

Dropout Prevention Update
March 1, 2007- Volume 6, Number 9
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Submit your proposal today for the 19th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held in Louisville, KY, October 27-31, 2007. Call for Presenters Deadline: April 27, 2007.
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/2007_NDPN_Conf/Call_for_Presenters.pdf

Top Stories

On February 26, the Alliance for Excellent Education published updated state cards for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. These profiles provide a statistical snapshot of the status of high schools in each state.

http://www.all4ed.org/map_states.html

America's Perfect Storm: Three Forces Changing Our Nation's Future looks at the convergence of three powerful sociological and economical forces that are changing our nation's future.

http://www.ets.org/Media/Education_Topics/pdf/AmericasPerfectStorm.pdf

Funding Sources

Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Youth Programs from the Finance Project provides an overview of federal funds that may support youth programming.

http://www.financeproject.org/publications/findingfunding_PM.pdf

Staples Foundation for Learning Grants provides funding to programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

Deadline: April 6, 2007. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations.

<http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html>

The latest round of grants under the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program consists of about 60 new grants of up to \$100,000 each. Deadline: April 17, 2007.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2007/6-million-in-drug-free.html>

The 2007 AT&T Excelsior grant program will provide \$9 million in technology grants to help local nonprofit organizations integrate technology into their operations and community outreach.

Deadline: May 4, 2007.

<http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7745>

Policy Updates

The Commission on No Child Left Behind has released its highly anticipated final report, *Beyond NCLB*. The report outlines specific and actionable recommendations for improving NCLB and establishing a high-achieving education system.

http://www.aspeninstitute.org/atf/cf/%7BDEB6F227-659B-4EC8-8F84-8DF23CA704F5%7D/NCLB_Book.pdf

Congressional leaders have reached an agreement on the 2007 budget. The \$463.5 billion spending package includes more than \$1 billion in increases for education.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6818>

International Notes

UNICEF has just released a report on the well-being of children and young people in the world's advanced economies. The report shows that although the needs of most young people are being met, each country has weaknesses that should be addressed.

<http://ga1.org/ct/Apw8-wE17Qv0/>

The South Korean government is running an online pilot program that lets students pick their homeroom teacher and evaluate other teachers.

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/nation/200702/kt2007022318424311960.htm>

Students With Disabilities

Congress says it will try to rewrite parts of the No Child Left Behind law to allow more flexibility for special education students and immigrants.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/02/10/national/w181105S84.DTL>

New Jersey educators and advocates worry that as more children with disabilities move into mainstream, many general-ed teachers lack the training they need to support such youngsters.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2NSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXI5NzAzNTg0MiZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTQ=>

Students band together to put on winter carnival—a special-education cooperative that works across several Illinois school districts and tries to foster understanding by integrating its students with the general student population in physical education classes.

<http://www.dailysouthtown.com/news/239961.023NWS3.article>

Effective Strategies

Family Engagement

Beyond the Bakesale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships reveals how to build strong collaborative relationships and offers practical advice for improving interactions between parents and teachers. You can read excerpts at:

<http://www.ncpie.org/>

The New Mexico Public Education Department has created, *Working Together: School-Family-Community Partnerships, A Toolkit for New Mexico School Communities* to assist educators and education partners with information, resources, and strategies to help strengthen parent and community involvement.

http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/rural_ed/toolkit/toolkit.htm

Systemic Renewal

The report from Education Sector, *On the Clock*, examines both the educational and political dimensions of time reform.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/OntheClock.pdf

Legislation in Need of Improvement: Reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act to Better Address Barriers to Learning raises concerns about what has not been on the agenda for NCLB—a discussion of the need for a systematic focus on learning supports to address barriers to learning and teaching.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/nclbra.pdf>

Resources & Tools

The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools

shows if the dropouts from the class of 2005-2006 had instead earned their diplomas, the nation's economy would have benefited from an additional \$309 billion in income over their lifetimes.
<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/HighCost.pdf>

The 2005 High School Transcript Study presents information about the types of courses 2005 high school graduates took during high school, how many credits they earned, and the grades they received.
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/studies/2007467.pdf>

The 2005 Grade 12 Mathematics and Reading Assessment presents results of the 2005 NAEP in reading and mathematics at grade 12.
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2005/2007468.pdf>

Listening to the Voices and Aspirations of Disconnected Youth is the result of frank discussions with youth about America's current dropout situation.
http://ga1.org/ct/vdw8-wE1gQc_ />http://www.ydrf.com/listening.html

Washington Youth Voice Handbook, the first introductory guide to Youth Voice, shares what, why, who, when, where, and how Youth Voice happens throughout our communities.
<http://www.commonaction.org/WYVH.pdf>

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu.

Sources: ASCD SmartBrief, AYPF e-Bulletin, CEC SmartBrief, ECS, e-School News, School Mental Health Project, Straight A's, Youth Service America