

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**May 1, 2010 — Volume 9 Number 11**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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The upcoming *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* radio webcast will be on the Crystal Star Award winning program, the Coca Cola Valued Youth Program! Join us May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.  
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast>

**Top Stories**

The U.S. Department of Education has produced a new series of videos that illustrate how several school districts have successfully turned around low-performing schools using the four models endorsed by the Department's \$4 billion Title I School Improvement Grant program.  
<http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/04/04152010f.html>

*Turning Around, Transforming, and Continuously Improving Schools* states that the sparse attention to "additional supports and attention where needed" reflects another fundamental problem with the current blueprint and roadmap for turning around, transforming, and continuously improving schools.  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/turning.pdf>

**Partners In Learning Network**

Listen and learn from the archived session from the April 20 webinar on *Recommendations and Solutions to School Dropouts*.  
<https://swrt.worktankseattle.com/webcast/4200/preview.aspx>

**Sound Connections**

Grossmont Union High School District, El Cajon, CA, was a 2009 program winner for the Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention. Superintendent Bob Collins relates some of the efforts that led to this recognition.  
<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ndpcs09collins.asx>

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan prescribes drastic measure for schools and talks about this on NPR's *Talk of the Nation*.  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=126111829&m=126111826>

The most recent radio webcast for *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* featured Bill Preble and Melissa Grey and focused on youth engagement in school climate issues. Now available in the archives.  
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast/ep.php?ep=00023>

**Videos**

*How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*. Diane Ravitch, author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, repudiates her earlier support of No Child Left Behind's standardized testing regime and the law's endorsement of charter schools as a solution to the shortcomings of American education. Other panelists comment as well.  
<http://epi.dreamhosters.com/media/100315/flv/presentations.html>

**Funding Sources**

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education/Department of Education: Grants are available for small, rural school achievement. Funding will be awarded on a formula basis to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to address the unique needs of rural school districts.  
Deadline: 06/30/2010

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-9515.htm>

Best Buy Children's Foundation: The @15 Community Grants program is selecting non-profit organizations that provide positive experiences to help teens excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop leadership skills. Maximum award: \$10,000.

Deadline: applications accepted June 1-July 1, 2010.

[http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/local\\_donations.htm](http://www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/local_donations.htm)

Directorate for Education and Human Resources/NSF Math and Science Partnership Program (MSP) is a major research and development effort designed to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science.

Deadline: July 8, 2010.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10556/nsf10556.htm#toc>

The Request for Applications for 84.305A has been revised to include a new research topic, Analysis of Longitudinal Data to Support State and Local Education Reform. IES will support collaborations between researchers and state and local education agencies to analyze state and local longitudinal data and identify factors associated with better education outcomes. The Request for Applications is available at

[http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer\\_rfas/longitudinal.asp?page=all](http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/longitudinal.asp?page=all)

## Policy Updates

*Health in Childhood and Adolescence and High School Dropout* identifies strategic priorities in the development of health interventions to reduce dropout, examines research on the effect of specific health conditions on dropout, and evaluates existing evidence of intervention programs.

[http://cdrp.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs\\_reports.htm](http://cdrp.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs_reports.htm)

Since 2004, the state of North Carolina has started over 100 innovative high schools, including 70 early college high schools. Learn about these in *Policies Paved the Way: Early College Innovation in North Carolina*.

<http://www.iff.org/sites/default/files/PoliciesPavedtheWay2010.pdf>

## International Notes

The International Award is an exciting self-development programme available to all 14 to 25 year olds.

Over 6 million young people worldwide have taken up the Award challenge.

<http://www.intaward.org/>

## Effective Strategies

### Safe Learning Environments

*Impacts of a Violence Prevention Program for Middle Schools: Findings From the First Year of Implementation* reports no statistically significant impacts on how often students reported that they were victimized by their peers, or committed violence against their peers. In addition, there were no statistically significant impacts of the program on a number of other outcomes such as how often students reported positive behavior toward their peers or on their perceptions of school safety.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104007/pdf/20104007.pdf>

Chicago Safe Start's mission is to prevent and reduce the impacts of exposure to violence on children ages six and younger by achieving "traceable change" throughout the systems that serve children and their families. Learn more about this program, originally a demonstration project of OJJDP.

<http://www.chicagosafestart.net/>

### Service Learning

In this issue of *The Generator*, the National Youth Leadership Council delves into the first step of the Service-Learning Cycle, identifying academic goals.

[http://www.nylc.org/rc\\_downloadfile.cfm?emoid=14:903&property=download&mode=download](http://www.nylc.org/rc_downloadfile.cfm?emoid=14:903&property=download&mode=download)

## Resources and Tools

*The Digest of Education and Statistics* was initiated in 1962 with the purpose of providing a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from prekindergarten through graduate school. The Digest contains data on a variety of topics, including the number of schools and colleges, teachers, enrollments, and graduates, in addition to educational attainment, finances, and federal funds for education, libraries, and international comparisons.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010013.pdf>

The Center on Education Policy reports that English language learners (ELLs) made progress on state tests over the last three years. The study looked at state tests in math and reading from 2006 to 2008, the years after federal testing for ELLs under the federal No Child Left Behind law became finalized.

<http://www.cep->

[dc.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentid=305&documentFormatId=4630](http://www.cep-dc.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentid=305&documentFormatId=4630)

Published by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), *Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online*, offers parents practical tips to guide their children in navigating the online world.

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/pdf/tec04.pdf>

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, May 6, 2010, is a day for everyone to promote positive youth development, resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/children/>

**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@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu).

**Sources:** PEN Weekly NewsBlast, IES, SMARTS, SMHP, NCPIE, YSA, OJJDP, AYPF, JUVJUST, NSDC