

Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2007- Volume 7, Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Registration now open for the 19th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held in Louisville, KY, October 27-31, 2007, and the 2008 Effective Strategies Institute to be held in Daytona Beach, FL, January 15-18, 2008!

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

Top Stories

The 2007 NAEP Math and Reading Assessments have just been released.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

Measuring Youth Program Quality: A Guide to Assessment Tools discusses and compares nine tools for assessing the quality of youth programs.

http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//Measuring_Youth_Program_Quality.pdf

Video

Hear what America's Promise Alliance Chair Alma Powell has to say about the "100 Best Communities for Young People" competition.

<http://www.americaspromise.org/APAPage.aspx?id=8532>

Funding Sources

The Alliance for Nonprofit Management is currently seeking nominations for the 2008 Terry McAdam Book Award, recognizing the best contributions to nonprofit management literature. New titles published in 2006 and 2007 are eligible for nomination. Deadline: October 31, 2007

<http://www.allianceonline.org/mcadam.page>

AT&T Foundation announces wireless technology equipment grants of up to \$25,000 to be awarded to U.S. nonprofits and government agencies working to enhance the delivery of education through wireless technology for underserved youth and adults in life-long learning. Fifty-one percent or more of the project must target underserved populations, including racial and ethnic groups, low-income populations, seniors, youth, and/or people with disabilities. Deadline: October 19, 2007.

<http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=10582>

Policy Updates

The Commissioner in the Colorado Department of Education announced the launch of "Forward Thinking," the new plan to increase the graduation rate and close the achievement gap in Colorado schools

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/download/PDF/ForwardThinking.pdf>

The federal law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), is using the wrong measuring stick to identify failing schools, says Harvard University's Paul E. Peterson in the new issue of *Education Next*.

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/9223496.html>

International Notes

This evaluation from Scotland looks at Restorative Practices (RP), as they are developing in the pilot sites, which promote harmonious relationships in school leading to the successful resolution of conflict and harm.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/196078/0052553.pdf>

New research from the United Kingdom purports to show that classes in which students of varying abilities are mixed lead to better educational outcomes.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/09/070915104849.htm>

Students with Disabilities

Children treated with ADHD medication have greater long-term school success than those who are not treated, according to an 18-year Mayo Clinic study.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/09/070918144259.htm>

Some common food colorings and preservatives appear to increase the risk of hyperactive behavior among children, British researchers report.

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_54513.html

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

Proactive Culturally Responsive Discipline Exemplar presents how one urban middle school in Phoenix, AZ, incorporates proactive discipline into everyday practices of the school community.

http://www.nccrest.org/Exemplars/exemplar_culturally_responsive_discipline.pdf?v_document_name=culturally%20responsive%20discipline

Teach for America's impact goes beyond finding teachers for our toughest schools.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/09/12/03salmonowicz.h27.html?tmp=2036594181>

What Schools Can Do to Welcome and Meet the Needs of All Students and Families.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/WELMEET/welmeetcomplete.pdf>

Safe Learning Environments

A new NCES report, *Public School Practices for Violence-Prevention and Reduction: 2003-2004*, examines principals' reports of the prevalence of formal practices in public schools designed to prevent or reduce school violence and describes the distribution of these practices by selected school characteristics. The analysis is based on school-level data reported by principals participating in the school year 2003–04 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS) administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007010.pdf>

This Issue of *Service-Learning NETWORK* offers methods and materials to help schools deal with school violence by introducing this critical problem into the education agenda.

http://www.crf-usa.org/network/network13_1/

Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence announces the latest issue of their newsletter.

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/Publications/News>

Resources & Tools

The National Youth Leadership Council's publication, *The Generator*, is now available ten times a year, online. Check out the first issue.

http://www.nylc.org/rc_downloadfile.cfm?emoid=14:718&property=download&mode=download

Teens exposed to secondhand smoke at home may be 30% less likely to pass standardized achievement tests, according to a new Temple University study.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/09/070920072058.htm>

Some 3.4 million high-achieving children from disadvantaged backgrounds are falling behind, according to a new study by Civic Enterprises and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.
http://www.jackkentcookefoundation.org/jkcf_web/Documents/Achievement%20Trap.pdf

Prevention Education in America's Schools: Findings and Recommendations from a Survey of Educators.

<http://www.jointogether.org/jump.jsp?path=/aboutus/ourpublications/pdf/prevention-report.pdf>

Feedback

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

Sources: ECS, Alliance For Education, National Youth Leadership Council, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, CEC SmartBrief, JUVJUST, Philanthropy News Digest, IES Newsflash.