

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Crystal Star Award deadline is June 30. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

Top Stories

Eight states are participating in the State Scholars Initiative (SSI), a national business/education partnership effort that works to increase the number of students who take a rigorous curriculum in high school. <http://www.wiche.edu/statescholars/>

What Works Clearinghouse revamped Web site has intervention reports that contain program descriptions, implementation costs, and simple ratings on program effectiveness in specific areas <http://www.whatworks.ed.gov/>

Funding Sources

The Louis R. Cappelli Foundation invites grant applications from programs assisting at-risk children and youth in the areas of education and health and fitness. Eligibility is restricted to nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Deadline: June 30, 2006. <http://www.cappelli-inc.com/application.shtml>

Write a 100-word essay on why your school and students need digital technology in the classroom and win hardware and software. Deadline: June 30, 2006. <http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10001792/hopeforeducation>

The Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program recognizes outstanding teaching and instructional creativity in public schools that serve economically disadvantaged students. Deadline: June, 20, 2006. <http://www.nike.com/jumpman23/features/fundamentals/index.jsp>

The Computers for Learning program connects teachers and schools with federal agencies that want to donate used computers. <http://www.computers.fed.gov/public/schoolsPublic.asp>

Policy Updates

Twenty-one states have policies allowing students to complete high school in fewer than three years? <http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=740>

No state is expected to meet the looming deadline for putting a "highly qualified" teacher in every core-subject classroom <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/05/24/38hqteach.h25.html>

International Notes

Students from immigrant families lag behind their native counterparts in the United States and many other developed countries. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/2/38/36664934.pdf>

Schools urgently need off-site "behaviour" units to deal with pupils behaving badly. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/5018256.stm>

Students With Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education has released a new tool kit to help states fully implement the accountability provisions of NCLB for students with disabilities. <http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp>

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) website highlights state-level legislation related to disabilities and employment. <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/employ/disab-leg05.htm>

Effective Strategies

Career and Technical Education

Preparing students to succeed in the workforce is increasingly seen as a key to global competitiveness. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/05/24/38work.h25.html>

Hands-on experience with high-tech tools has fueled a near 60% surge in vocational education enrollment. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/PFshowstory.cfm?ArticleID=6305>

Educational Technology

Webcasts from the Library of Congress cover topics across the school curriculum <http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/index.php>

Insight School of Washington will be the first in the state to permit students to graduate without ever having to attend a brick-and-mortar school for part of their education. http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/269507_onlinehigh09.html

Wohlleb offers 12 considerations to think about if your school district is planning to redesign or reorganize its website. <http://www.aasa.org/publications/saarticledetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6067&snItemNumber=&tnItemNumber=>

Credibility Commons helps users assess the reliability of information they find in web searches. <http://www.credibilitycommons.org/>

School-Community Collaboration

Growing Community Schools: the Role of Cross-Boundary Leadership highlights 11 communities. <http://www.communityschools.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=45&Itemid=60>

A report from the Daniels Fund offers concise, practical advice about creating successful and lasting school-business partnerships. <http://www.danielsfund.org/sevenstrategies/Strategies/>

Resources & Tools

Making Good on a Promise challenges misconceptions based on a detailed look at who dropped out and how much education they completed by their early adulthood. http://www.jff.org/JFF_KC_Pages.php?WhichLevel=1&lv1_id=4&lv2_id=0&lv3_id=0&KC_M_ID=287

Chapter 4 of *The State of America's Children* covers education issues. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/publications/greenbook/>

A study by William L. Sanders concluded that nationally certified teachers are for the most part no more effective in producing student academic progress than teachers without the credential http://www.nbpts.org/pdf/sas_final_report.pdf

High school graduates entering the workforce need academic skills similar to those needed by students planning to enter college. <http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/ReadinessBrief.pdf>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, EDWeek, eSn, NASSP Bulletin, PENn Weekly, RFP Bulletin, rtc Updates, Straight A's,