

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**December 1, 2007- Volume 7, Number 6**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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There's still time to register for the 2008 Effective Strategies Institute to be held in Daytona Beach, FL, January 15-18, 2008, and for 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](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2007_Conf)

## **Top Stories**

The National Center for Education Statistics in the Institute of Education Sciences has published a new report summarizing the performance of U.S. fourth-grade students on the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2006 assessment, comparing their scores with their peers internationally. On average, U.S. fourth-graders scored higher than their peers worldwide, with average scores higher than the PIRLS scale average (540 vs. 500), and a greater percentage of U.S. students reaching each achievement benchmark compared to the international median percentage.

Summary: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008017>

Full Report: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008017.pdf>

## **Video**

Two versions (US and UK) of this video highlight the incredible changes taking place in our world, and the inherent challenges for educating young people.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljbl-363A2Q>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeoKQbT8BKs>

## **Sound Connections**

Dr. Jay Smink, Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is interviewed on this podcast.

[http://www.plato.com/~media/Podcasts/20071108\\_DropoutPrevention\\_JaySmink\\_1%20mp3.ashx](http://www.plato.com/~media/Podcasts/20071108_DropoutPrevention_JaySmink_1%20mp3.ashx)

Robert Balfanz, Bob Wise, and Bill Milliken discuss the report on “dropout factories” on the Diane Rehm Show, “Dropout Trends in U. S. High Schools.”

<http://wamu.org/programs/dr/07/11/07.php#18269>

A new study may explain why about half the children diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) seem to grow out of it by the time they're in their 20s.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=16227385>

## **Funding Sources**

The Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) program awards grants to promote academic achievement through the creation or expansion of small, safe, and successful learning environments in large public high schools. Office of Elementary and Secondary Education/Department of Education.

Deadline: February 25, 2008.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-22957.htm>

City officials are encouraged to apply for a new technical assistance initiative sponsored by the YEF Institute with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation on building strong citywide

afterschool systems.

Deadline: January 18, 2008.

[http://nlc.staging.10floor.com/ASSETS/BEF64A0CF2AD4B7FA982E6E57FA64626/IYEF\\_Afterschool\\_RFP\\_1107.pdf](http://nlc.staging.10floor.com/ASSETS/BEF64A0CF2AD4B7FA982E6E57FA64626/IYEF_Afterschool_RFP_1107.pdf)

The GenevaLogic provides programs and grants to provide educators with resources and technology products to advance education. Maximum Award: \$10,000 value. Eligibility: accredited, not-for-profit K-12 schools and community colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

Deadline: December 28, 2007.

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

Enter this global competition to find the most innovative approaches to supporting a generation of young men in realizing their highest potential, presented by Ashoka's Changemakers in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Deadline: January 23, 2008, 6:00 pm EST.

<http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/competition/men>

## Policy Updates

*States' Evidence: What It Means to Make "Adequate Yearly Progress" Under NCLB.*

[http://www.educationsector.org/usr\\_doc/EXPAYP.pdf](http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/EXPAYP.pdf)

The Texas Legislature requires districts with a high dropout rate to develop a dropout prevention strategy plan.

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/commissioner/adopted/1107/89-1701-ltradopt.html>

## International Notes

The British House Commons education committee issued a report warning that creativity in curriculum has become a second-order priority in England's schools.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/education/7069614.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/7069614.stm)

OJJDP Helps U.K. Launch Europe's First Peer Panel.

[http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news\\_at\\_glance/219940/sf\\_2.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news_at_glance/219940/sf_2.html)

## Students with Disabilities

*Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities: Synthesis of the NCEO Document* is an In-Brief Policy Analysis and is based on a study on state graduation rates.

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

The National Center on Educational Outcomes has published a technical report, *A Summary of the Research on the Effects of Test Accommodations: 2005-2006*.

<http://cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/Tech47/default.html>

## Effective Strategies

### Family Engagement

A report from Kentucky sets a state standard for family and community involvement focused on improving student achievement. The report, *The Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle*, contains six standards-based objectives, a sweeping set of recommendations, and a comprehensive rubric.

<http://www.education.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/45597738-F31B-4333-9BB9-34255F02BC6D/0/PACtheMissingPiecev2.pdf>

As schools endeavor to enhance parent and home involvement in schools, it is clear that a broader perspective and new directions are needed. *Parent and Home Involvement in Schools* (an introductory packet) is a new resource.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/parenthome/parent1.pdf>

In the ETS Policy Information Center's new report, *The Family: America's Smallest School*, ETS researchers outline the family and home conditions affecting children's cognitive development and school achievement and how gaps beginning early persist throughout life.

[http://www.ets.org/Media/Education\\_Topics/pdf/5678\\_PERCReport\\_School.pdf](http://www.ets.org/Media/Education_Topics/pdf/5678_PERCReport_School.pdf)

### **Systemic Renewal**

*America's Challenge: Effective Teachers for At-Risk Schools and Students*, from the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality.

<http://www.ncctq.org/publications/NCCTQBiennialReport.pdf>

A publication emphasizing evidence-based practices in program implementation is now available from Child Trends. Includes core strategies on how properly to implement proven programs.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2007\\_10\\_01\\_RB\\_6SuccessDrivers.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2007_10_01_RB_6SuccessDrivers.pdf)

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is pleased to offer *Route 21*, a one-stop-shop on the Web for 21st century skills-related information, resources, and community tools.

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21/>

### **Service Learning**

The Family Strengthening Policy Center of the National Human Services Assembly has published a policy brief on the benefits of service-learning for youth, families, employers, and communities as a whole.

<http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/documents/Brief21.pdf>

According to a research brief from the West Virginia-based Education Alliance, adopting positive youth development models has a beneficial impact on youths.

<http://www.educationalalliance.org/teadmin/attachments/PYDResearch.pdf>

### **Resources & Tools**

*Understanding NAEP: Inside the Nation's Education Report Card.*

[http://www.educationsector.org/usr\\_doc/EXPNAEP.pdf](http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/EXPNAEP.pdf)

For years educators and policymakers have focused on how to teach young children to read and write well, but now the spotlight is turning to older students who struggle.

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

According to a policy brief from the Action Alliance for Children, there has been a consensus among early childhood professionals that play should be a vital part of any high-quality early education program.

<http://www.4children.org/pdf/play07.pdf>

### **Feedback**

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

Sources: RTC Updates, Pen Weekly NewsBlast, MiddleWeb, Join Together, National League of Cities E-Newsletter, American Youth Policy Forum, SC-ETV, NCPIE, IES Newsflash.