

**DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE**  
**November 3, 2010 — Volume 10 Number 5**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

**CONTENTS**

**Top Stories | Sound Connections | Videos | Funding Sources | Policy Updates | International Notes | Effective Strategies | Students with Disabilities | Resources and Tools | Feedback**

**Register today for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, “From Rhetoric to Action: Ready, Set, Graduate!” November 14-17, 2010, in Philadelphia, PA.**

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=2ab9c91d-1dc1-46c9-b84f-bc158419b416>

**Top Stories**

Using the technology of today in the classroom today; the instructional power of digital games, social networking, simulations, and how teachers can leverage them. [http://education.mit.edu/papers/GamesSimsSocNets\\_EdArcade.pdf](http://education.mit.edu/papers/GamesSimsSocNets_EdArcade.pdf)

**Sound Connections**

The topic for November's *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* is *Professional Learning Communities: An Infrastructure for Dropout Prevention and School Improvement*. Join Dr. D'Ette Cowan and the Solutions team on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. EDT. If you call in to ask a question, you will receive a free NDPC publication!

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

Brian Mandler: Setting Students Up for Success Webinar. <http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars/brian-mandler-webinar.aspx>

**Videos**

President Obama signed a new executive order on October 19, 2010, renewing the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/10/19/watch-live-150-president-obama-sign-executive-order-education-and-hispanics>

Katie Salen, executive director of design for Quest to Learn (Q2L) and professor at Parsons The New School for Design, talks about the value of games and technology and the empowerment of play. <http://www.edutopia.org/digital-generation-katie-salen-video>

**Funding Sources**

Math grants for the middle grades. “Equity in Mathematics” grants help middle school educators incorporate materials or lessons into their teaching “that will improve the achievement of student groups that have previous records of underachievement.” November 12, 2010, deadline. [www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1322](http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1322)

Each year the College Board recognizes exceptional teachers of grades 6 – 12 for the innovative methods they use to develop their students’ writing skills. Grants of \$3000 each. November 19, 2010, deadline.

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/costas-grant-application-2010.pdf>

The Eisner Foundation is seeking nominations of individuals and nonprofit organizations to recognize excellence in uniting and utilizing multiple generations, especially seniors and youth, to bring about positive and lasting changes in their community. January 31, 2011, deadline. [www.eisnerfoundation.org/eisnerprize/](http://www.eisnerfoundation.org/eisnerprize/)

State Farm has extended its deadline to November 9, 2010, for the Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grants.  
<http://www.YSA.org/goodneighbor>

**Policy Updates**

Obama Administration Targets ‘Disparate Impact’ of Discipline. Federal authorities plan to use “disparate-impact analysis” in enforcing school discipline cases—a legal course of action.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/10/07/disparate\\_ep.h30.html?tkn=USVFkBDrmQcMj0hA5C1hBwf56FoXUX9ve\\_dkX&cmp=clp-edweek&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/10/07/disparate_ep.h30.html?tkn=USVFkBDrmQcMj0hA5C1hBwf56FoXUX9ve_dkX&cmp=clp-edweek&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed)

Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups examines the progress and challenges of students in the U.S. by race/ethnicity. [Nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010015.pdf](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010015.pdf)  
[http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2010/db0923/DOC-301649A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0923/DOC-301649A1.pdf)

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Systemic Renewal**

When the staff at Conlee Elementary School in Las Cruces, N.M., began having students do five minutes of Just Dance, an active video game for Nintendo's Wii, at the start of every school day last year, they noticed a trend: Tardiness went down.

[http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/fitness/2010-10-11-justdance11\\_cv\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/fitness/2010-10-11-justdance11_cv_n.htm)

This national study investigates the impact, prevalence and possible causes of chronic early absence and provides recommendations for how to effectively intervene and reduce its occurrence.

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/84/20/8420.pdf>

### **Safe Learning Environments**

White Paper. Cyberbullying & Digital Citizenship for Classrooms Offering Real Help in Critical Situations and Reaching Kids Through Real Life Learning Experiences.

[http://www.schoolreach.com/cmss\\_files/attachmentlibrary/Stopping%20Bullies%20-%20White%20Paper%20-%20final%20version%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.schoolreach.com/cmss_files/attachmentlibrary/Stopping%20Bullies%20-%20White%20Paper%20-%20final%20version%20(3).pdf)

Best Practices in Bullying Prevention and intervention—10 strategies.

