

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The White House Conference on Helping America's Youth discussed various problems facing America's youth and solutions for overcoming those challenges. Dr. Terry Cash represented NDPC/N. <http://www.helpingyouthconference.org/>

The Community Guide To Helping America's Youth aids communities in identifying challenges and specific steps to improve the lives of children. <http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov/>

Funding Sources

The five schools with the most votes on the FutureReady site each will win a mobile computer lab provided by Dell, Microsoft, and Intel. Deadline: November 15, 2005.
<http://www.futureready.org/mobile-lab/>

Aerospace Education Foundation Educator Grants encourage development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum. Deadline: November 15, 2005.
<http://www.aef.org/aid/educator.pdf>

The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, or other non-profit educational organizations for the purpose of establishing outdoor learning centers. <http://www.for-wild.org/seedmony.htm>

Policy Updates

ECS details uniform grading scales. <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/64/12/6412.htm>

Two reports suggest "value added" models that track the test-score gains of individual students over time show great promise. http://www.nasbe.org/recent_pubs/eva.htm?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=N&Product_Code=FHARTLPI&Category_Code=SHSP
<http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.c988ba0e5dd572bada20bc47c3921509/?vgnnextoid=48377f49c30e6010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnnextchannel=85b65784623f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD>

International Notes

The Sudoku craze that is taking the world by storm is helping stimulate young people's interest in mathematics in New Zealand. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/thepress/0,2106,3440457a6009,00.html>

Soon China will have as many university students as Canada has people.
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20051029/EDUCATION29/TPEducation/>

Students With Disabilities

Landmark College received a \$1 million grant this week to create an educational curriculum for students with learning disabilities that can be replicated at colleges across the United States.
<http://rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051021/NEWS/510210382/1003>

The Office of Special Education Programs has developed a series of topic briefs on high-interest areas of IDEA. <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html>

Effective Strategies

Early Literacy

Older students can read with enthusiasm and understanding, especially when teachers avoid ineffective practices that promote disengagement. <http://snipurl.com/ReadingComp>

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has released a field guide for school leaders on adolescent literacy. http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=62&DID=62

The Reading Is Fundamental site offers monthly activity calendars, complete with a reading or writing suggestion for each day of the month. <http://www.rif.org/>

Educational Technology

The use of special computer games to "train" their brains improved the ability of healthy children to pay attention. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5895>

TheFreeDictionary.com is a multifaceted, virtual research hub for students and teachers. <http://thefreedictionary.com/>

Access to a home computer increases the likelihood that children will graduate from high school, but blacks and Latinos are much less likely to have a computer at home than are whites. http://www.ucsc.edu/news_events/press_releases/text.asp?pid=767

Family Engagement

A brief from the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory provides strategies for involving parents from diverse cultures. <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/rb/rb5-diverse.pdf>

This article cites a variety of reasons why parents avoid parent-teacher conferences and suggests strategies to get parents involved. <http://www.asbj.com/current/research.html>

The Promising Practices Network provides quality evidence-based information about what works to improve the lives of children, families, and communities. <http://www.promisingpractices.net/>

Resources & Tools

The demographic and educational characteristics of the 2004 high school senior class are profiled by NCES. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006348>

Prisoners of Time refocuses attention on the critical issue of using time as a resource for teaching and learning. <http://www.ecs.org/prisonersoftime>

A study by EdSource helps explain why California elementary schools with similar demographic profiles achieve vastly different results on the state's Academic Performance Index. <http://www.edsource.org/>

A literature review by the U.S. Department of Education suggests that same-sex schooling has some advantages over co-educational schools. <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/other/single-sex/index.html>

A new strategy brief from the Finance Project and the Council of Chief State School Officers describes how six major funding streams included in NCLB can support extended learning opportunities. <http://www.ccsso.org/content/PDFs/UsingNCLBFunds.pdf>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clmson.edu Sources: ECS, Education Gadfly, eSn, Middle Web, PDN Connections, PEN Weekly, rtcUpdates, Straight A's, TLN Resources