Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories
Researchers say America loses hundreds of billions of dollars each year when young people fail to graduate. http://www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/EquityCampaign/symposium/resource.asp

Seventeen states will share $5.2 million in private money in the second phase of the National Governors Association's (NGA) efforts to improve high schools.
http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.6c9a8a9ebc6ae07eee28aca9501010a0/?vgnextoid=3c535001ff497010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD&vgnextchannel=759b8f2005361010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD

Funding Sources
The InfoSource Integrating Technology in the Classroom Grant Program will award up to $2.5 million in online tools and training to school districts. Deadline: December 31, 2005.
http://www.howtomaster.com/grants/grants.asp

A $100,000 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award will be given to one teacher working in an underserved community in America. Candidates for the award must be a full-time teacher in a K-12 public or private school with at least 50% of its students qualifying for the federal free and reduced-price meal program. Deadline: February 1, 2006. http://www.kinderaward.org

Olympus and Tool Factory will award ten grants to educators whose classroom projects and curriculum ideas illustrate "effective and creative use of digital cameras and software resources. Deadline: December 30, 2005. http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/olympus_teacher.htm

Policy Updates
A new ECS StateNote provides an up-to-date look at alternative schools' policies and programs in 14 states and the District of Columbia. http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/65/77/6577.pdf

For some school scofflaws, sitting at home and watching music videos all day might seem like a real coup. But work-free suspensions can result in students scrambling to catch up on work and getting zeros on exams administered during their absence. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/27/AR2005112701164.html

The U.S. Department of Education has created a 26-page, user-friendly guide to the No Child Left Behind Act for state education leaders.
http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/roadmap/index.html

International Notes
Almost half of 17 year olds in some parts of England have left full-time education or training, figures reveal. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4481300.stm

Britain proposes teaching newborns. http://www.newsobserver.com/110/story/369214.html

Students With Disabilities
Response to intervention can identify children with learning disabilities and give them early help. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/11/30/13rti.h25.html

Four education advocates mark the 30th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with a call to continue the evolutionary change and improve the system. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/11/30/13freedman.h25.html

Effective Strategies
Early Literacy
States must take more comprehensive steps to address the inadequate reading skills of America's adolescents, the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Association of State Boards of Education urge in two reports. *Reading to Achieve: A Governor's Guide to Adolescent Literacy.* http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0510GOVGUIDELITERACY.PDF *Reading at Risk.* http://www.nasbe.org/recent_pubs/adol%20literacy%20exec%20summary.pdf

Grade-appropriate middle school writing samples are provided for more than 20 kinds of writing. http://go.hrw.com/eolang/modbank/

Educational Technology
Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher has announced a new pilot program, No Child Left Offline, that will provide refurbished surplus state computers to economically disadvantaged eighth-grade students. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5916

The Wikimedia Foundation has begun an initiative to create collaborative, free-to-use online textbooks. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5932

Safe Learning Environments
A report, from the Departments of Education and Justice states that the school crime rate has shown no change since 2000. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006001

Two-thirds of teenagers reported they were verbally or physically harassed or bullied during 2004 http://www.educationnews.org/school-bullies.htm

Resources & Tools
The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement Newsletter provides practical suggestions for reading and understanding scientifically based research and for applying the principles of scientific inquiry to both teaching and student learning. http://www.centerforcsri.org/index.php?%20option=com_content&task=view&id=204&Itemid=5

The Center for Public Education web site provides models for, and school district experiences with, a range of community engagement activities. http://www.nsba.org/site/sec_peac.asp?TRACKID=&CID=1706&DID=36613

Having a teacher who students perceive cares is associated with lower rates of drug and sexual risk behaviors among high risk youth, according to a new study. http://www-news.uchicago.edu/releases/05/051018.voisin.shtml

A Harvard University economist offers evidence in a new study to bolster the controversial theory that high-achieving black and Latino teenagers are shunned by their peers in school for acting white. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/11/16/12minority.h25.html

With All Deliberate Speed, a new report from a consortium led by former U.S. education secretary Richard Riley, recommends ways to address issues of achievement, citizenship and diversity in American education. http://snipurl.com/Deliberate

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, Pen Weekly, SMHP, TLN Resources