Dropout Prevention Update
July 1, 2006- Volume 6, Number 1

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.etacuisenaire.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://teamnutrition.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@clemson.edu Sources: CCSRI, EducationNews.org, EDWeek, eSn, JFF Newswire, NCES, PEN Weekly, Principal's Update