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The latest publication from the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is Bouncing Back: Strengthening Resilience Through Service-Learning. Order your copy today!
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/pubs/new_releases.php

Top Stories

According to a new report by the Census Bureau, the latest (2007) kids-in-poverty figure comes to 13.3 million children younger than 18, or 18% of the population in that age group. See the Census Bureau's report at
www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf

Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2005-06 presents the number of high school graduates, the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR), and dropout data for grades 9 through 12 for public schools in school year 2005-06.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008353.pdf

Sound Connections

The recent *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* presentation on Tuesday, August 26, on the strategy of *Educational Technology* and its role in engaging students at risk is now archived online and also available as a podcast on iTunes. The next program, September 23, 2008, will feature Kitty Johnson of St. Paul Public Schools and will be on *Connected Counseling.*
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast

Video

Meet Debra Duardo, NDPC/N Board member as she talks about her personal experience in dropping out, and the Los Angeles School District's current response—My Future, My Decision.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmw5O8N_m9U&NR=1

Funding Sources

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants help schools and local nonprofit organizations implement or expand literacy programs for new readers, below-grade-level readers, and readers with learning disabilities. Maximum award: $3,000. Eligibility: schools and nonprofits located in Dollar General's 35-state operating territory and within 20 miles of the nearest Dollar General Store.
Deadline: Sept. 24, 2008.
http://www.dollargeneral.com/Community/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people for voluntary service to their communities. Maximum award: $5,000 for an honoree and a $5,000 grant to a nonprofit, charitable organization of the honoree's choice. Eligibility: students in grades 5-12 who have engaged in a volunteer service activity within the past year. Deadline: Oct. 31, 2008.
http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/12846

Policy Updates

The United States can no longer absorb the costs and losses associated with an education system that produces more than 1.2 million dropouts every year. *Dropouts, Diplomas, and Dollars* examines the impact of this crisis on the dropouts themselves, as well as its effect on the economy, social fabric, and security of the nation, states, and local communities.

http://www.all4ed.org/files/Econ2008.pdf

In 2005, all 50 state governors made an unprecedented commitment to implement voluntarily a common formula for calculating their state's high school graduation rate by signing the National Governors Association (NGA) Graduation Counts Compact. Read *Implementing Graduation Counts: State Progress to Date, 2008.*
http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0807GRADCOUNTS.PDF

International Notes
BBC Radio hosts a debate on the issue of home schooling.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwFQBks1sdg

Researchers report that going to a good pre-school nursery boosts a child's chances of achieving in maths at the age of 10.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7586055.stm

Students With Disabilities
The US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is pleased to announce a new addition to the O*SEP Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students With Disabilities (Tool Kit).* The *Tool Kit* addendum focuses on universal design for learning (UDL).
http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/

It takes a community to prevent bullying of children. You are invited to be a partner in the Third Annual National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week.
http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/media/index.asp

Effective Strategies
Systemic Renewal
In the wake of a fatal shooting incident in a Cleveland school last year, the city has received a set of recommendations from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) on steps that the schools and community can take to improve the environment for students and teachers. See the report at
http://www.air.org/news/documents/AIR_Cleveland_8-20-08.pdf

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.csee.net/climate/aboutcsee/school_climate_challenge.pdf

School-Community Collaboration
Over the years, Community Schools have sprouted in a rather dramatic and *ad hoc* manner and now the term has become popular enough that it is being used by more and more sites. With a view to moving forward, it is time to clarify the concept, place it into the context of school improvement and institutional transformation, and do some analyses of what has developed.
http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/csinstitutionaltrans.pdf

Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems. With the initiation in 2003 of OJJDP's Gang Reduction Program (GRP), millions of dollars have been invested in working in communities with large and growing youth gangs. Thus, a primary focus of OJJDP's anti-gang initiatives is to support community efforts to provide their citizens, especially their young people, with a safe and prosocial environment in which to live and grow.
http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/222799.pdf

Parental Involvement
To help teenagers get up in the morning and get themselves to school, the Ad Council and the Army have teamed up with Cellit, a Chicago-based mobile marketing company, to enable parents

and peers to send the kids free wakeup messages recorded by professional athletes and celebrities.
http://www.boostup.org/

Service-Learning
The September issue of *Family Circle Magazine* looks at back-to-school issues through a service-learning lens, discussing the many positive academic outcomes to students who participate.
http://www.parents.com/teens-tweens/school-college/school-college/volunteering-through-school/

Resources and Tools
NASBHC developed the Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Template (MHPET) in partnership with the Center for School Mental Health (CSMH) to systematically assess and improve the quality of mental health services delivered within school-based settings.
http://www.nasbhc.org/site/c.jsJPKWPFJrH/b.3015469/

The 2008 edition, *Given Half a Chance: The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males*, details the drastic range of outcomes for Black males, especially the tragic results in many of the nation's biggest cities.
http://blackboysreport.org/node/14

This study reports on the personal and academic reasons why students drop out and reenroll in high school. It follows a cohort of first-time 9th graders in one large urban school district from 2001/02 to 2005/06 and documents their dropout, reenrollment, and graduation rates.
http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/west/pdf/REL_2008056.pdf

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

Sources: OSEP, WSJ, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, NASBHC, CSEE, All4Ed, OJJDP, PACER, BBC