

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**April 1, 2010 — Volume 9 Number 10**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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Register today for the 2nd Annual National Forum on Dropout Prevention Strategies for Native and Tribal Communities to be held in Phoenix, AZ, April 19-21, 2010.

[http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2010\\_Native\\_American](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2010_Native_American)

**Top Stories**

The President's weekly address on March 13, 2010, focused on education for a more competitive and better future.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/12/weekly-address-education-a-more-competitive-america-better-future>

The *Nation's Report Card: Reading 2009* shows that reading scores are up since 2007 at grade 8 and unchanged at grade 4.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2009/2010458.pdf>

**Partners In Learning Network**

The National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC) has partnered with Microsoft in their Partners In Learning Network (PILN) to host a moderated professional development community on key issues and solutions to dropout prevention. Once you become part of the PILN, you can join the NDPC - Dropout Prevention Community. Join the PILN today, check out Steve Edwards' archived webinar and engage in discussions with Dr. Edwards and other educators.

<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/Pages/default.aspx>

A second free webinar in the form of a panel discussion on *Recommendations and Solutions to School Dropouts* will be featured on April 20, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. (ET). To learn more about this program and to register, go to:

<https://swrt.worktankseattle.com/webcast/4200/preview.aspx>

**Sound Connections**

The April 13th *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will be *School Climate Through Students' Eyes* with Bill Preble. Information will be posted for your free participation this week!

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

Options Academy – Wokini, an alternative school in West Chester, OH, was a 2009 program winner for the Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention. Laura Sage, Supervisor of the academy, talks about the components of this outstanding school.

<http://www.clemson.edu/curp/NDPCSASage.html>

**Videos**

This excellent video, a public service video produced by WNED in Buffalo in partnership with EPIC, focuses on Family Engagement.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI4rqX\\_F69c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI4rqX_F69c)

**Funding Sources**

The Office of Innovation and Improvement/Department of Education Investing in Innovation Fund has more than 50 million dollars available for scale-up, validation and development grants.

Deadline May 11, 2010.

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-5139.htm>

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused nonprofit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education.

Maximum award: \$60,000. Eligibility: schools and youth-focused nonprofit organizations.

Deadline on-going.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

Motorola focuses its funding on education, especially programs that support math and science teacher-training programs and charitable organizations that excite young people about these subjects.

Deadline on-going.

<http://www.motorola.com/staticfiles/Business/Corporate/US-EN/corporate-responsibility/society/community-investment-about-the-motorola-foundation.html>

## Policy Updates

This is the initial research report for *Gaining Ground in the Middle Grades: Why Some Schools Do Better*. It includes an executive summary, an explanation of the study design, the findings, and implications for practice and policy.

<http://www.edsource.org/?id=148&order=10315&pid=2351&auth=UIVSVFFNVEV3TWpNPTBVeE1qWTVPRGcxTIRBeA%3D%3D>

A paper from the Council of Chief State School Officers considers what a student assessment system would entail if built from the world's best practices. The paper suggests that any assessment process should support a range of purposes -- informing learning and instruction, determining progress, measuring achievement, and providing partial accountability information.

[http://flareassessment.org/resources/Paper\\_Assessment\\_DarlingHammond.pdf](http://flareassessment.org/resources/Paper_Assessment_DarlingHammond.pdf)

*Small High Schools at Work: A Case Study of Six Gates-Funded Schools in New York City*, from the Academy for Educational Development, takes a close look at a handful of these new small schools, focusing on particular practices associated with student success: intermediary support, personal and academic support, effective instructional practices, and college preparation.

[http://aed.org/Publications/upload/Small\\_High\\_Schools\\_at\\_Work-A\\_case\\_study\\_of\\_six\\_Gates-funded\\_schools\\_in\\_NYC.pdf](http://aed.org/Publications/upload/Small_High_Schools_at_Work-A_case_study_of_six_Gates-funded_schools_in_NYC.pdf)

## International Notes

By providing extensive information on Australian schools, the *My School* website introduces a new level of transparency and accountability to the Australian school system. Search the profiles of almost 10,000 schools.

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

## Effective Strategies

### Mentoring

E-Mentoring is a mentoring relationship conducted via the Internet. The E-mentoring Clearinghouse hosted by MENTOR provides resources and online training for both e-mentors and e-mentees.

[http://www.mentoring.org/find\\_resources/ementoring\\_clearinghouse/](http://www.mentoring.org/find_resources/ementoring_clearinghouse/)

### Service-Learning

This video by Jon Bon Jovi – *The Power of WE* - can inspire all Americans to take action and volunteer for something they believe in.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/servedotgov>

Think you have a solution to problems with the environment, economic recession, education, healthcare, human/equal rights, national security/defense, poverty, public service or technology? Film Your Issue at [www.youtube.com/filmyourissue](http://www.youtube.com/filmyourissue)

## **Alternative Schooling**

*Alternative Schools and Programs for Public School Students At Risk of Educational Failure: 2007-08*, from NCES, includes information on the availability and number of alternative schools and programs, the number of students enrolled in alternative schools and programs, and district policies on returning students to regular schools.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010026.pdf>

## **Career and Technology Education**

*Linked Learning* is the new name for the educational approach formerly known in California as "multiple pathways." It is a reform model aimed at improving high schools by connecting strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a wide range of fields, such as engineering, arts and media, biomedicine and health.

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

In this archived webinar, NRCCTE director James R. Stone III and principal investigators from the Center's four field-based projects on Programs of Study present early observations, answer questions about their findings, and discuss the evolution of Programs of Study at the ACTE 2010 National Policy Seminar. To listen to the webinar or download the transcript, or for a PowerPoint presentation, go to <http://136.165.122.102/mambo/content/view/285/>

## **Resources and Tools**

The Generator School Network is a community of schools with staff passionate about service-learning. They join together to learn from others and improve their own service-learning practice. Join today!

<http://gsn.nylc.org/>

*Healthier Students Are Better Learners* brings together the most recent findings in fields ranging from neuroscience and child development to epidemiology and public health.

[http://www.equitycampaign.org/i/a/document/12557\\_EquityMattersVol6\\_Web03082010.pdf](http://www.equitycampaign.org/i/a/document/12557_EquityMattersVol6_Web03082010.pdf)

*Can I Get a Little Advice Here?* Looks at the help students get from high school guidance systems.

<http://www.publicagenda.org/files/pdf/can-i-get-a-little-advice-here.pdf>

**Reminder:** The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network now has a Facebook page! Become a fan today and find out about the latest resources and tools in dropout prevention! Begin or join discussion groups to discuss issues related to your dropout prevention efforts. Search for us in "Pages."

<http://www.facebook.com>

## **Feedback**

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

**Sources:** PEN Weekly NewsBlast, All4Ed, NCES, MENTOR, NCPIE, CNS, EdSource, NSLC, NRCCTE