

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Deadline is June 30 for nominations for the Crystal Star Awards of Excellence.

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/crystal/excel_nominate.htm

Top Stories

Only one in ten Americans believe the high school dropout problem is a crisis, according to a new survey. <http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/cisnet/21786/>

This year's winners of the Seal of Excellence, awarded by the Council for Service-Learning Excellence, are *The Evaluation Handbook* by Mark Batenburg and Denise Clark Pope, and the *Curriculum Connections Game* by the National Dropout Prevention Center. http://nslp.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=TR_resources

Is it ethical for teachers to refuse to teach in high-poverty schools? Brenda Dyck ponders this question. Included: Take [Haberma's Star Teacher Test](#) to learn if you have what it takes to teach in a high-poverty setting.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/voice/voice142.shtml

Funding Sources

The Captain Planet Foundation funds hands-on environmental projects to encourage youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Deadline: June 30, 2005.

http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/aboutUs.html#policies_grant_guidelines

The Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program was established in 1999 to recognize outstanding teaching and instructional creativity in public secondary schools that serve economically disadvantaged students. Deadline: June 15, 2005.

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/611/nike>

CVS/Pharmacy Charitable Trust offers funding for public schools that are expanding programs promoting inclusion of children with physical disabilities in all aspects of school functions. Deadline: June 15, 2005. <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/1880/cvs>

Policy Updates

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has issued a statement on *High School Reform: Examining State and Local Efforts*.

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

NSBA Leadership Insider outlines current school finance adequacy court cases and

legislation pending at both state and federal levels.

<http://www.nsba.org/site/docs/36000/35973.pdf>

International Notes

Across the globe, 58 million girls of primary school are not attending school, according to a report from Save the Children.

http://www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report_2005/index.asp

Universal, high-quality primary and secondary education is achievable --and well within the ability of wealthy nations to fund -- by the middle of the 21st century.

http://www.amacad.org/publications/monographs/cultivating_minds.pdf

Students With Disabilities

Edward J. Kame'enui has been named the nation's first commissioner for special education research. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05182005.html>

Spellings announces new special education guidelines.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05102005.html>

Effective Strategies

Early Childhood Education

A new study finds that students who spend four years in a small class from kindergarten through grade 3 have a greater likelihood of graduating from high school.

http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec_IllumenList.asp?CID=697&DID=51434

The Yale Child Study Center found that Pre-K students are expelled at more than three times the rate of K-12 students. <http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstdy>

Born Learning provides "doable" action steps for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to help prepare young children for school. www.bornlearning.org

Educational Technology

Prisoners restore 1,270 donated computers for schools.

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/living/education/11535411.htm>

Online field trips boost reading scores.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5671>

Seven school districts throughout North Carolina will begin planning small, technology-themed high schools based on the model developed at New Technology High School, in Napa, California. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=5672>

Family Engagement

A free handbook explores the dynamics of the relationship between parents of adolescent students and their child's school and offers some prescriptive advice on what educators can do to improve connections and build trust and new relationships.

<http://snipurl.com/HSMSparents>

A new action brief outlines the information and data that state education agencies are required to

disseminate as required by No Child Left Behind.

http://www.publiceducation.org/portals/nclb/report_cards/report_cards.asp

Project Appleseed's web site provides information on parental involvement.

<http://www.projectappleseed.org/>

Resources & Tools

Barry and King provide a list of "Top 10 Facts" that decision makers should keep in mind if they hope to raise student achievement by building teaching capacity in low-performing schools. http://www.teacherleaders.org/misc/HTSS_SECTO_0505.pdf

A new ECS StateNote provides an up-to-date look at state student information systems,

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/61/39/6139.htm>

Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in the South.

http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/research/dropouts/dropouts_south05.php

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu

Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, NASSP Bulletin, Pen Weekly, RFP Bulletin, Service-Learning Advances, Straight A's, TLN Resources