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

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Top Stories  


The National Education Foundation will donate “cyber scholarships” to disadvantaged US public schools. [http://www.educationnews.org/writers/delia/Interview_with_Edward_Davis.htm](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](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/](http://www.parentrelocationcouncil.org/essay/)  


Policy Updates

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


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 literacy as 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.  

**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