

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Students With Disabilities](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Top Stories

A federal task force has recommended that states and federal statisticians work together in devising data-collection systems that can track individual students throughout their high school years. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/12/08/15measure.h24.html>

A recent decision by the U.S. Department of Education gives a lift to private companies that supply after-school tutoring and other supplemental education services. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5425>

Funding Sources

The National Education Association's National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) offers grants to fund classroom innovations or professional development for improved practice in public K-12 schools and higher-education institutions. Deadline: February 1, 2005. <http://www.nfie.org/programs/howtoapply.htm>

The Council for Corporate & School Partnerships is now accepting applications for the 2005 National School and Business Partnerships Award, which recognizes outstanding examples of collaboration between businesses and schools to improve the student educational experience. Deadline: January 28, 2005. <http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/award.shtml>

Fund for Teachers awards grants directly to teachers to support professional development opportunities of their own design. <http://www.fundforteachers.org/>

Policy Updates

State Dual Enrollment Policies analyzes the effect of these policies on credit-based transition programs at community colleges. <http://www.tc.columbia.edu/ccrc/PAPERS/StateDual.pdf>

Over Ruled: The Burden of Law on America's Public Schools provides an example of the over-legalization of public schools that has taken place nationwide. <http://cgood.org/burden-of-law.html>

International Notes

Finland does best in the latest international PISA study of 15-year-olds' math, reading and science abilities. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4073753.stm>
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005003>

Korea plans to implement an "elite educational system" that will cater to the best and brightest. <http://joongangdaily.joins.com/200412/22/200412222227003039900090409041.html>

Students With Disabilities

Reauthorized IDEA could shift power to school districts. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/12/01/14idea.h24.html>

The National Center for Learning Disabilities announces LD Talk, a new Web site featuring discussions on issues critically important to people with learning disabilities. www.ldtalk.org

The full text of the IDEA 2004 is available. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/z?cp108:hr779.108>

The Federal Register requests comments and recommendations on regulatory issues under IDEA. <http://www.regulations.gov/freddocs/04-28503.htm>

Effective Strategies

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Research & Practice contains articles in both English and Spanish on a variety of topics related to early childhood education and care. <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v6n2/index.html>

The push for early literacy and the requirements of standardized tests are changing education's approach to 6-year-olds. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20573-2004Nov29.html>

Educational Technology

A new report by the Alliance for Childhood challenges education standards and industry assertions that all teachers and children, from preschool up, should use computers in the classroom to develop technology literacy.

http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/projects/computers/pdf_files/tech_tonic.pdf

Claims that text messaging among children is eroding literacy skills are unfounded, according to research. <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,5500,1378951,00.html>

High Tech High opens in LA. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5416>

Service-Learning

Formative Years identifies "crucial success factors" for service-learning adoption, implementation, and institutionalization.

http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/PhilVol/BuildingBridges/FormativeYears_00269_03415.pdf

Two new policy briefs explore the benefits and challenges of involving students in service-learning. <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/56/23/5623.pdf>

District Lessons is a must-read for anyone that is serious about making service-learning a significant part of district reform. <http://www.service-learningpartnership.org/publications/distlessons.cfm>

Resources & Tools

Trends in Educational Equity of Girls & Women: 2004 examines the extent to which males and females in the United States have access to the same educational opportunities, perform at similar levels throughout their schooling and reap the same benefits from their educational experiences. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005016.pdf>

A recent study by the CNA Corporation has found "robust evidence" that National Board Certification is an effective indicator of teacher quality.

<http://www.cna.org/documents/CavaluzzoStudy.pdf>

OJJDP announces the availability of truancy resources on its Web site.

<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/2004TruancyConference/resources.html>

Based on current brain-imaging information, Layered Curriculum is an exciting and effective student-centered teaching method. The 3-layer model encourages complex thinking and holds students accountable for their learning. <http://help4teachers.com/index.htm>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews, Commentaries, & Reports, EDWeek, ENC, eSn, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates, Service-Learning Advances, TLN Resources