

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

Registration now open for the National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, October 27-31, 2007!

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2007_Conf

Top Stories

A powerful online database, the 18th annual *Kids Count 2007 Data Book*, which is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S., has just been released.

<http://www.kidscount.org/sld/databook.jsp>

A new Web site, Business Tools for Better Schools, focuses on partnerships that promote college and work readiness, competency in STEM disciplines and data-driven education.

<http://www.biztools4schools.org/>

Video

"When I Grow Up," from the Teacher Tube Web site.

http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=499e50248a3a78f7acfc

Funding Sources

The U.S. Department of Education has announced grant funding for *Ready for College: Adult Education Transitions Program*, CFDA 84.191A. Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: August 6, 2007. Application Deadline: Aug 27, 2007

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=14981>

The Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America, through Disney Minnie Grants, are supporting youth-led service projects that are planned and implemented in communities.

Maximum Award: \$500. Deadline: August 30, 2007.

www.YSA.org/awards

NEA Foundation Learning & Leadership Grants provide funds for professional development activities. Maximum Award: \$5,000. Eligibility: public school teachers grades K-12; public school education support professionals; or faculty and staff at public higher education institutions. Deadline: October 15, 2007.

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

Policy Updates

In Need of Improvement: NCLB & High Schools calls on Congress to take the opportunity during the reauthorization of the law to build on the ideals of "no child left behind" and pass legislation that will lead the nation toward "every child a graduate."

http://www.all4ed.org/publications/NCLB_HighSchools.pdf

Choices, Changes, and Challenges: Curriculum and Instruction in the NCLB Era. This new report shows that U.S. students are spending more time on math and reading and less on other subjects, an apparent consequence of No Child Left Behind.

<http://www.cep-dc.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentid=212&documentFormatId=3551>

An Illinois state law will revoke the drivers' licenses of students who have more than 18 unexcused absences from school, are expelled, or drop out. Under the law, teenagers under age 18 are required to attend school to get their licenses or learner's permits. If they don't, their licenses could be revoked until they are 18.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-truantdrivers_bd22jul22.1.601693.story?coll=chi_tab01_layout&ctrack=1&cset=true

International Notes

Hiring more male teachers in the U.K. and using boy-friendly teaching styles to help boys catch up to girls in school is too "simplistic" and may backfire, a new Department for Children, Schools and Families report says.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/6276568.stm

Australian parents take court action on education, saying their disabled children are being neglected in schools.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/parents-take-court-action-on-education/2007/07/24/1185043115570.html>

Students With Disabilities

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has just released the Issue Brief *Demographic and School Characteristics of Students Receiving Special Education in the Elementary Grades*.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007005.pdf>

Cognitive scores vary as much within test takers as between age groups making testing less valid.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/07/070702084329.htm>

Nonprofit organization gives adults with disabilities a chance to earn living wage.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/08/business/yourmoney/08homefront.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Effective Strategies

School-Community Collaboration

Community/School Partnerships: A National Survey shows the results of the survey of district and school leaders on their work with community partners, including information on current practices along with rankings of current and prospective partners.

http://www.dehavillandassociates.com/DeHavilland_PartnershipReport_0207.pdf

Core Principles for Engaging Young People in Community Change. The Forum for Youth Investment has released a new report on how to effectively engage young people as partners in community change.

http://www.forumfyi.org/Files/FINALYouth_Engagement_7.9.pdf

Beyond City Limits: Cross-System Collaboration to Reengage Disconnected Youth. This National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families report has eight case studies exploring how city leaders can launch collaborative efforts among city, school, county, and state agencies – and what makes them work in the end.

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=xabkmccab.0.y5ptnccab.4aek4xbab.5626&ts=S0258&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nlc.org%2FASSETS%2F986F4B75DF524770A398BF1459940D57%2F07_YEF_CaseStudies.pdf

Early Literacy Development

Federal Support for Adolescent Literacy: A Solid Investment is a new publication that finds strong evidence to justify a major new federal effort to support adolescent literacy.

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/FedAdLit.pdf>

Effective Literacy and English Language Instruction for English Learners in the Elementary Grades addresses the challenge of providing effective literacy instruction for English learners in the elementary grades.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pdf/20074011.pdf>

Literacy Behind Bars: Results From the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Prison Survey.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007473.pdf>

Family Engagement

Reaching Out to Diverse Populations: What Can Schools Do to Foster Family-School Connections? This strategy brief from the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) helps answer this question and includes strategies schools can use to promote involvement of families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

<http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/rb/rb5-diverse.pdf>

The Harvard Family Research Project is wrapping up a series of reports with a publication focusing on family involvement in middle and high school, *Family Involvement in Middle and High School Students' Education.*

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/content/projects/fine/resources/research/adolescent.pdf>

Resources & Tools

America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007 addresses such topics as family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health.

<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp>

Building Partnerships for Youth conducted an extensive literature review, resulting in a framework that includes the 21 essential elements of youth development.

<http://cals-cf.calsnet.arizona.edu/fcs/content.cfm?content=elementsDefined>

Managing the Transition to Ninth Grade in a Comprehensive Urban High School.

http://www.betterhighschools.org/docs/NHSC_Snapshot_EdisonAcademy_000.pdf

Retooling Career and Technical Education provides states with strategies to reorient career technical programs towards high-wage/high-skill industries.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0706TECHED.PDF>

Demilitarizing What the Pentagon Knows About Developing Young People: A New Paradigm for Educating Students Who are Struggling in School and in Life.

<http://www3.brookings.edu/views/papers/price200705.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, IES Newsflash, JuvJust, MiddleWeb, National Service Brief, NSTTAC Notes, PEN Weekly, Straight A's.