

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Registration is now open for the National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held in Atlanta, November 16-19, 2008.

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2008_NDPN

Top Stories

The LEARNS team is pleased to offer a free new online course for tutoring, mentoring, out-of-school time, and other youth-development programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The course is Youth Impact: Starting and Strengthening Quality Programs. <http://my.nationalservice.org/learning/>

"Creating Safer Schools and Communities" is a series of five newly revised guidebooks for key components of creating safe, positive schools. One of the guides is *Fostering School, Family, and Community Involvement*.

<http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/clearinghouse/78/38/7838.pdf>

Sound Connections

The new season for *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will begin on Tuesday, August 26, with our special guest, Dr. Chris Peters, who will address the strategy of educational technology and its role in engaging students at risk. These radio webcasts are free and no registration is required.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast>

Video

Meet John Murray, the chair of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Board of Directors.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPCMurray.aspx>

Funding Sources

The Comcast Foundation's primary focus is in funding diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism, and youth leadership development. Maximum Award: \$500,000. Eligibility: 501(c)3 organizations operating within communities that Comcast serves. Deadline: N/A.

<http://www.comcast.com/foundation>

The Best Buy Teach program rewards schools for successful interactive programs launched with available technology, focusing on kids using technology to learn a standards-based curriculum. Maximum Award: \$5,000. Eligibility: Accredited K-12 public, private, parochial, and nonprofit charter schools in the United States. Deadline: October 12, 2008.

<https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org>

The National Council on Economic Education is pleased to announce a new round of funding for projects during 2008-2009, and is soliciting applications from qualified organizations. The application deadline is September 15, 2008.

http://www.ncee.net/ea/manage/download/2008_eee_rfp_non-research.pdf

Policy Updates

NCLC has updated the ECS *StateNote* on "State Policies on Youth Engagement in Policymaking" to include 2008 activity in four states. Colorado, Indiana and Maryland have created Youth Advisory Councils, and Pennsylvania's State Board of Education has added students as

nonvoting members.

<http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/clearinghouse/78/17/7817.pdf>

To read about specific state legislation, see the section "What States Are Doing" at

<http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/cmatters.asp>

International Notes

This publication provides details regarding UNESCO's October 2007 Executive Board decision to monitor seven priority recommendations in the field of education, with a focus on Education for All (EFA).

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001611/161161e.pdf>

The national testing system in English schools is being misused to the detriment of children's education, says a report from a committee of MPs.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7396623.stm>

Students With Disabilities

Students need to be informed about their rights and responsibilities as well as the responsibilities postsecondary schools have toward them as they plan to continue their education.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

Effective Strategies

Professional Development

Classroom observations, or "walkthroughs," are part of a principal's job, but they can be useless if the principal doesn't know what information to look for or how to use it.

http://www.mcrel.org/pdf/teacherprepretention/0125NL_ChangingSchools_58_4.pdf

As schools, districts, and state departments around the country grapple to prevent and ameliorate the many barriers to effective learning and teaching, there is a growing need to transform policy and practice related to school improvement and personnel development.

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

Parental Involvement

Fathers' involvement in a wide range of activities with their infant children is positively associated with infant cognitive development, according to a new Child Trends study published online in the *Journal of Family Issues*.

<http://jfi.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/29/9/1211>

The Parent Institute For Quality Education in Phoenix, AZ, provides a link between Spanish speaking parents and their students' education. The Institute also helps to ensure that the parents understand the school system and how it works.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItNHIBXRPu0>

Service-Learning

Learn and Serve Challenge Week is October 6-12, 2008. Join your peers from around the country for a concentrated week of special events and community outreach activities designed to raise awareness and build support for service-learning.

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org/index.php>

In the Summer 2008 issue of *The Generator*, perspectives are offered on how to make progress monitoring an integral part of any service-learning experience.

http://www.nylc.org/rc_downloadfile.cfm?emoid=14:810&property=download&mode=download

Career-Technology Education

A major new report on Career Academies conducted by MDRC, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research firm was released. *Career Academies: Long-term Impacts on Labor Market Outcomes*,

Educational Attainment, and Transitions to Adulthood.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/482/full.pdf>

Career and Technical Education in the United States: 1990–2005 This report is the fourth in a series of volumes published periodically by NCES to describe the condition of vocational education (now called “career and technical education” or CTE) in the United States.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008035.pdf>

Resources and Tools

MiddleWeb provides a wealth of resources for schools, districts, educators, parents, and public school advocates working to raise achievement for all students in the middle grades.

<http://www.middleweb.com/mw/PartInt/PartIntNewTchr.html>

This short article at the Web site of the Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement (CCSRI) offers a concise research review of best middle grades practices to engage learners.

http://www.centerforcsri.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=551&Itemid=5

If state education agencies want to become more effective catalysts for school improvement, they need to develop "a shared focus, a common language, and greater coherence" among themselves, federal policymakers, school-district leaders, local school boards, and individual schools.

<http://www.alliance.brown.edu/pubs/csrqi/symposium.pdf>

Since 1993, Jumpstart has been working toward the day every child in America enters school prepared to succeed through bringing at-risk preschool children and caring adults together in intensive, year-long relationships.

<http://www.readfortherecord.org/site/PageServer>

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: PEN Weekly NewsBlast, Child Trends, ECS-e-Bulletin, Middle Web, NSLP, SMHP e-News, NWREL, NCES