

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

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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](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](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/](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](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](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](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](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 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores are higher than 8<sup>th</sup> 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](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](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](http://www.csrq.org/documents/ExecutiveSummary_002.pdf)

**We appreciate comments from our readers.** Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: Education Gadfly, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, EDWeek, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, SMHP