

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**May 1, 2009 — Volume 8, Number 11**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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*Make your nomination today for the 2009 Crystal Star Award Program Winners. The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2009.*

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/awards.htm>

**Top Stories**

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth announced Thursday it is teaming with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network to open the organization's first satellite affiliate center.

<http://www.heraldnews.com/news/x549601725/UMD-teams-with-Dropout-Prevention-Center>

*The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's Schools*, a new report from McKinsey & Company, examines the dimensions of four gaps in education.

[http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/achievement\\_gap\\_report.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/achievement_gap_report.pdf)

**Sound Connections**

Meet all three of the 2008 Winners of the Crystal Star Program Awards and hear about their outstanding programs.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcat/crystalstar2.aspx>

Tune in on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time to the next broadcast of *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis*. You may listen to and participate in this live radio webcast by connecting to the Internet. Dr. Roy Jones will tell listeners about the nationally recognized Call Me MISTER program, and how to reach out to African American boys at the middle school level.

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

**Video**

On Tuesday, April 21, 2009, the President signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, and he was joined by Senator Kennedy, President Bill Clinton, the Congressional leaders who supported the legislation, and countless others dedicated to passage of the bill at the SEED School, where service is a core part of the curriculum. Watch this historic event.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/04/21/A-Call-to-Service/>

**Funding Sources**

The purpose of the OJJDP Field Initiated Demonstration Program is to foster innovations and advancements in juvenile justice-related practice at the local, state, and tribal government levels. The program's goal is to demonstrate the practical implications for policy and practice of innovative programs that enhance juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. The deadline is May 26, 2009.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=130>

Community-based nonprofits can tap into an extra \$1 billion in funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)—part of the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/funding/opportunities/2009/1-billion-in-recovery-funds.html>

Youth Service America and Disney are pleased to offer the Disney Minnie Grants to fund children's efforts to improve their communities. \$500 grants. Deadline is June 15, 2009.

<http://ysa.org/MyYSA/YSAContent/YSANews/tabid/219/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/134/Disn>

[eyMinnieGrant2ndRound2009.aspx](#)

## **Policy Updates**

A new report from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, a non-partisan research center which has been systematically studying the implementation of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) since its inception, finds that some of the basic assumptions of the law are not working and may well be making things worse.

[http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/esea/study\\_nclb\\_sanctions\\_2009.pdf](http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/esea/study_nclb_sanctions_2009.pdf)

There is increasing attention being paid to the “next generation” of assessments and what that might mean for federal policy and the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This all-day conference explored key issues related to both the development and use of assessments, as well as federal policy implications.

[http://www.all4ed.org/events/meaningful\\_measurement](http://www.all4ed.org/events/meaningful_measurement)

## **International Notes**

A new report from the Association of Childhood Education International has practical steps that teachers can follow to implement anti-bullying programs and stem "the tide of the international plague known as bullying."

<http://www.acei.org/bullying.pdf>

## **Students With Disabilities**

The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities hosted Dr. Russell W. Rumberger who presented background information about the recently released *IES Dropout Prevention Practice Guide* and discussed, in detail, each of the six evidence-based recommendations for reducing dropout rates that emerged from the authors' evaluations.

<http://www.ndpc-sd.org/dissemination/teleseminars.php#ResearchBased>

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Systemic Renewal**

A six-year study by the Annenberg Institute documents how low-income communities of color have organized to improve their local schools. *Building a Districtwide Movement for Small Schools Reform* concludes that small schools give students more individualized academic supports.

[http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/Mott\\_Oakland\\_high.pdf](http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/Mott_Oakland_high.pdf)

### **Family Engagement**

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance within the Institute of Education Sciences has released a report from REL Northeast, "Parent Involvement Strategies in Urban Middle and High Schools in the Northeast and Islands Region."

[http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/northeast/pdf/REL\\_2009069.pdf](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/northeast/pdf/REL_2009069.pdf)

### **Out of School Time**

*Learning Around the Clock: Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth* identifies and describes Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that improve academic performance, college and career preparation, social and emotional development, and health and wellness outcomes for underserved youth.

[http://www.aypf.org/documents/AYPF\\_ELOs\\_w-cvr.pdf](http://www.aypf.org/documents/AYPF_ELOs_w-cvr.pdf)

## **Resources and Tools**

The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition serves stakeholders involved in ELL education, including SEA coordinators, teachers and other practitioners, parents, university faculty, administrators and federal policymakers.

<http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/>

A new report from America's Promise Alliance, *Closing the Graduation Gap*, shows that while the nation's dropout rate is abysmal—one in four of all American kids fails to graduate—some cities with dire records have made great progress.

[http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout\\_Crisis/Cities\\_In\\_Crisis\\_Report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromiseAlliance/Dropout_Crisis/Cities_In_Crisis_Report_2009.pdf)

*Juvenile Arrests 2007* summarizes 2007 juvenile crime and arrest data reported by local law enforcement agencies across the country and cited in the FBI report, *Crime in the United States 2007*. The Bulletin describes the extent and nature of juvenile crime that comes to the attention of the justice system.

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225344.pdf>

## **Feedback**

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu).

**Sources:** IES Newsflash, EquiNews, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, JUVJUST, Join Together , Straight As, AYPF, OJJDP