

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**May 1, 2005- Volume 4- Number 11**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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Please take the time to nominate an outstanding program or individual for the Crystal Star Award of Excellence. [http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/crystal/excel\\_nominate.htm](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/crystal/excel_nominate.htm)

**Top Stories**

The National Governors Association (NGA) is surveying high school students on their expectations and frustrations about America's high schools. [http://www.rateyourfuture.org/http://www.nga.org/nga/newsRoom/1,1169,C\\_PRESS\\_RELEASE^D\\_8251,00.html](http://www.rateyourfuture.org/http://www.nga.org/nga/newsRoom/1,1169,C_PRESS_RELEASE^D_8251,00.html)

A new web site, <http://www.schoolmatters.com>, is offering a free, web-based data service that provides comparative information and analysis on public schools, districts, and state education systems. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5589>

**Funding Sources**

The Horace Mann Companies offer scholarships totaling \$30,000 to help educators continue their education. Deadline: May 14, 2005. <https://www.horacemann.com/edscholarship/>

The U.S. Department of Education has grants for state education agencies to support statewide longitudinal data systems for fiscal year 2005. Deadline for letter of intent: May 13, 2005. <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-7591.htm>

Kurzweil Educational Systems, a maker of reading technology for individuals with learning disabilities and visual impairments, is now accepting applications for its 2005 software awards. Deadline: June 1, 2005. <http://www.kurzweilededu.com/k3000awards.asp>

**Policy Updates**

This policy primer for states provides an overview of dual enrollment, a rationale for its expansion, and guidelines and funding models for states wishing to implement dual enrollment. <http://en.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=26658630&u=243016>

The nation's largest teachers' union and eight school districts have sued the Department of Education, accusing it of violating a passage in the law that says states cannot be forced to spend their own money to meet federal requirements. <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/21/education/21child.html>

**International Notes**

New Zealand party leader outlines plan for restructuring education. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/thepress/0,2106,3247523a6009,00.html>

British teacher unions oppose the establishment of secondary academies. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/04/20/32academies.h24.html>

**Students With Disabilities**

*Improving Educational Outcomes for Students with Disabilities* explores how attitudes and expectations for students with disabilities are changing as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). <http://www.aypf.org/pressreleases/pr27.htm>

The U. S. Department of Education has defined a new group as having “persistent academic disabilities.” An additional 2% exemption is allowed for states that can properly identify such students and create a new “modified” test geared to their abilities.

[http://www.titleonline.com/libraries/titleonline/news\\_desk/tio050427.html](http://www.titleonline.com/libraries/titleonline/news_desk/tio050427.html)

### **Effective Strategies**

#### **Educational Technology**

This policy brief highlights K12 online learning policy and practice based on the report, *Keeping pace with K12 online learning: A snapshot of state-level policy and practice*.

<http://www.ncrel.org/policy/pubs/html/pivol17/index.html>

Video games can be key teaching tool.

[http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=art\\_1268&issue=apr\\_05#feature](http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=art_1268&issue=apr_05#feature)

According to a recent university study conducted at King's College London, constant e-mailing and text-messaging reduces your intelligence by ten IQ points--an effect more damaging than smoking marijuana. <http://www.jsonline.com/bym/tech/news/apr05/320790.asp>

#### **Out-of School Opportunities**

This report provides guidance to administrators, policymakers, and out-of-school time (OST) program developers on the use of OST programs for at-risk students.

<http://www.mcrel.org/topics/productDetail.asp?productID=195>

Lack of academic benefits in after-school effort affirmed by report.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/04/27/33after.h24.html>

#### **Safe School Environments**

Interest in the complex question of whether schools need armed personnel is high among administrators in the wake of the Red Lake shootings.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/04/06/30guards.h24.html>

*The 411 on Bullying*. provides an overview of the problem of bullying, as well as current research updates and many resources for parents, teachers and students.

<http://www.hamfish.org/newsroom/>

#### **Resources & Tools**

Truancy Prevention—Empowering Students, Schools, and Communities is a key resource for truancy prevention activities. <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/truancy/index.html>

*What Counts: Defining and Improving Graduation Rates* contains NASSP recommendations for defining the graduation rate. [http://www.principals.org/s\\_nassp/sec.asp?CID=29&DID=50356](http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=29&DID=50356)

The National Service-Learning Partnership provides access to service-learning tools, resources, best practices, and news. <http://www.service-learningpartnership.org>

This new report identifies a number of state, district, and local initiatives aimed at improving teacher quality in high-poverty schools. <http://www.ncrel.org/quality/partnership.htm>.

A new study shows that certified teachers consistently produce significantly stronger student achievement gains than do uncertified teachers.

<http://www.schoolredesign.net/srn/server.php?idx=934>

**We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu)** Sources: CCS List, Education News, Commentaries & Reports, Edutopia, EDWeek, eSn, JFF Newswire, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, SMHP