Dropout Prevention Update
March 1, 2005- Volume 4- Number 9
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Nominations for the Crystal Star Awards are now open.

Top Stories
Laura Bush is heading a proposed outreach effort aimed at helping at-risk youths, especially boys, have a successful future. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/02/09/22sou.h24.html

Thirteen states are forming a coalition to improve high schools by adopting more rigorous courses and tougher tests. http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/28/politics/28govs.html

Violence Prevention Week is April 4-8, 2005. http://www.violencepreventionweek.org/

Funding Sources
Improving Literacy Through School Libraries provides students with increased access to well-equipped school library media centers. LEAs in which at least 20% of the students served are from families with incomes below the poverty line are eligible. Deadline: March 14, 2005. http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/ED/HRO/DCMGC/ED-GRANTS-012805-002/Grant.html

Dollar General Literacy Foundation offers grants of less than $15,000 for adult and family literacy programs. Deadline: April 8, 2005. http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/518/dgeneral

The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement seeks proposals for research, conducted by young people, on a community issue of their choice. Deadline: March 31, 2005. http://www.civicyouth.org/

The School Leadership program is designed to assist high-need LEAs in the development or expansion of innovative programs to recruit, and mentor principals to serve in high-need schools. Deadline: March 24, 2005. http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2005-1/022205a.html

Policy Updates
State Policies for School Restructuring gives a detailed look at state policies. http://www.ecs.org/html/Document.asp?chouseid=5702

Governors are calling for an increase in teacher salaries. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/02/02/21merit.h24.html

International Notes
This NCES report presents a comparison of the education systems in major industrialized countries. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005021

Teachers circle the room in an experiment that could change the shape of education. http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1426369,00.html

Students With Disabilities
IDEA 04 includes several revisions to the requirements for transition planning. http://www.ld.org/newsltr/0205newsltr/0205Feature2.cfm

The ICARE Schools project seeks nominations of middle-grades schools that successfully involve **all families** in the education of their children with disabilities. Deadline: March 15, 2005. http://www2.edc.org/icareschools/

Effective Strategies
Early Childhood Education
Getting Ready: Findings From the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative pulls together a wide range of measures on family, school and community matters that can affect a child's potential for success in school. http://www.gettingready.org/matriarch/

This issue of *The Future of Children* focuses on children's lives before they get to school in an effort to understand how to close the racial and ethnic gaps in educational outcomes. http://www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=255946

Educational Technology
The Forum Unified Education Technology Suite presents a practical, comprehensive, and tested approach to assessing, acquiring, instituting, managing, securing, and using technology in education settings. http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/tech_suite/

Nielsen's study found that, contrary to stereotype, teens as a group are not as adept as adults in navigating the Web. http://www.useit.com/alertbox/20050131.html

New program helps girls get 'IT'. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5525

Family Engagement
Social Advocates for Youth has an easily accessible, on-line set of tips for parents in English and Spanish. http://www.saysandiego.org/parentinfo.htm

FINE (Family Involvement Network of Educators) provides a bibliography of family involvement in education research. www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/bibliography/family-involvement-2004.html

Resources & Tools
The Relationship of High School Graduation Exams to Graduation Rates and SAT Scores report found that students in the exit-exam states tended to have both lower scores on the SAT admissions exam and lower graduation rates. http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v13n6/

Nearly four in 10 high school graduates say they were not prepared adequately for the demands of college or work. http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/pollreport/$file/pollreport.pdf

Governor Mark Warner of Virginia, the chairman of the National Governors Association, has unveiled, *Getting It Done: Ten Steps to a State Action Agenda*, to accelerate improvements in high schools. http://www.nga.org/cda/files/04chairmantopten.pdf

Greene and Winters calculate high school graduation rates and the percentage of all students who left high school eligible to apply for college from 1991 to 2002. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ewp_08.htm

Real Deal : *An Interactive Stay-in-School Program for Middle School Students!* Is a **free** game-based program developed for after-school program leaders and middle school counselors. http://fs7.formsite.com/JMH1/form943223092/index.html

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, ENC, eSN, EducationNews, Commentaries, & Reports, EDWeek, JFF Newswire, NCES, RFP Bulletin