

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Registration now open for the National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held in Louisville, KY, October 27-31, 2007, as well as the upcoming Effective Strategies Institute to be held in Daytona Beach, FL, January 15-18, 2008!

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

Top Stories

Convenient access to all National Center for Education Statistics Digests since the 1995 edition.

<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>

Produced with the generous support of a grant from the GE Fund, the new ECS Progress of Education Reform on Dropout Prevention summarizes the findings of five recent studies.

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/75/33/7533.pdf>

The 39th Annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools has just been released.

http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k_v89/k0709pi.pdf

Video

Many innovative school programs integrate social and emotional learning with more traditional academic areas, providing students with skills they'll need throughout their adult lives. <http://www.edutopia.org/emotional-intelligence-overview>

Funding Sources

OJJDP and YSA announce YouthPower grants of up to \$1,000 to support youth-led service projects. These grants support youth in foster care (ages 5-18) and youth who have recently transitioned out of foster care (ages 19-25) in planning and implementing service projects in their communities. Deadline: October 1, 2007

<http://www.YSA.org/awards>

Dollar General Accepting Applications for Youth Literacy Grant Program. Financial support will be provided to schools, public libraries, and nonprofits within twenty miles of a Dollar General store to implement or expand literacy programs for beginning, below grade-level, or learning-disabled readers. Deadline: October 5, 2007.

<http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/communityinvestments.aspx?Category=Community&SubCategory=Grant%20Programs#YouthLiteracy>

[CarMax Foundation Invites Applications for National Grant Program](#). Funding will be awarded to U.S. nonprofits working to improve auto safety for children and technical training for a more competitive domestic automotive workforce. Applicant programs should either: address and improve auto safety for children and families; or build a competitive workforce through technical training. Deadline: November 15, 2007

<http://www.carmax.com/dyn/cfc/cfcgrants.aspx>

Policy Updates

Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine has announced details of his Start Strong pre-kindergarten proposal. The initiative will build on the existing network of public and private providers, removing barriers to access such as geography and family income, potentially serving an additional 17,000 at-risk 4-year-olds by 2012.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=479>

Gauging Growth: How to Judge No Child Left Behind? Test-score gains in 12 studied U.S. states have slowed, and progress in closing racial achievement gaps in reading has effectively ground to a halt since the enactment of NCLB, according to a new study.

http://www.aera.net/uploadedFiles/Publications/Journals/Educational_Researcher/3605/07EDR07_268-278.pdf

Left Behind By Design: Proficiency Counts and Test-Based Accountability a new University of Chicago study lends some empirical support to the common perception that schools are focusing on students in the middle -- the so-called "bubble kids." http://www.aei.org/docLib/20070716_NealSchanzenbachPaper.pdf

International Notes

A newly released EFA (Education for All) Global Monitoring Report 2007 features early childhood care and education. Find out why early childhood care and education is so important to achieving EFA.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001477/147794E.pdf>

In London, the Step Forward team was given the task of encouraging 16-19 year olds from Islington, who were not employed or engaged with any kind of education to attend College three days a week.

<http://www.candi.ac.uk/about/news/2007/100707stepforward.asp>

Students With Disabilities

Standards-Based Individualized Education Program Examples presents a seven-step process.

<http://www.projectforum.org/docs/Standards-BasedIEPEexamples.pdf>

Playing in the PARC: Inclusive Service Learning Manual. This manual contains templates, training materials, and research citations for planning and implementing inclusive service-learning projects. There is a discussion of exemplary practices and challenges in different phases of the service-learning process: Preparation, Action, Reflection and Celebration (PARC) <http://ddpc.state.ny.us/publications/ServiceLearningManual.pdf>

The August 13, 2007, What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) topic review focuses on reading interventions for students in kindergarten through grade 3. A table is included outlining the effectiveness ratings for 24 beginning reading intervention programs in four domains: alphabets, reading fluency, comprehension, and general reading achievement. Reading Recovery®, which federal officials have criticized for a lack of scientific evidence, was the only program found to have significant research backing its effectiveness in all four tested areas.

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

Three School Improvement Mistakes and How to Avoid Them- from the latest issue of *Changing Schools*.

http://www.mcrel.org/pdf/changingschools/9503NL_07_CS55_02_school_improvement_mistakes.pdf

Ensuring that every child becomes proficient and beyond will require the support and active engagement of organizations and agencies outside of schools as well.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/08/01/44rothman.h26.html>

Mentoring/Tutoring

Public/Private Ventures has just released the long awaited school-based mentoring impact study, *Making a Difference in Schools: The Big Brothers Big Sisters School-Based Mentoring Impact Study*.

http://www.ppv.org/ppv/youth/youth_publications.asp?section_id=7#pub220

After-School Opportunities

This brief of the Harvard Family Research Project identifies the features of high-quality afterschool settings.

<http://www.researchconnections.org/SendPdf?resourceId=12576>

Educational Technology

Today's learners are digital learners. This video will expand your thinking!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEFKfXiCbLw&mode=related&search>

Resources & Tools

Self-assessment tool measures schools' safety plans. A new online survey, a companion to CDW-G's School Safety Index, gives school leaders a benchmark that they can use in comparing their physical and IT security plans with those of other schools or districts across the country. <http://www.schoolsafetyindex.com/>

Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam has found that the greater the diversity in a community, there are fewer people who vote, people volunteer less, they give less to charity, and work less on community projects.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/08/05/news/diversity.php>

Here are some of the best 2007-08 resources found for teachers just launching their careers -- or teaching middle school for the first time. <http://snipurl.com/NewTeacherResources>

To Teach or Not to Teach? Teaching Experience and Preparation Among 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients 10 Years After College. Released July 31, this [report](#) profiles 1992-93 bachelor's degree recipients' experience with K-12 teaching in the subsequent 10 years, as well as their preparation for teaching.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007163.pdf>

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update.

Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu.

Sources: Philanthropy News Digest, ASCD SmartBrief, eSchools News, National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, National Center for Education Statistics, UNESCO. PEN Weekly NewsBlast, LEARNS, OJJDP News, MiddleWeb, National Service Briefing, ECS, PDK