

Dropout Prevention Update
April 1, 2005- Volume 4- Number 10
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

Nominations for the [Crystal Star Awards](#) are now open.

Effective Strategies Institute, May 1-3. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm>

Top Stories

Up to 40% of the students who do not graduate from high school can be identified as early as the sixth grade. <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/education/11154763.htm>

The U.S. Department of Education is restructuring.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/04/26eddept_web.h24.html

A new survey has found that nine of every ten principals consider education graduates unprepared for what awaits them in the classroom. http://www.edschools.org/reports_leaders.htm

Funding Sources

CDW-G and Discovery are giving away three wireless computer labs plus 30 additional technology prizes. Deadline: May 1, 2005. <http://www.discoveryschool.com/cdwg>

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program is designed to recognize classroom heroes who "take teaching to new heights and make learning fun." Deadline: April 30, 2005.

<http://ing.com/unsungheroes/>

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching identifies outstanding K-12 mathematics and science teachers in each state and the four U.S. jurisdictions. Deadline: May 2, 2005. <http://www.paemst.org>

Policy Updates

NASSP has outlined legislative recommendations that focus resources on initiatives that are needed in order for high schools to improve the academic outcomes of their students.

http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=29&DID=29

Assessing Patterns of Resource Distribution (APRD) is a free online tool that compares district spending for schools with different students and programs, pinpointing possible inequities.

<http://www.schoolcommunities.org/resources/APRD/welcome.php>

International Notes

Australian Prime Minister suggests that students drop out and get a trade.

http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,12463667%255E601,00.html

In Jeddah, the Presidency of Girls Education has begun a program to educate girls.

<http://www.arabnews.com/?page=7§ion=0&article=60224&d=10&m=3&y=2005>

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) will sponsor its annual Global Action Week April 24-30. http://www.campaignforeducationusa.org/events_default.asp

Students With Disabilities

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, school systems across the country have been forced to disclose the abysmally low academic test scores of students with disabilities.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/09/26hettleman.h24.html>

The 2004 update of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) made several significant changes to the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=978>

John H. Hager is the assistant secretary in charge of the U. S. Department Of Education Special Education Office. <http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/hager.html>

Effective Strategies **Alternative schooling**

More Iowa students graduate via alternative methods as schools change diploma requirements.
<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050319/NEWS02/503190320/1004>

Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) is a successful response to the problem of low achievement in inner city and rural public schools. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9576-2005Mar29.html>

Early Literacy

Reading Rockets is a new resource for parents and classroom teachers that provides information about the different types of reading difficulties a child may experience.
<http://www.weta.org/static/pressroom/reading/> <http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/>

A new report from the Alliance for Excellent Education provides insights from a panel of education researchers on how to improve the reading proficiency of middle and high school students.
<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/ReadingNext/index.html>

Educational Technology

Many school districts are using global-positioning-satellite and radio-frequency tracking systems to follow their buses. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/02/25gps.h24.html>

Distance Education Courses for Public Elementary and Secondary School Students: 2002-03 is the first national survey to explore distance education courses for public elementary and secondary school students. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005010>

Join thousands of teachers, students, and parents of fourth- and eighth-grade students on Technology Black Out Day, April 20. <http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/>

Resources & Tools

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher initiative offers free online professional development opportunities. www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative

The full text of *Qualified Teachers for At-Risk Schools: A National Imperative* is available at <http://www.ncrel.org/quality/partnership.htm>.

Some districts now want to require their best teachers to teach in high-poverty schools. Is it ethical for teachers to refuse to teach in high-poverty schools?
<http://www.teacherleaders.org/misc/HTSethics.html>

The nation's graduation rate is in steady decline, creating an urgent but neglected national education problem. http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2005_03/wheelock.htm

A Profile of the American High School Sophomore in 2002: Initial Results From the Base Year of the Longitudinal Study of 2002. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005338>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, EDWeek, GLEF Edutopia, NASSP Bulletin, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, TLN News