

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Online registration for the 19th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held in Louisville, KY, October 27-31, 2007 will be available May 1, 2007. Deadline for the Call for Presenters has been extended until May 18, 2007.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpcdefault.htm>

Top Stories

Anne Henderson testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions NCLB reauthorization about Effective Strategies for Engaging Parents and Communities in Schools.

<http://www.ncpie.org/docs/Henderson.Testimony.Senate.March2007.pdf>

The Issue Brief from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) indicates that high school dropouts earn fewer credits than do on-time graduates within each academic year, and the gap in course credits accrued between dropouts and on-time graduates increased across academic years.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007018.pdf>

Video

See and hear Dr. Jay Smink, Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network give an overview of the 15 Effective Strategies in dropout prevention.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/effstrat/default.htm>

Funding Sources

Grants of up to \$500,000 for emergency readiness from the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant competition supports efforts by local educational agencies to improve and strengthen school emergency management plans.

Deadline: May 21, 2007

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/erc/funding/oppes.cfm#1755>

The History Channel offers grants to fund hands-on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. Elementary, middle, and high school teachers are eligible to apply. Maximum Award: \$250,000. Deadline: June 1.

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=51650&display_order=3&mini_id=51103

Mattel Children's Foundation Grants program awards organizations that focus on the direct service of children from birth to 12 years. Organizations or programs must show creative and/or innovative methods to address locally defined needs directly impacting children. Maximum Award: \$20,000. Deadline: June 15, 2007.

http://www.mattel.com/about_us/philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_grantmaking.asp

Thinking broadly: Financing Strategies for Youth Programs presents a typology of approaches for financing youth programs.

http://financeproject.org/publications/thinkingbroadly_PM.pdf

Policy Updates

The Council of Chief State School Officers has released its latest in a biennial series of reports on

Key State Education Policies. The report examines policies on teacher preparation and certification, high school graduation requirements, student assessment programs, school time and student attendance.

<http://www.ecs.org/00CN3410>

Kids Share 2007 reports on trends in federal spending on children from 1960 to 2017, looking across over 100 major federal programs, including tax credits and exemptions.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411432_Kids_Share_2007.pdf

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) announces the release of the Education Leadership Policy Toolkit, a comprehensive online toolkit that provides information on effective education leadership policies and practices.

<http://www.ecs.org/metlifetoolkit>

International Notes

Although unemployment remains low, many young people in Britain are not employed or in school. So called "neets" young people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training are wasting their talents due to the system's lack of vocational training or apprenticeships.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/further/opinion/story/0,,2063687,00.html>

Students in Japan took their first national standardized test in 43 years this week, with around 2.3 million children tested simultaneously. The math and language tests are intended to improve reading comprehension and writing ability; individual school and community test scores will not be publicly released.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070425TDY01003.htm>

Students With Disabilities

Timing and Duration of Student Participation in Special Education in the Primary Grades reports the timing of entry into special education and the number of grades in which students receive special education across the primary grades.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007043.pdf>

Students with ADD are staying organized with PDAs, ear alarms, noise-canceling headphones, and vibrating watches. "Use what works for you," advises Brad Levitt, an Idaho psychologist who works with ADD students and adults.

<http://media.www.arbiteronline.com/media/storage/paper890/news/2007/04/19/Biztech/Technology.Helps.Students.Pay.Attention-2850860.shtml>

Effective Strategies

Safe Learning Environments

The American Academy of Pediatrics has assembled a collection of resources on violence prevention, school safety, and promoting mental health.

<http://www.aap.org/featured/resourcepage.htm>

Deprived of Dignity: A report by NESRI shows that middle and high school students in New York City and Los Angeles are frequently ignored and mistreated in their classrooms, and subjected to harsh discipline policies that punish, exclude and criminalize them.

http://www.nesri.org/programs/Deprived_of_Dignity_07.pdf

The Department of Health and Human Services' National Institute on Drug Abuse has released a second edition of *Preventing Drug Use among Children and Adolescents: A Research-Based Guide for Parents, Educators, and Community Leaders.*

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/pdf/prevention/RedBook.pdf>

Educational Technology

School buses and other vehicles are being equipped with wireless Internet access in an emerging trend that has enormous implications for students.

<http://www.eschoolnews.org/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=7026>

Digital Decade, a special state-focused online supplement to *Technology Counts 2007*, includes the new *State Technology Report* which assembles key findings where users can examine a particular state's performance on this year's indicators.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2007/03/29/index.html>

Grow professionally while you walk your dog! Download the podcast series called *Best Practices: Staff Development on the Go* that is available to anyone with a Web browser.

<http://snipurl.com/PDpodcasts>

Resources & Tools

The Gap Defined: ACT Report Cites Poor State Standards and Assessments as Possible Reason for Gap Between Postsecondary Expectations and High School Practice

<http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/NationalCurriculumSurvey2006.pdf>

Check out what the "The Merrow Report" has to offer in its mission to encourage and enrich public dialogue about education, youth, and families, and to expand learning opportunities for youth. Video and audio programs available.

<http://www.pbs.org/merrow/tv/all.html>

Achieving with Data: How high-performing school systems use data to improve instruction for elementary students.

<http://www.newschools.org/viewpoints/AchievingWithData.pdf>

Project U-Turn Report: Turn It Around: A Collective Effort to Understand and Resolve Philadelphia's Dropout Crisis.

http://www.projectturn.net/downloads/pdf/Turning_it_around_Project_U-Turn.pdf

Closing the Expectations Gap 2007 found that states have made far less progress in aligning their high school tests with the demands of work and college, or in holding high schools accountable for whether students graduate "college ready."

http://www.achieve.org/files/50StateReport-Final_0.pdf

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

Sources: ASCD SmartBrief, AYPF e-Bulletin, CEC SmartBrief, ECS, Education Innovator, Edutopia, eNews, eSchool News, IES Newsflash, JUV/JUST, MiddleWeb, NCPIE, PEN Weekly, Straight A's.