

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**September 1, 2005- Volume 5- Number 3**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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Registration is open for the [Seventeenth Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Santa Clara, CA](#)

**Top Stories**

Supporters say that incentive plans for students make sense and mirror those many companies use to motivate their employees. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0729/p01s03-ussc.html?s=hns>

A Brooklyn teacher watched his dust-filled, drably colored classroom get transformed into an educational paradise. <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/story/335691p-286756c.html>

The Center on Education Policy's *Do You Know the Latest Good News About American Education?*, looks at positive trends and outlines 24 indicators of success in five main categories. <http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/LatestGoodNews/LatestGoodNewsAug05.pdf>

**Funding Sources**

Striving Readers funds programs to improve the literacy skills of teenage students who read below grade level. Deadline: September 15, 2005. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders/applicant.html>

Best Buy School Technology Program has three levels of awards from \$2,500 to \$250,000. You must be located within 50 miles of a Best Buy store. Deadline: September 30, 2005. <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/3300/bestbuy>

SchoolSpan's second annual Web Empowerment Grants will provide funding for technology applications for school district web sites. Deadline: September 30, 2005. Second Deadline: November 30, 2005. <http://www.schoolspan.com>

**Policy Updates**

Connecticut is the first state to file suit against NCLB. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5832>

U.S. Secretary of Education Spellings calls NCLB "Good policy and good politics." <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/08/08042005.html>

**International Notes**

What makes boys choose bricklaying and girls childcare? Is there a gender divide in apprenticeships? <http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,5500,1540360,00.html>

Bullying has taken on epidemic proportions in public schools across Germany, according to an alarming new survey that is backed up with first-hand accounts. [http://news.monstersandcritics.com/education/article\\_1031609.php/%20Bullying\\_takes\\_on\\_epidemic\\_proportions\\_in\\_German\\_schools](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/education/article_1031609.php/%20Bullying_takes_on_epidemic_proportions_in_German_schools)

**Students With Disabilities**

*After High School: A First Look at the Postschool Experiences of Youth with Disabilities*, finds that disabled students over all are less than half as likely as their peers to have attended college in the two years after high school, but the college-going rate varies greatly by type of disability. [http://www.nlts2.org/pdfs/afterhighschool\\_report.pdf](http://www.nlts2.org/pdfs/afterhighschool_report.pdf)

A new report finds that more youths with disabilities are successfully making the transition from school to higher education, jobs, and adult responsibilities than they did in the late 1980s.  
<http://www.nlts2.org/gindex.html>

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Alternative Schooling**

AGUILA is a college-prep program in Arizona targeting high-achieving Latino students interested in attending college. <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0815phxyouth.html#>

Low-income students can attend private schools by working for corporate America once a week. But will they stay in school? <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0825/p14s02-legn.html?s=hns>

Education Policy Institute analyzed school-level Stanford Achievement Test scores for 27 fifth-grade cohorts at 24 KIPP schools and found substantially greater academic gains than what is normally expected. <http://www.educationalpolicy.org/>

### **Educational Technology**

The number of incoming college freshmen who chose computer science as a major fell more than 60% between 2000 and 2004, says a report from the Higher Education Research Institute.  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0815/p08s01-comv.html?s=hns>

"Kutztown 13" are charged with felonies for computer abuse.  
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5820>

How does blogging transform the education landscape?  
<http://www.asbj.com/2005/07/0705coverstory2.html>

### **Family Engagement**

The National Parent Teacher Association in collaboration with the National Education Association has developed how-to guides for parents on ways to help their children succeed in school.  
<http://www.nea.org/parents/nearesources-parents.html>

The National Network of Partnership Schools offers school-family communication suggestions and success stories. <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/FAQ/faqtype2.htm>

The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement offers research-based advice and resources designed to help schools and districts foster successful parent involvement.  
[http://www.centerforcsri.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=130&Itemid=5](http://www.centerforcsri.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=130&Itemid=5)

## **Resources & Tools**

*The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40.*  
<http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/perrymain.htm>

*Youth Indicators, 2005: Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth.*  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005050>

A new online teacher toolkit with 21st century technology and up-to-date tools.  
<https://www.neateachertoolkit.com/TTK/Default.aspx?id=911>

*High School Survey of Student Engagement* <http://www.indiana.edu/~nsse/hssse/>

**We appreciate comments from our readers.** Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu) Sources: Alliance for Excellent Education, EducationNews.org, ECS, ENC, eSn, PEN Weekly, Technology Leadership News