

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**August 1, 2005- Volume 5- Number 2**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Top Stories**

The U.S. Department of Education will begin calculating an "Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate" for all states. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/07/07132005.html>

*Graduation Counts* is a report from the National Governors Association Task Force on State High School Graduation Data <http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.6c9a8a9ebc6ae07eee28aca9501010a0/?vgnnextoid=f599184d94525010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=6d4c8aaa2ebbf00VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>

NCLB's mandates on delinquent youths get attention.  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/07/27/43juvenile.h24.html>

**Funding Sources**

The National Geographic Education Foundation is offering grants for up to \$5,000 to help support innovative geography education projects. Deadline: September 2, 2005.  
[http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foundation/grants\\_teacher.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/foundation/grants_teacher.html)

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy funds programs that include reading instruction for parents or primary caregivers; literacy or preliteracy instruction for children; and intergenerational activities. Deadline: September 9, 2005. <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com>

The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education invites applications for \$5,000 awards to help public schools serving economically disadvantaged students purchase books for school libraries. Deadline: September 15, 2005. <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3504/nfie>

**Policy Updates**

Where do sixth graders belong-- with younger or older kids?  
<http://www.middleweb.com/mw/news/sixthgrade.html>

Milwaukee has an increasing number of "teacher-led" schools that operate without administrators.  
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/jul05/341727.asp>

**International Notes**

How do schools handle ethnic tensions when a bomber was a learning mentor?  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4687417.stm>

According to a new report from UNICEF, poverty among children in the developed world is increasing. <http://www.unicef-icdc.org/presscentre/presskit/reportcard6/repcard6e.pdf>

**Students With Disabilities**

The new website of the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities features menus to make it easier for Spanish-speaking users to find what they need.  
<http://www.nichcy.org/spanish.htm>

This is the fifteenth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistive technologies are enabling disabled students to be full and active participants in school life.  
[http://www.edutopia.org/php/article.php?id=Art\\_1241](http://www.edutopia.org/php/article.php?id=Art_1241)

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Educational Technology**

Video-game camps target at-risk youth.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5766>

MediaKid outlines a set of mediated learning tools that under-resourced parents can provide to their children in order to better prepare them for school.

<http://www.digitaldivide.net/community/MediaKid>

A low-cost strategy intended to beat the predictable obsolescence that often afflicts classroom technology. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5783>

Compared to four years ago, teens' use of the Internet has intensified and broadened as they log on more often and do more things when they are online.

[http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/162/report\\_display.asp](http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/162/report_display.asp)

### **Professional Development**

A special report on professional development that looks at effective staff training, classroom visits, literacy coaches, and the rise in online teacher training.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/collections/leverage-for-learning/index.html>

AERA's *Research Points* summarizes studies of learning opportunities for teachers that are explicitly aimed at increasing student achievement. <http://snipurl.com/AERApd>

### **Systemic Renewal**

*The Challenge of Scaling Up Educational Reform: Findings and Lessons from First Things First.*

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/412/overview.html>

A special issue of *Principal Leadership* magazine profiles successful high-poverty, high-minority schools that have earned the label "Breakthrough High School."

[http://www.principals.org/s\\_nassp/sec.asp?CID=782&DID=52044](http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=782&DID=52044)

The summer edition of *Rethinking Schools* explores the hottest trend in school reform: small schools. <http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/curriss.shtml>

## **Resources & Tools**

MENTOR has a comprehensive tool kit that offers step-by-step instructions to implement an effective mentoring program. [http://www.mentoring.org/program\\_staff/eeptoolkit/index.php](http://www.mentoring.org/program_staff/eeptoolkit/index.php)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's annual *Kids Count Databook* dropout chart.

[http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare\\_results.jsp?i=440](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=440)

*The Forum Guide to Education Indicators* provides encyclopedia-type entries for 44 commonly used education indicators. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005802>

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics released its annual report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2005.*

<http://childstats.gov/americaschildren>

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and Reading Rockets are helping educators meet the growing challenges of teaching Latino English language learners.

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/about/release0705.php>

**We appreciate comments from our readers.** Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsn.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsn.edu) Sources: Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, Edutopia, ENC, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, NCES, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates, TLN Resources

