

Dropout Prevention Update
November 1, 2007- Volume 7, Number 5
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 2008 Effective Strategies Institute to be held in Daytona Beach, FL, January 15-18, 2008, and the 20th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM to be held in Myrtle Beach, SC, February 17-20, 2008!

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

Top Stories

One in 10 U.S. High Schools are "Dropout Factories." The highest concentration of dropout factories is in large cities or high-poverty rural areas in the South and Southwest, study finds.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/10/29/10dropouts_web.h27.html

New practice guides have been released by IES, and can be found at

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/practiceguides/>

Video

Meet the editor of the International Journal on School Disaffection, Reva Klein. She recently attended the International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education in Brussels.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/SLTE/Klein.mov>

Funding Sources

The 2007 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education raise awareness of the growing importance of international knowledge and skills for U.S. students. Eligibility: Any public or private elementary, middle, or high school with a clear focus on raising American awareness of the world and bridging the international knowledge gap. Maximum Award: \$25,000. Deadline: December 3, 2007.

<http://www.internationaleled.org/prizes/>

General Mills Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that create sustainable community improvement in the areas of social services, education, arts and culture, and youth nutrition and fitness. Eligible applicants are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations. No deadline.

<http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/foundation.aspx>

The Scholastic Lexus Environmental Challenge program is designed to educate and empower students to take action to improve the environment. Maximum Award: \$75,000. Eligibility: students in grades 6-12 and their teachers. Deadline: varies.

<http://www.scholastic.com/lexus>

Policy Updates

In Connecticut, Governor M. Jodi Rell signed into law a bill requiring students in the 4th or 5th grade to take part in a program of participatory democracy.

<http://www.ecs.org/00CM1014>

Read Educational Engagement: A Successful Strategy for Academic and Civic Achievement and Success to learn about research showing student engagement's benefits and implications for policymakers to consider.

<http://www.ecs.org/00CM1020>

International Notes

In support of its efforts to achieve global literacy, UNESCO has launched its new Literacy Portal. The Portal consolidates UNESCO's literacy program and serves as a gateway to sharing information on projects and activities all around the world.

http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=54606&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

The International Observatory on Academic Achievement (IOAA) was recently opened at Université Laval (Québec, Canada). The IOAA ensures a scientific documentary watch in French and English on several academic achievement topics including behavioural problems, educational inequalities, educational policy analysis, school dropouts and school-family-community partnership.

http://www.crires-oirs.ulaval.ca/sgc/lang/en_CA/pid/5495

Students with Disabilities

Special ed is drawn into exam debate: parents, advocates split over requiring students to pass tests to graduate

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.special22oct22_0_3975983.story

A new [Autism Speaks Web site](http://www.autismspeaks.org/video/glossary.php) aims to help parents spot early behaviors considered red flags for autism and check with their pediatricians in time for early interventions.

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/video/glossary.php>

Effective Strategies

Early Childhood Education

Study of the Abbott Preschool Program demonstrate high-quality early learning programs can prepare children for academic achievement.

<http://nieer.org/resources/research/APPLES.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse recently reviewed 17 early childhood interventions (curricula and practices) aimed at children three to five years old in center-based settings.

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

Preschool: First Findings From the Third Follow-up of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) is the first report produced using data from the third wave of the ECLS-B, a study of a nationally representative sample of children born in the year 2001. This newly released report provides a range of information about the birth cohort when the children were about 4 years old.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008025.pdf>

Professional Development

Mentoring programs for beginning educators: When investments are made in high-quality support programs for new educators, there are significant gains for teachers, schools, and students, according to a new study by the New Teacher Center (NTC).

http://www.newteachercenter.org/pdfs/Spectrum_Villar-Strong.pdf

Involving youth in the decision-making processes of a community has a powerful effect on both youth and community. Learn how to do this successfully in Building Effective Youth Councils, from the Forum for Youth Investment.

http://www.forumfyi.org/Files/FINAL_Youth_Councils_8.24pdf.pdf

The publisher of Education Week has launched a new resource guide on teacher professional development. The inaugural issue of the Teacher Professional Development Sourcebook, focusing on the expanding role of teacher collaborative work, is now available free online.

<http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/toc/2007/10/25/index.html>

Alternative Schooling

North Carolina is launching a new in-school online program that will allow participants to spend five years in high school and leave with both their diploma and an associate degree to better meet the needs of potential employers.

<http://www.nclearnandearn.gov/>

Setting the Stage for New High Schools. This report examines how alternatives to traditional high schools serve as dropout prevention and recovery strategies, and help promote college and career success.

http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/8D1C9C4738C7419DAE8060B73828827D/IYEF_Setting_the_Stage.pdf

Resources & Tools

Middle school students put "caring teachers" at the top of their lists of most-important aspects of school in a recent poll of 1,800 middle level students. The survey of students covered topics about teachers, schools, fellow students, and plans for the future. The report provides valuable information from the students' perspectives.

<http://www.principals.org/pl1007kinney>

Full report: <http://www.principals.org/msreport>

"A Day in the Life of American Adolescents: Substance Abuse Facts."

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/youthFacts/youth.htm>

Measuring the Competitive Effect of Charter Schools on Student Achievement in Ohio's Traditional Public Schools. 2007, by Matthew Carr and Gary Ritter.

<http://www.ncspe.org/list-papers.php>

Feedback

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

Sources: Daily SMARTS, ECS, Education Week, Native Headline News, MiddleWeb.com, IES Newsflash, Teacher Magazine, Preschool Matters, PEN Weekly Newsblast, OJJDP, Citizenship Matters, AYPF, SmartBrief.