Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

A study finds that young males are in many ways doing better than ever. http://www.educationsector.org/

Funding Sources

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

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/


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. [Link](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/snapshot8.html)

Read about promising practices and new research findings related to afterschool programs. [Link](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. [Link](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. [Link](http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6341)

A pair of robots can help students rendered bedridden by illnesses to keep up with schoolwork and friends. [Link](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. [Link](http://www.educationnews.org/PR/How_Computer_Science_is_Taught.htm)

**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. [Link](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. [Link](http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4602/75542/59/0/)

**Resources & Tools**


*Teaching in the Early College High School* discusses student achievement. [Link](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. [Link](http://www.centerforcsrci.org/files/CenterIssueBriefJune06.pdf)

Ten strategies for fostering healthy and caring environments for learning. [Link](http://news.publiceducation.org/t/4602/75542/68/0/)

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