

Dropout Prevention Update
May 1, 2006- Volume 5, Number 11
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Students With Disabilities](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Crystal Star Award nominations are now open <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

Top Stories

For those who fail to graduate from high school, the economic losses are enormous. http://www.educationnews.org/Commentaries/DROPOUTS_COST_BILLIONS.htm

Forty-eight schools have been named as finalists for the Intel and Scholastic Schools of Distinction Awards. http://www.educationnews.org/gen/Intel_And_Scholastic_Schools.htm

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced a \$100 million federal fund to reward teachers and principals who raise student achievement in high-need schools. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/04/04272006.html>

Funding Sources

Nickelodeon's Let's Just Play Giveaway offers kids around the United States the opportunity to improve their school or community program's fitness resources. Maximum Award: \$5000. Deadline: May 31, 2006. http://www.nick.com/all_nick/everything_nick/

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation provides grants to projects and organizations throughout the United States that focus on inclusion of students with disabilities. Deadline: June 1, 2006. <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10001790/meaf>

The Dollar General Community Grants Program focuses on youth literacy initiatives in communities where the company does business. Deadline: June 5, 2006. <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002076/dollargeneral>

Policy Updates

Eight states have made the first cut to qualify for a pilot program that would let them use growth models to judge whether schools and districts meet their performance targets under NCLB. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/04/06/31growth.h25.html>

Here's a radical idea: We need more assessment, not less. http://www.edutopia.org/magazine/ed1article.php?id=Art_1498&issue=apr_06

International Notes

A study found that pre-school education benefits children when they attend primary school. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/4940770.stm

Looming teacher shortages could prevent sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States from achieving the goal of universal primary education, http://www.educationnews.org/Commentaries/Teacher_shortages_threaten_Universal_Primary_Education_goal.htm

Students With Disabilities

NLTS2 has issued a report *School Behavior and Disciplinary Experiences of Youth With Disabilities*. http://www.nlts2.org/pdfs/NLTS2_Discipline_FS_03-21-06.pdf

The National Center for Learning Disabilities has just launched an innovative, online guide to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). <http://www.nclld.org/content/view/978>

Stenhjem provides suggestions for transition planning for youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system. <http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=1929>

Effective Strategies

Early Literacy

E.D. Hirsch suggests that 4th grade reading scores are higher than 8th grade scores because we don't teach the knowledge and vocabulary that are essential to higher-level reading comprehension. http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/issues/spring06/index.

NASSP's *Creating a Culture of Literacy: A Guide for Middle and High School Principals*, is a hands-on guide that outlines the essential elements for a successful literacy program. http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=62&DID=62

ACT reports that substantial experience reading complex texts in high school is a key indicator of college success. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6260>

Educational Technology

Michigan is the first state to have students experience some form of online instruction before receiving a diploma. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6223>

A National Science Foundation report finds that greater access to IT resources in elementary and secondary schools over the last twenty years has been a big plus for disadvantaged students. <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind06/c1/c1s4.htm#c1s4I3>

The National Research Council has issued a report calling on schools to incorporate "spatial literacy" into their curricula. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6259>

After-School Opportunities

Costs of out-of-school time programs: A brief review of the literature.

<http://www.financeproject.org/documents/reviseexecutivesummary.pdf>

After-school time: Choices, challenges and new directions.

<http://main.edc.org/mosaic/mosaic11/toc.asp>

Resources & Tools

Researchers and educators agree that school climate influences students, teachers, and staff members and affects student achievement. <http://www.nsba.org/cube/WhereWeLearn>

This presentation presents charts and data on school-age immigrant children.

<http://www.fcd-us.org/PDFs/NewDemographypresentationfinal.pdf>

This new report documents what committed educators, policymakers, and community leaders across the country are doing to reconnect out-of-school youth to the social and economic mainstream. <http://www.aypf.org/publications/WhateverItTakes.htm>

NCES has just released *The Adult Lives of At-Risk Students: The Roles of Attainment and Engagement in High School*. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006328>

AIR reports on "education service providers" (ESPs)--companies that manage public schools. http://www.csrq.org/documents/ExecutiveSummary_002.pdf

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: Education Gadfly, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, EDWeek, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, SMHP