**Dropout Prevention Update**
**September 1, 2006- Volume 6, Number 3**
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

**CONTENTS**
Top Stories | Funding Sources | Policy Updates | International Notes | Students With
Disabilities | Effective Strategies | Resources & Tools | Feedback

Register now for the 18th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in
San Antonio,Texas. http://www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpcdefault.htm

**Top Stories**
Janet Napolitano, head of the National Governors Association, has proposed a plan to
boost the competitiveness of American students.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6503

NCES has released the *User's Guide to Computing High School Graduation Rates,
Volume 1: Review of Current and Proposed Graduation Indicators' and the User's Guide
to Computing High School Graduation Rates, Volume 2: Technical Evaluation of Proxy
Graduation Indicators. Volume 1*
http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006604
*Volume 2* http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006605

The National Education Foundation will donate "cyber scholarships" to disadvantaged
US public schools.
http://www.educationnews.org/writers/delia/Interview_with_Edward_Davis.htm

**Funding Sources**
The Big Read engages libraries and other community and school partners across the
country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. Deadline:
September 12, 2006. http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php

The Parent Relocation Council is seeking essays from students ages 9-18 who have
overcome difficulties during a family relocation. The winner will receive a $500 Target
gift card. Deadline: September 15, 2006. http://www.parentrelocationcouncil.org/essay/

Office Depot/SHOPA 2006 Kids In Need Teacher Grants fund projects that make
creative use of common teaching aids, approach curriculum from an imaginative angle, or
tie nontraditional concepts together for the purpose of illustrating commonalities.
Maximum Award: $500. Deadline: September 30, 2006.
http://shopa.org/shopa_foundation/2006_teacher_grants/2006_
teacher_grant_app.php?source=officedepot

The Best Buy te@ch program rewards schools for successful interactive technology
programs. Deadline: September 30, 2006.
http://news.publiceducation.org/t/5468/59496/162/0/

## Policy Updates
A PEN issue brief outlines effective policy interventions for math and science instruction leveraged by local education funds. http://www.publiceducation.org/images/Publications/policy_issue_briefs/200607_Math_Science_Reform.pdf

Growth in the number of states requiring students to pass an exit exam to earn a high school diploma has stalled.
http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/hseeAugust2006/

## International Notes
Children in New Zealand are struggling with basic mathematics.
http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/thepress/0,2106,3775397a6427,00.html

Repeating a year of school offers no academic or social benefits to students in Australia.
http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20300209-13881,00.html

## Students With Disabilities
The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) for the National Council on Disability (NCD) announces the opening of a nationwide search for new members. Deadline: September 14, 2006.
http://www.educationnews.org/Commentaries/NCD_Youth_Advisory_Committee.htm

*The Role of Parents in Dropout Prevention: Strategies that Promote Graduation and School Achievement.* http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=3135%20

*Paving the Way to Work* is intended for individuals designing mentoring programs for youth, including youth with disabilities, in the transition phase to adulthood.
http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&_Publications/mentoring.html

## Effective Strategies
### Early Literacy
Children's Magazine Month is a special annual celebration to inspire family literacy events across America during October. http://childmagmonth.org/

Poor children do quite well regarding literacyas long as they don't live in the USA.
http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20060817/opcom17.art.htm

Schools participating in the Reading First program dedicate more time to reading instruction and professional development and are more likely to use assessment data to inform teaching than Title I schools that are not in the grant program.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/07/25/43read_web.h25.html

### Educational Technology
Microsoft is offering a free human resources tool designed to help school system administrators fill open staff positions.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6493

Blended classrooms provide the best of traditional brick-and-mortar school programs with the use of online tools.
http://www.aasa.org/publications/saarticledetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6665

Blackboard Inc. has been awarded a patent for some of the basic features of online education software.
http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION/08/27/e.learning.dispute.ap/index.html

**Systemic Renewal**
This paper offers a different approach to high school improvement.
http://www.aspeninstitute.org/ atf/cf/%7BDEB6F227-659B-4EC8-8F84-8DF23CA704F5%7D/highschools.pdf

The State Education Reforms (SER) web site compiles and disseminates data on state-level education reform efforts. http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform

**Resources & Tools**
The Alliance's *Ten Elements of a Successful High School* offers tools and action items that students, parents, business leaders, elected officials and others can do to improve their high school. http://www.all4ed.org/whats_at_stake/elements.html

Almost 70% of American adults who say they are familiar with NCLB believe it has had no effect or is actually hurting public schools, according to *the 38th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools*.
http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpollpdf.htm

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu
Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, EDWeek, eSn, NCES, PEN Weekly, TLN Resources