

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Students With Disabilities](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Register for the 19th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM, "Tools, Techniques, and Strategies That Encourage Students to Graduate" February 18-21, 2007 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm> - efi

January is National Mentoring Month. The theme of the 2007 National Mentoring Month is "Pass It On. Mentor a Child."
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy2007/index.html>

Top Stories

How to Bring Our Schools Out of the 20th Century. Now educators are starting to look at what must be done to make sure our kids make the grade in the new global economy
<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1568429,00.html>

Healthier and Wealthier. A new issue brief finds that graduating every student from high school could save the United States more than \$17 billion in health care costs.
<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/HandW.pdf>

Funding Sources

The Gannett Foundation gives grants to organizations for projects that take a creative approach to fundamental issues. Eligibility: communities in which Gannett owns a daily newspaper or television station. Deadline: January 15, 2007.
<http://www.gannettfoundation.org/index.htm>

Tribal Youth Program (TYP) supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system for American Indian/Alaska Native youth. Deadline January 24, 2007.
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=64>

The National School and Business Partnerships Award recognizes exemplary partnerships between schools and businesses around the country. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Deadline: January 30, 2007.
<http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/award.shtml>

Schools in AL, SC, GA, NC, LA, MS, PA, DE, NJ, and MD are eligible for service-learning funds. Deadline: January 31, 2007
<http://www.igesl.org>

Policy Updates

School funding policies at the federal, state and district levels are shortchanging low-income and minority students who need the aid most and widening the achievement gap.
<http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/CDEF9403-5A75-437E-93FF-EBF1174181FB/0/FundingGap2006.pdf>

Twelve recommendations aimed at closing the achievement gap for the state's middle school students.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr06/yr06rel122.asp>

The Georgia Afterschool Report: *The Current State of Afterschool In Georgia - Building a Strong Foundation* unearths key issues that impact afterschool youth development opportunities.
<http://afterschoolga.org/OurWork/TheGeorgiaAfterschoolReport.aspx>

International Notes

Sending text or voice messages to parents' phones when students have unexplained absences has helped some schools in Scotland cut their truancy rates by as much as 27%.
<http://education.guardian.co.uk/pupilbehaviour/story/0,,1967679,00.html>

Half of the children in Afghanistan still do not go to school despite a 500 per cent increase in enrollments in the last six years.
http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingpapers/bp93_afghanistan_0611

In late 2005 Sullivan EurAsia, created a Transatlantic Schools Anti Bullying Initiative with the support of the UK and US Governments.
<http://www.sullivanantibullying.org>

Students With Disabilities

Five strategies to reduce overrepresentation of culturally and linguistically diverse students in special education.
<http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search&template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=1727>

More than 50% of learning disabled students are misclassified, states a Colorado Department of Education psychologist.
http://www.rockymountainnews.com/drmn/education/article/0,1299,DRMN_957_5157346,00.html

Parents and teachers differ sometimes over educating special-needs students.
<http://www.post-trib.com/news/165125,special.article>

Effective Strategies

Educational Technology

Six ed-tech trends to watch in 2007.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=6781>

A new device is helping to give a voice to autistic students. The device converts typed words into speech, and hopes to offer faster and easier communication to sufferers of autism.
<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/16228338.htm>

Family Engagement

Free online newsletter containing information for parents.
<http://www.greatschools.net/>

Community and Family Engagement: Principals Share What Works finds six keys that help school leaders engage families, staff, partners and the larger community in the life of the school.
<http://www.communityschools.org>

One third of the U.S. workforce are vulnerable to the stress caused by parental concern about afterschool time. *After-School Worries: Tough on Parents, Bad for Business* is available online.
<http://www.catalyst.org/files/full/PCAST%20report.pdf>

Safe School Environments

Poor building conditions are a serious threat to the health and academic performance of students. Read this American Federation of Teachers report "Building Minds and Minding Buildings" online.
<http://www.aft.org/topics/building-conditions/index.htm>

This edition of the National School Boards Association's *Leadership Insider* newsletter compiles viewpoints and resources about how school districts can address problems related to bullying.
<http://www.nsba.org/site/docs/39100/39055.pdf>

How Schools Can Help Students Recover from Traumatic Experiences: A Tool Kit for Supporting Long-Term Recovery and a companion Web tool.
http://web5.rand.org/trauma_recovery_toolkit/search.php

Resources & Tools

Dropout Rates in the United States: 2004 presents estimates of rates for 2004, and provides data about trends in dropout and completion rates over the last three decades (1972–2004).
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007024.pdf>

Crime, Violence, Discipline and Safety in U.S. Public Schools: Findings from the School Survey on Crime and Safety: 2003-04 provides information about crime and safety in U.S. public schools.
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007302rev.pdf>

Emerging Evidence on Improving High School Student Achievement and Graduation Rates: The Effects of Four Popular Improvement Programs
<http://www.betterhighschools.org/>

Tough Choices, Tough Times, a new report from the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce.
http://skillscommission.org/pdf/exec_sum/ToughChoices_EXECSUM.pdf

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announces the availability of *School-Based Partnerships: A Problem-Solving Strategy* (NCJ 216230) which is available online.
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=1920>

On Thursday, January 18, 2007, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (eastern time) OJJDP will present the videoconference "Addressing the Needs of Juvenile Status Offenders and Their Families." Registration is free at <http://www.trc.eku.edu/jj/default.asp>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu
Sources: All4Ed, ASCD Smartbrief, CEC SmartBrief, Coporation for National & Community Service, eSchool News, IES Newsflash, JuvJust, MiddleWeb, National High School Center, PEN Weekly, UCLA Mental Health Project