[http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/HHS\\_PSA/pdfs/SBN\\_Tip\\_23.pdf](http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/HHS_PSA/pdfs/SBN_Tip_23.pdf)

### **Early Childhood**

Lessons in Early Learning: Building an Integrated Pre-K-12 System in Montgomery County Public Schools—a 10-year study. [http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/MCPS\\_report.pdf?n=8784](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/MCPS_report.pdf?n=8784)

### **Mentoring-Tutoring**

An analysis of three evaluations of school mentoring programs has found the practice can improve a student's attendance at and connection to school, but the sporadic and short-lived mentoring could harm students.

[http://www.mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring\\_1273.pdf](http://www.mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring_1273.pdf)

### **Alternative Schooling**

Small is Still Beautiful—Breaking up big, dysfunctional high schools into smaller units looked like a reform that failed. Look again. [www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2010/1007.toch.html](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2010/1007.toch.html).

### **After-School Opportunities**

A new report from the RAND Corporation, "Hours of Opportunity," finds promise in the coordinating efforts put into place by five cities that sought to improve and widen the reach of out-of-school time programs.

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentAreasofFocus/Out-Of-SchoolLearning/Documents/Hours-of-Opportunity-1-Lessons-After-School-Summer-OST.pdf>

### **Professional Development**

The largest in-depth study of school leadership to date gathers and analyzes quantitative data confirming that education leadership has a strong impact on student achievement, as measured by student test scores. The study shows that leadership makes its mark largely by strengthening a school's "professional community"

[http://www.cehd.umn.edu/carei/Leadership/Learning-from-Leadership\\_Final-Research-Report\\_July-2010.pdf](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/carei/Leadership/Learning-from-Leadership_Final-Research-Report_July-2010.pdf)

### **Active Learning**

Free tool lets students participate during class. Microsoft offers a no-cost alternative to student response system software called Mouse Mischief. <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Download-Free-Microsoft-Mouse-Mischief-132089.shtml>

These webinars are designed to connect educators and administrators to their peers and experts in the field of mathematics to learn how we can better engage students in learning math.

[http://www.carnegielearning.com/webinars/?utm\\_source=ASCD-webinar&utm\\_medium=emailnewsletter&utm\\_campaign=SmartBriefFall2010](http://www.carnegielearning.com/webinars/?utm_source=ASCD-webinar&utm_medium=emailnewsletter&utm_campaign=SmartBriefFall2010)

## **Educational Technology**

There is a significant transformation in classroom learning. Computer-based learning is finding its way into the traditional classroom. Listen to Stuart Udell, CEO of Penn Foster Corporation, share the latest information on this important subject. <http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/ydpodcast/YD101021udell.mp3>

This website offers a collection of student-created virtual field trips and also provides the tools for students to create original videos, virtual field trips and podcasts to be added to the collection.

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

Educators explore how to use GPS for teaching. [www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2010/10/2010gps.h04.html](http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2010/10/2010gps.h04.html)

A new partnership between Microsoft, the Smithsonian, and TakingITGlobal uses educational technology to help students solve real-world challenges through online collaboration with their peers around the globe. Shout invites educators and students to take an active role in global environmental issues. Connect online with experts in the field, share ideas, and collaborate with people around the world committed to solving environmental challenges.

<http://shoutlearning.org>

## **Students with Disabilities**

A report on [Autism Spectrum Disorders Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Services for Children and Families](#) by Catherine Lord and Somer L. Bishop. (The title is the link to the document; please click there to access document.)

## **Resources and Tools**

Virtualization technology allows schools to leverage older computers or buy low-cost, scaled-down client devices to deliver a fully robust computing experience to students.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/04/16/solving-key-it-challenges-with-virtualization/>

The National Teacher's Registry is a free service for schools and teachers that enables them to create a list of items they need for their classrooms. Parents and others can locate the registry and purchase needed items for the teacher.

<http://www.nationalteacherregistry.com>

DocsTeach is a new tool created by The National Archives to help educators teach with primary-source documents.

<http://www.docsteach.org>

**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:** Alliance for Excellent Education, *Education World*, ASCD, eSchool News, National Summer Learning Institute, NDPC/N, U.S Department of Education, Public Education Network, Commission of the States, Education Week, Edutopia, Washington Monthly, The Wallace Foundation, PEW Center of the States, Education Resource Strategies.