

Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2009 — Volume 9 Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Our latest publication is now available! *Improving Reading for Academic Success: Strategies for Enhancing Adolescent Literacy*. Network members will receive a copy in the next mailing. Learn more about it and then order more copies online.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcoconnor.aspx>
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/pubs/show_pub.php?pubID=00084

Top Stories

Time to Act: An Agenda for Advancing Adolescent Literacy for College and Career Success is the capstone report of the Carnegie Council for Advancing Adolescent Literacy. The Council urges school leaders to structure their schools around literacy, and engage teachers in all content areas to develop skills in teaching literacy across the subject areas.

http://www.carnegie.org/literacy/tta/pdf/tta_Main.pdf

High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007 has been released by the National Center for Education Statistics at the Institute of Education Sciences.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009064.pdf>

Sound Connections

Dr. Jay Smink, Executive Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network, tells interviewer Doug Keel about the 15 Effective Strategies.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpc/sminkstrategies.mp3>

Former Network Chair John Murray, after receiving the 2008 Crystal Star Award for distinguished leadership and service to the Network, spoke with *Solutions*.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPCATLMurray.aspx>

The next professional development opportunity on *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* radio webcast for the 2009-2010 school year is set for Tuesday, October 6, at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

The program will feature Dr. Pat O'Connor and Dr. Bill Bintz of Kent State University, and Renee Murray of the Southern Regional Education Board. The topic is Adolescent Literacy.

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

Video

Nancie Atwell addresses the value of student choice in reading and becoming a lifelong reader.

<http://www.heinemann.com/>

Funding Sources

Planning grants are available to support the development of AmeriCorps programs so applicants are better prepared to compete for a multi-state AmeriCorps grant in the following grant cycle.

These grants are awarded for 12 months and \$250,000 is available.

Deadline: October 19, 2009.

http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/09_0818_nofa_acplanning.pdf

Liberty Mutual Responsible Sports Community Grants fund youth sports organizations in the United States. Maximum award: \$2,500.

Deadline: November 30, 2009.

https://www.responsiblesports.com/community_grants/default.aspx

Policy Updates

A report from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute takes a look at two pressing education issues—international benchmarking and common national standards—and explains why the first issue can greatly inform the second.

http://edexcellence.net/doc/20090826_International_Lessons_Report.pdf

International Notes

From printing new textbooks to supporting the launch of an educational television channel, UNESCO is actively engaged in the reconstruction of Iraq's education system.

http://www.unesco.org/en/education/dynamic-content-single-view/news/reconstructing_iraqs_education_system/back/9195/

Students With Disabilities

Research indicates that financial and other incentives may be responsible for the increase in designations of students as learning disabled. The question examined in this report is whether special-education voucher programs change the likelihood that students will be placed in special education.

http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_58.pdf

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

For the past six years, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and its local education foundation and partner in reform, the Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE), have worked together to overhaul the district's hiring and new-teacher support systems, introducing a suite of professional development and induction structures that address novice teachers' needs.

<http://www.bpe.org/files/NewTeacherSupport.pdf>

Professional Development

It's time for Professional Development Leaders to stand up and be heard. So says Hayes Mizell in his blog for the National Staff Development Council.

<http://www.nsd.org/learningBlog/post.cfm/it-s-time-for-pd-leaders-to-stand-up-and-be-heard>

Service-Learning

Gear up for the 2009 National Learn and Serve Challenge week, October 5-12, 2009. Join your peers from around the country for a concentrated week of special events and community outreach activities designed to raise awareness and build support for service-learning.

<http://www.learnandservechallenge.org/index.php>

Resources and Tools

The Professor Garfield Foundation has been notified that it has been awarded the 2008 Editor's Choice Award by the *Children's Technology Review*. Their mission is to be a world leader in the direct, free delivery of innovative and motivational digital learning content with a primary emphasis on children's literacy.

http://www.professorgarfield.org/pgf_Intro.html

If the high school students who dropped out of the Class of 2009 had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from nearly \$335 billion in additional income over the course of their lifetimes. *The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools* is available from the Alliance for Excellent Education.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf>

The Fourth Annual National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, Oct 4-10, 2009, encourages communities nationwide to work together to increase awareness of the prevalence of bullying and

the impact of bullying on all children.

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/index.asp>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released the 20th annual *KIDS COUNT DataBook*, profiling the well-being of America's children on a state-by-state basis and ranking states on 10 measures of well-being.

http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/123/2009KIDSCOUNTDataBook/AEC186_2009_KCDB_FINAL%2072.pdf

If you are an educator, advocate, or service provider who works with or on behalf of young Latinas, join National Women's Law Center for a free teleconference on October 14 at 2 p.m. Eastern to learn more about improving educational outcomes for Latinas. Register online at:

<http://action.nwlc.org/supportinglatinas>

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: EdWeek, NSDC, MiddleWeb, PEN Weekly NewsBlast, All4Ed, NSLP, PACER, IES Newsflash, NWLC