

Dropout Prevention Update
April 1, 2009 — Volume 8, Number 10
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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A very timely program on the many challenges of the Internet, in particular, safety issues, and the connection to dropout prevention, will be the focus of the April 14th radio Webcast, Solutions to the Dropout Crisis: "Dropout Prevention in the Digital Society," with our guest Doris Settles.
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast>

Top Stories

Each year, on the anniversary of the 2005 National Education Summit on High Schools, Achieve releases an annual 50-state progress report on the alignment of high school policies with the demands of college and careers.
<http://www.achieve.org/files/50-state-2009.pdf>

A new report from the Alliance for Childhood, *Crisis in the Kindergarten: A New Report on the Disappearance of Play*, states that in some kindergartens, there is no playtime at all. The same didactic, test-driven approach is entering preschools. These methods, which are not well grounded in research, are not yielding long-term gains.
http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/kindergarten_report.pdf

Sound Connections

Meet Michael VanKeulen and Wali Dirie, who will talk about Volunteers of America (VOA) Community Education Program in Minneapolis, MN, and the VOA Opportunity High School, a school with many new immigrants. They discuss how community building is central to their school's success.
<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcatvankeulen.asx>

Videos

Creativity expert Sir Ken Robinson challenges the way we're educating our children. He champions a radical rethink of our school systems.
http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html

Doris Settles' keynote from the 2009 At-Risk Youth National FORUM is a great lead-in to our next radio Webcast on April 14th at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.
<http://yourday.clemson.edu/flash/ndpcsettleskeynote.htm>

Funding Sources

Action for Healthy Kids, with generous support from Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund, is offering grants to schools that currently participate in the School Breakfast Program with greater than 50% eligibility for free and reduced-price meals. Deadline: April 10, 2009.
<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/UploadFiles/School%20Breakfast%20RFP%20Final.pdf>

National nonprofit organizations may apply for funding under the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's FY 09 Recovery Act National Youth Mentoring Programs, part of the economic stimulus package recently passed by Congress. Application deadline: April 20, 2009.
<http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2009/recovery-act-national-youth.html>

Target Early Childhood Reading Grants support programs like weekend book clubs and after-school reading programs that foster a love of reading and encourage children, from birth through age nine, to read together with their families. Maximum award: \$3,000. Deadline: May 31, 2009.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

Policy Updates

A new federal legislative proposal would allow more schools across the nation to benefit from the Troops to Teachers (T2T) program, which assists retiring military personnel to start second careers as school teachers.

http://petri.house.gov/apps/list/press/wi06_petri/troops_teachers.shtml

The Department of Education has posted new information on its Web page concerning how schools can use State Stabilization dollars under the stimulus package.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/modernization/index.html>

Developing Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Initiatives: Tips from Experts, a guide from the National Women's Law Center, compiles insights and recommendations on promising strategies for FFN care and offers tips to address common challenges to developing effective federal, state and local policies and approaches concerning FFN care.

<http://action.nwlc.org/site/R?i=nP8gADWiSv4RK6K9EfQ21w>

International Notes

A recent report from Gujarat state in India reveals human development, health, and literacy to be their main areas of concern.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1228222>

The National Association of Independent Schools invites schools to participate in Challenge 20/20, a program that brings together two schools: one from the U.S. and one from outside of the U.S. Teacher-student teams from both schools work together throughout the fall 2009 school semester to come up with a solution to a global problem. Challenge 20/20 is based on J. F. Rischard's book, *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*.

<http://www.nais.org/resources/index.cfm?ItemNumber=147262>

See J.F. Rischard's presentation to the First International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education on this topic. Sign in with userid of brussels, and the password is belgium. After signing in, click "this link" about mid-page, then listen to "1: High Noon: Twenty Global Problems..."

<http://itcenter.clemson.edu/icslte/news/brussels-2007-virtual-conference>

Then consider coming to the Second International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education, June 25-27, 2009 at the National University of Ireland/Galway. Registration open now!

<http://www.conference.ie/index/index.asp>

Students With Disabilities

In serving students with disabilities, effective behavior management is critical, writes *District Administration* magazine. For disabled students, especially those with behavior disorders, the emotional toll of inappropriate discipline can be great.

<http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=1962>

Effective Strategies

Mentoring

"Mentoring Immigrant and Refugee Youth" is an important new section of the toolkit, *How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program Using the Elements of Effective Practice*.

http://www.mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring_1197.pdf

Systemic Renewal

Find a collection of resources on the student-led parent/teacher conference.
<http://www.middleweb.com/mw/resources/ParentConfs.html>

Out of School Time

Learning to Play and Playing to Learn: Organized Sports and Educational Outcomes surveys more than 60 studies and articles on various aspects of children's participation in athletics, and concludes that through physical activity, low-income youth are better prepared to succeed academically and eventually hold jobs with greater responsibility and higher pay.
http://www.teamupforyouth.org/dynamic/attachables/media_filename_119.pdf

Resources and Tools

The president of the National Council of Teachers of English writes that unless we can reduce the number of schools that turn to scripted programs and highly structured class routines, we will continue to be left with an education of America's poor that cannot be seen as anything more than a segregation by intellectual rigor.
<http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Press/Beers.pdf>

Poverty and Potential: Out-of-School Factors and School Success, a new policy brief from Arizona State University, funded by the Great Lakes Center, details the poverty-induced physical, sociological, and psychological effects on students that limit what schools alone can accomplish.
http://greatlakescenter.org/docs/Policy_Briefs/Berliner_NonSchool.pdf

The Century Foundation has released *Educational Strategies That Work*, which examines Oklahoma's universal pre-K program; the voluntary inter-district transfer program in St. Louis, Missouri; and New Jersey's innovative, low-income "Abbot" public schools.
http://www.tcf.org/Publications/Education/Greg_Education.pdf

Feedback

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

Sources: MiddleWeb, PEN Weekly Newsblast, Join Together, NCPIE, AYPF General, National Women's Law Center