

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

Getting Honest About Grad Rates: How States Play the Numbers and Students Lose describes the extremely unreliable data that are used to determine high school dropout rates.

<http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Press+Room/HSGradRate2005.htm>

Students who enter ninth grade reading significantly below grade level are 20 times more likely to drop out of high school. The Alliance for Excellent Education has resources and reports on increasing literacy levels. http://www.all4ed.org/adolescent_literacy/index.html

Several states have strengthened requirements for a high school diploma.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/06/22/41high.h24.html>

Funding Sources

State Farm Insurance & State Farm Companies Foundation grants reward programs that engage students in service-learning. Deadline: July 22, 2005. <http://info.fldoe.org/dscqi/ds.py/Get/File-3025/sffrpf.pdf>

The National Center for Family Literacy provides funding for programs specifically serving Hispanic and other immigrant families with children in K-3. Deadline: July 15, 2005.

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/2948/toyota>

The Bamford-Lahey Childrens Foundation Program for Childhood Language Disorders funds projects that have implications for the learning and use of spoken language in children with developmental language disorders. Deadline: Variable. <http://www.bamford-lahey.org/guidelines.html>

Policy Updates

A new report reveals a first look at how tests are changing the behavior of students, teachers and administrators in Americas high schools. <http://www.cep-dc.org/highschoolexit/change/>

The competition to be number 1 has caused some schools to stop naming valedictorians.

http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/050606fa_fact

International Notes

The federal agency that helps underwrite schooling in developing countries released a new education strategy that focuses on the quality of schooling.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/05/26/39usaid_web.h24.html.html

Officials of the richest countries who meet at the Group of 8 Summit should consider a large investment in schooling for girls. <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/25/opinion/25sat2.html?>

Students With Disabilities

There is a new discussion board for the exchange of information, resources and comments regarding the proposed IDEA 2004 federal regulations. <http://www.idea04.org/bb/index.php>

Most students who are enrolled in special education classes in New York City are failing to earn regular high school diplomas, according to the study, *Leaving School Empty-Handed*.

<http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/pubs/reports.php3>

Effective Strategies

Educational Technology

NCES has just released the report, *Rates of Computer and Internet Use by Children in Nursery School and Students in Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade: 2003*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005111>

The aptitudes, attitudes, expectations, and learning styles of Net Generation students are discussed in this collection of essays. <http://snipurl.com/NetGen>

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is calling for new assessments that can effectively measure technology skills. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5735>

An overview of issues to be considered in establishing a virtual school are presented in this article. <http://www.asbj.com/current/coverstory.html>

Family Engagement

Parent involvement tends to drop off in enter middle school, but research shows that doesn't have to be the case. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/06/08/39parentinvolvement.h24.html>

Christa McAuliffe Elementary requires parents to spend two 90-minute sessions every week in their children's classrooms.

http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=art_1310&issue=jun_05&d=0615

Service-Learning

A new study has that found that service-learning students are significantly more likely to say they enjoy school. <http://www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/WorkingPapers/WP33Billig.pdf>

Learn and Serve America has created a new set of tools to help spread the word about service-learning. http://servicelearning.org/resources/bring_learning/index.php

Resources & Tools

The Small Schools Project has compiled a useful collection of research, articles and other materials about school culture. <http://www.smallschoolsproject.org/PDFS/culture.pdf>

The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Transitions and the Role of Supportive Relationships focuses on the experiences of staff and students in a new school.

<http://www.metlife.com/teachersurvey>

African-Americans age 25 and older are more likely to have dropped out of high school than graduated from college according to a report by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. <http://www.naacpldf.org/landing.aspx?sub=52>

Students' course performance as freshmen can help predict whether they will graduate from high school four years later. <http://www.consortium-chicago.org/publications/p78.html>

A lack of adult-learning opportunities has had a major impact on employment, personal income and health care in Southern states, concludes a report from the Southern Regional Education Board. http://www.sreb.org/main/Goals/Publications/Adult_Learning.asp

NCES has just released *The Condition of Education 2005*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005094>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: ECS, Education Gadfly, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, Edutopia, EDWeek, ENC, eSn, NCES, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, Service-Learning Advances, TLN Resources