

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Register today for the Summer Institute on Service-Learning! Come for this wonderful professional development experience at Clemson University June 23-25, 2008.
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm>

Top Stories

Cities in Crisis, a new report released by America's Promise Alliance, finds that America's largest cities are struggling to keep students in school.

http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout_Crisis/SWANSONCitiesInCrisis040108.pdf

Service-learning emerges as an essential tool in fighting high school dropout. New research from teacher focus groups and a nationally representative survey of high-school students show that service-learning can address most of the educational factors that lead students to drop out of high school. This report, *Engaged for Success*, is a follow-up to *The Silent Epidemic*.

<http://www.civicenterprises.net/pdfs/service-learning.pdf>

On April 17, AT&T announced the launch of AT&T Aspire, a four-year, \$100 million program that will help strengthen student success and workforce readiness. The program is the largest education initiative in AT&T's history and one of the largest corporate investments in high school success and workforce readiness.

<http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=2631>

Sound Connections

Listen to April's Radio Webcast, *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* with guest Franklin Schargel. The topic: *From At-Risk to Academic Excellence: What Successful Leaders Do*. Also found on iTunes.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00003>

Video

The next Radio Webcast, *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis*, on May 27, 2008, will feature Dr. Susan Limber on the topic of Bullying. Watch Doris Settles, a speaker at the 2008 At-Risk Youth National FORUM, as she discusses the dangers of cyber-bullying.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcbullyvid.asx>

Funding Sources

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will award the Tribal Youth Program's (TYP) Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grants to federally recognized tribes to develop and implement programs that hold tribal youth accountable for their delinquent behavior and that strengthen tribal juvenile justice systems.

Deadline: June 13, 2008.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2008/TYPJADG.pdf>

CVS Caremark Community Grants are currently accepting proposals for programs targeting children under age 18 with disabilities that address health and rehabilitation services; a greater level of inclusion in student activities and extracurricular programs; and opportunities or facilities that give greater access to physical movement and play. Eligibility: Public schools with programs for children under age 18 with disabilities.

Deadline: October 2008.

http://www.cvs.com/corplInfo/community/community_grants.html

Policy Updates

Democracy At Risk: The Need for a New Federal Policy in Education. To reinvigorate public schools, the report contends that the federal government should engage in a coordinated offensive that makes schools the center of communities as well as pathways to essential social services for students.

http://www.forumforeducation.org/upload_files/files/FED_ReportRevised415.pdf

Additional Learning Opportunities in Rural Areas highlights one promising strategy that should be considered by policymakers: the expansion of learning time for all students attending schools with large concentrations of low-income students. The problem with implementation is that extended learning time (ELT) programs have been quite difficult to execute in rural areas because those schools tend to be resource poor.

<http://www.ecs.org/00CN3854>

Improving the Distribution of Teachers in Low-performing High Schools. The report of this event of the Alliance for Excellent Education held April 10, 2008, in Washington, DC, includes audio and video links.

http://www.all4ed.org/events/distributionteachers_lowperformingHSs

International Notes

China's education system has undergone significant changes over the past quarter-century, some brought into classrooms directly by government policy, others swept along by the rising tide of free-market reforms.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/04/23/34china_ep.h27.html

Canadian schools can do more to help troubled immigrant students by changing how they teach in regular classrooms, reports Louise Brown for *The Toronto Star*.

<http://www.thestar.com/article/408971>

Students With Disabilities

A Public Policy Action Center has been added to the Partners in Policymaking Web site, with Internet resources that might be of interest to persons following disability policy at the Federal, State, and local levels.

<http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/ppac1.html>

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

The School Climate Challenge: Narrowing the Gap Between School Climate Research and School Climate Policy, Practice Guidelines and Teacher Education Policy. This paper targets school leaders regarding the gap between findings from school climate research and school climate policy and practice, including teacher education and community support and engagement.

<http://www.ecs.org/00CM1056>

Because of the importance of creating a school environment that promotes mental health and reduces problems, the Center for Mental Health in Schools at UCLA has just completed a new book-length resource. *Mental Health in School & School Improvement: Current Status, Concerns, and New Directions* is available online at no cost and with no restrictions on its use.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/mhbook/mhbooktoc.htm>

Professional Development

Making a Difference?: The Effects of Teach for America in High School. The report finds that TFA teachers tend to have a positive effect on high school student test scores relative to non-TFA teachers, including those who are certified in-field.

http://www.caldercenter.org/PDF/411642_Teach_America.pdf

Alternative Schooling

A new case study from Jobs for the Future (JFF) examines the features of the Georgia College Early College (GCEC), which deliberately recruits students from the community who perform below grade level. The college-going culture, small class sizes, and other support structures enable students to believe in themselves and raise their aspirations.

<http://www.jff.org/Documents/empoweringstudents.pdf>

Resources and Tools

The third in a series of OJJDP sponsored reports on youth courts in the United States, this publication looks at questions concerning their operation, the extent of volunteer activity, how they function as they mature, and the resources they employ.

http://hamfish.org/Publications/Serial/HFI_Youth_Courts_Report.pdf

Characteristics of the 100 Largest Public Elementary and Secondary School Districts in the United States: 2004-05. Across these districts, the averaged freshman graduation rate was 70.2%.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008335.pdf>

The Future of Children has released its latest publication, *Children and Electronic Media* (Vol. 18, No. 1). The volume focuses on how common forms of electronic media influence the wellbeing of children and adolescents.

http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/Media_08_01.pdf

The Fourth R: New research shows which academic indicators are the best predictors of high school graduation—and what interventions can help more kids graduate.

www.connectedby25.org/file_download/2

A new online resource, “*Youth Engaged in Service: How and Why to Incorporate Volunteer Service into Your Youth Program*,” is now available. This toolkit is intended to provide local youth leaders—coaches, ministers, volunteers, and community program coordinators—who are working with youth from disadvantaged circumstances with the tools and resources needed to incorporate youth service into their existing programs.

<http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/yes>

Feedback

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

Sources: JUVJUST, K-12 ETR Listserv, ECS, PENWeekly Newsblast, CNCS, AYP.