

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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It's not too late to register for the 20th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference to be held November 16-19, 2008, in Atlanta, GA!

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

Top Stories

Dropout Prevention is a report prepared for the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance. The purpose of this practice guide is to provide evidence-based recommendations on preventing dropping out.

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practiceguides/dp_pg_090308.pdf

A new report, *Present, Engaged, and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, highlights this issue and how it can be significantly reduced.

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_837.pdf

Sound Connections

The recent *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* presentation on Tuesday, September 23, on the strategy of *Connected Counseling* and its role in helping students make 6-year plans for the future is now archived online and also available as a podcast on iTunes. The next program, October 28, 2008, will feature Christy Challender of Pasco, WA, Public Schools and will be on a successful program for *Teen Parents*.

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

Video

View the winning film in the Strong American Schools' Film Your Issue Award contest – *High School Dropout* - created by Ian Rojas.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kHCjbdjsqE>

Funding Sources

The Allstate Foundation supports national and local programs in three focus areas. Safe and Vital Communities; Economic Empowerment; and Tolerance, Inclusion, and Diversity programs.

Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations.

Deadline: rolling.

<http://www.allstate.com/foundation/funding-guidelines.aspx>

The American Library Association's Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award recognizes a library whose programs have community impact and respond to community needs. Maximum award: \$2,000. Eligibility: school or public libraries.

Deadline: Dec. 1, 2008.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/awardsrecords/cavendishaward/cavendishaward.cfm>

Policy Updates

Because addressing the problem is both a civil rights and public health imperative, policy makers are revisiting the problem of preventing school dropouts.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/fall08.pdf>

Strong American Schools is a nonpartisan public awareness and advocacy effort aimed at elevating discussion amongst America's leaders about the need for education reform.
<http://www.edin08.com/>

International Notes

Devli Kumari, now 11, came a long way from a stone quarry in India, where she grew up as a child laborer, to the United Nations headquarters in New York, where she spoke at the launch of an "Education for All" campaign during the General Assembly session last week.
http://www.ungei.org/infobycountry/247_1928.html

Effective Strategies

Family Engagement

Parents' Guide to Truancy, from the Hamilton Fish Institute provides parents and guardians with proactive strategies for preventing and reducing incidences of truancy.
<http://www.hamfish.org/>

or link to the pdf at:

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/hamfish/merlin-cgi/p/downloadFile/d/21474/n/off/other/1/name/Parentsguidetotruncypdf/>

School-Community Collaboration

A coalition of leading educators and community organizations has produced a "Community Agenda for America's Public Schools."
http://www.thecommunityagenda.org/_assets/docs/community_agenda.pdf

Career Technical Education

A new policy guide is available: *21st Century Skills, Education & Competitiveness*. Creating an aligned, 21st century public education system that prepares students, workers and citizens to triumph in the global skills race is the central economic competitiveness issue for the next decade.
http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/21st_century_skills_education_and_competitiveness_guide.pdf

A Developmental Perspective on College & Workplace Readiness provides a developmental perspective on what competencies young people need to be ready for college, the workplace, and the transition to adulthood.
http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2008_09_15_FR_ReadinessReport.pdf

The Future State Workforce Gap Summary, including links to the thirty-one states for which ACT performed an analysis, is available.
<http://www.act.org/news/data/08/workforce.html>

Resources and Tools

The Impact of Educational Quality on the Community: A Literature Review by Stephen J. Carroll and Ethan Scherer is now available from the RAND Corporation. This briefing synthesizes the empirical research on the effects of educational quality on the community.
<http://www.ecs.org/00CM1097>

The National Collaboration for Youth (NCY), a 40 year old coalition of youth-serving nonprofits, recently proposed a national policy agenda, *Toward a Brighter Future: An Essential Agenda for America's Young People*.
<http://www.collab4youth.org/ncy/documents/TowardABrighterFuture-LowRes.pdf>

Reminder: Learn and Serve Challenge Week! October 6-12, 2008.
<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org/proclamation.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: NCCP, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, Hamilton Fish Institute, ECS