links to additional ideas.

<http://www.reacheverychild.com/feature/fundraisers.html>

**Policy Updates**

Review and compare state policies governing the minimum number of instructional days/hours in the school year. <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/55/26/5526.doc>

Interest in weighted-student funding, under which money is divvied up based on the actual number and kinds of students at each school, is growing among education leaders.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/11/03/10weighted.h24.html>

**International Notes**

More children are going to school than ever before, but many drop out before grade 5 of primary school or graduate without mastering even a minimum set of cognitive skills according to the 2005 Education for all Global Monitoring Report. <http://www.educationnews.org/quality-of-education-insufficien.htm>

<http://www.educationnews.org/quality-of-education-insufficien.htm>

Research suggests that students who use computers a lot at school have worse maths and reading performance. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/education/4032737.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/4032737.stm)

**Students With Disabilities**

International Awards Program to Honor Achievements of Children With Disabilities. Deadline: December 20, 2004. <http://yesican.cec.sped.org/awards/index.html>

Four interesting articles highlight how the plight of students with disabilities and other special needs is increasingly the concern of all educators, not just those with a particular background in special education. <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/rs/744>

### **Effective Strategies**

#### **Educational Technology**

A new report provides a glimpse at must-have technologies for schools.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5361>

The MOUSE Squad are teams of students trained as technology troubleshooters.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/11/03/10troubleshooters.h24.html>

Learning technologies expert Chris Dede discusses the potential of current technological trends to transform teaching and learning in *Innovate*, a new online magazine about online learning.

<http://www.innovateonline.info/index.php?view=article&id=1>

#### **Family Engagement**

EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) has launched an online resource for parents, teachers, school administrators, and community members to gain insight into the "whys" and "how tos" of effective parenting and character education. <http://www.epicforchildren.org/>

*Educating Our Children Together: A Sourcebook for Effective Family-School-Community Partnerships* is designed to identify and describe promising practices in family-community-school involvement. [http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/pdf/educating\\_our\\_children.pdf](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/pdf/educating_our_children.pdf)

#### **School-Community Collaboration**

The Neighboring Action Toolkit is designed to help organizations and communities build healthy and connected communities.

[http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/welcome/pdf/action\\_kit.pdf](http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/welcome/pdf/action_kit.pdf)

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Schools is a tool kit to help schools partner with families and communities to help children do better. <http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/mc/sf/>

Simply being able to spend more time with their children would significantly help African-American and Hispanic parents with their parenting, according to *Building Strong Families 2004*.

<http://www.abundantassets.org/building.cfm>

### **Resources & Tools**

Perry Preschool Study shows higher income, less crime at age 40 for participants.

<http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/perrymain.htm>

A new study of high school students in five states, *Students as Allies in Improving Their Schools*, has turned up troubling discrepancies in how urban students and teachers view their interactions

<http://www.whatkidscando.org/studentsasalliesintro.html>

This report is the latest in a series of NCES reports on high school dropout and completion rates that began in 1988. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005046>

The rate of violent crimes in school settings against students ages 12 to 18 dropped by half between 1992 and 2002, according to NCES.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005002>

**We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu)** Sources: ECS, EDWeek, ENC, eSn, JFF Newswire, Middle Web, NASSP Bulletin, NCEA, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, TLN Resources

