

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Join us in Clearwater, Florida, for the Effective Strategies Institute on Dropout Prevention and Florida's America's Promise Summit, January 12-16, 2009, or in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for the 21st Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM, February 15-18, 2009.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpcdefault.htm>

Top Stories

America's Promise Alliance recently commissioned *Grad Nation*, a new tool comprising the best evidence-based practices for keeping young people in school paired with suggestions for effectively preparing them for life after high school.

http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout_Crisis/Graduation_Nation/GradNation_Guidebook_11-08.pdf

In his farewell address, departing CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, David Eisner, stated that a large-scale mobilization of volunteers could have an especially profound impact on the high school dropout crisis.

http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/about_usafc/newsroom/speeches_dynamic.asp?ID=2052

Sound Connections

The recent *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* presentation on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, on the strategy of *Middle College High Schools*, with our guest, Dr. Terry Grier, is now archived online and also available as a podcast on iTunes. Included with the program are some excellent resources and a bonus: a 2-part video of the Solutions Team's site visit to three of Guilford County, NC, middle college high schools.

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

A program note: *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will begin its second year in January, with a date change. We will now be broadcasting live on the second Tuesday of each month, so mark your calendars for the January 13th broadcast. Upcoming programs will include such topics as Parent Involvement, Career Technical Education, and Virtual Learning.

Videos

This video clip illustrates how schools can help boys thrive. Then meet author/researcher Peg Tyre as she talks about the issues related to educating boys.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/26657112#26657112>

"It might surprise parents to learn that it is not a waste of time for their teens to hang out online," says Mizuko Ito, University of California, Irvine, researcher and the lead author of the most extensive U.S. study to date on teens and their use of digital media.

<http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.4773383/>

Funding Sources

The Clearinghouse on Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs and Policies contains information and resources for supporting and sustaining youth programs and initiatives.

<http://financeproject.org/index.cfm?page=30>

Finding Resources to Support Mentoring Programs and Services for Youth. This brief highlights three strategies that leaders and stakeholders can use to finance and sustain mentoring

programs and services for youth.

<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/FindingResources-MentoringPrograms.pdf>

Policy Updates

The National Study of the Prevalence of Community Service and Service-Learning in K-12 Public Schools collected data on the scope of community service and service-learning activities, as well as the policies and supports for service-learning provided by and for schools during the 2007-08 academic year.

http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_1112_Isa_prevalence.pdf

International Notes

Watch this lecture at UC-Santa Barbara by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, and learn about his efforts to build schools, mostly for girls, in remote areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdqVoNtJZfU&NR=1>

Effective Strategies

School-Community Collaboration

New York State Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrion, Esq., describes that state's Children's Plan with setting "the course for a new way of delivering services and engaging with children and families that stresses prevention and early investments in what works."

http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/engage/childrens_plan.pdf

Educational Technology

Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning looks at two areas of virtual schooling: state-led online programs and state-level policies governing online education, and the ways that the two intersect.

<http://www.nacol.org/docs/Keeping%20Pace%20with%20K-12%20Online%20Learning%202006.pdf>

Career and Technical Education

Integrating academic learning into career and technical education (CTE) classes can be challenging for educators and curriculum developers but can be aided by securing detailed feedback from CTE teachers, according to a new study by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/redirect_pubsdb.asp?strSite=pdfs/cet.pdf

Closing the Graduation Gap: A Superintendent's Guide for Planning Multiple Pathways to Graduation. The approach is referred to collectively as Multiple Pathways to Graduation. More than a program, this framework represents a new way of envisioning the path towards graduation.

<http://www.ytfg.org/mpgresources/closing-the-graduation-gap-color.pdf>

Professional Development

A new study published by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. concludes that more intensive—and expensive—mentoring and professional development for new teachers has little impact on teacher retention, classroom practice, or student achievement in the teacher's first year.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pdf/20094034.pdf>

Resources and Tools

Relationships, Rigor, and Readiness: Strategies for Improving High Schools, a new report from MDRC, summarizes the 2007 conference findings of 22 school districts convened by MDRC.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/498/full.pdf>

In *Measuring Skills for the 21st Century*, Senior Policy Analyst Elena Silva argues that skills for the 21st century can indeed be measured accurately and can serve as common metrics of student achievement.

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/MeasuringSkills.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.

Sources: SMHP, ECS, All4Ed, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, AYPF, YSA, YouTube