

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

Diplomas Count: An Essential Guide to Graduation Policy and Rates provides detailed data on high school graduation rates at the national, state, and district level.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2006/06/22/index.html?levelId=2300>

A study finds that young males are in many ways doing better than ever.

<http://www.educationsector.org/>

Funding Sources

Youths who create sustainable community service projects for National Youth Service Day 2007 (April 20-22) can apply for one of 30 \$1,000 start-up grants. Deadline: July 24 2006.

<http://www.youthventure.org/index.php?tg=articles&idx=More&article=773&topics=76>

ETA/Cuisenaire is offering a classroom makeover with a grand prize of \$10,000 which includes books, reading and teacher support materials, and a full day of district-wide professional development with a literacy specialist. Deadline: July 15, 2006.

<http://www.etcuisenaire.com/makeover/makeover.jsp>

Policy Updates

Fund the Child: Tackling Inequity and Antiquity in School Finance is a "manifesto" that offers a comprehensive solution to the most pressing problems in American education suggests using "weighted student funding." www.100percentsolution.org

School districts nationwide are crafting local "wellness" policies that a federal law says must go into effect by the start of the 2006-07 school year. The Agriculture Department's Food and Nutrition Services program has compiled 32 examples of how districts and schools faced and overcame nutrition concerns. <http://teammnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/makingithappen.html>

International Notes

Edmonton school district is fast becoming a model for school districts across the United States.

http://www.educationnews.org/Commentaries/The_Pride_of_Edmonton.htm

A flurry of scientific studies, books and high-profile news reports are heralding mini-siestas as an integral part of new daily regimens for enhancing mental agility.

<http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4842/59496/94/0/>

Students With Disabilities

Recognition and Response: An Early Intervening System for Young Children at Risk for Learning Disabilities discusses the challenges for early educators and parents in addressing the learning difficulties of pre-school age children. <http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4842/59496/99/0/>

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has a Web-based Research to Practice database. <http://research.nichcy.org/search.asp>

Effective Strategies

After-School Opportunities

Learning from Small-Scale Experimental Evaluations of After School Programs reviews the evaluation strategies and findings from rigorous, experimental studies that are small or local in scope. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot8.html>

Read about promising practices and new research findings related to afterschool programs. http://www.sedl.org/pubs/sedl-letter/v18n01/SEDLLetter_v18n01.pdf

Exploring Quality Standards for Middle School After School Programs: What We Know and What We Need to Know. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/conference/>

Educational Technology

A new study suggests that when teachers use a hand-held computer that randomly chooses whom to call on, students actually do better in class when they know their number could come up at any time. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6341>

A pair of robots can help students rendered bedridden by illnesses to keep up with schoolwork and friends. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-0606190213jun19,1,1177052.story?track=rss&ctrack=1&cset=true>

A new report provides policymakers, educators, and business leaders with comprehensive strategies to ensure that computer science education plays a central role in the current national debate about America's competitiveness in the global economy. http://www.educationnews.org/PR/How_Computer_Science_is-Taught.htm
<http://csta.acm.org/Publications/Publications.html#dbottom>

Systemic Renewal

By creating some short-term, concrete goals, schools are able to quickly see schoolwide achievement, which helps foster a sense of commitment to reach longer-term goals. View a sample school improvement plan grid. <http://www.edutopia.org/community/spiralnotebook/?p=47>

Rothstein identifies six areas of reform, in addition to school improvement, that could help narrow the achievement gap. <http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4602/75542/59/0/>

Resources & Tools

Dropout Rates in the United States: 2002 and 2003.
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006062>

The Condition of Education 2006 annual report summarizes important developments and trends in education. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006071>

Mentoring in America 2005: A Snapshot of the Current State of Mentoring.
<http://www.mentoring.org/leaders/files/pollreport.pdf>

Teaching in the Early College High School discusses student achievement. http://www.jff.org/JFF_KC_Pages.php?WhichLevel=1&lv1_id=4&lv2_id=0&lv3_id=0&KC_M_ID=293

Dropping Out Is Hard To Do explores research about high school dropouts and explains the powerful role schools can play in keeping students on track to graduate. <http://www.centerforcsri.org/files/CenterIssueBriefJune06.pdf>

Ten strategies for fostering healthy and caring environments for learning. <http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4602/75542/68/0/>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: CCSRI, EducationNews.org, EDWeek, eSn, JFF Newswire, NCES, PEN Weekly, Principal's Update