

**DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE**  
**February 3, 2011 — Volume 11 Number 2**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Register today for the 23rd Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum, “Expanding, Improving and Enhancing School and Community Relationships to Increase the Graduation Rate” February 20-23, 2011, in Myrtle Beach, SC.**

<http://www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=42434b6f-68fa-44bc-b0a9-2b1a183f0ae8>

**Top Stories**

Quality Counts 2011: Uncertain Forecast *by Education Week*

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2011/01/13/index.html?Intc=EW-QC11-EWH>

Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2008 Compendium Report

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011012.pdf>

A What Kids Can Do (WKCD) project called Hear Us Out, showed that too often, students lack supports and resources on their path to college. [http://www.centerforyouthvoice.org/Center\\_for\\_Youth\\_Voice/Hear\\_Us\\_Out.html](http://www.centerforyouthvoice.org/Center_for_Youth_Voice/Hear_Us_Out.html)

A new report suggests higher standards, better data use, and more parent engagement are among the strategies responsible for the first significant improvement in America’s high school graduation rate in 40 years.

<http://civicenterprises.net/pdfs/gradnation.pdf>

A new REL report on applying an on-track indicator for high school graduation

[http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southwest/pdf/REL\\_2011100.pdf](http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southwest/pdf/REL_2011100.pdf)

**Sound Connections**

The topic for February’s Solutions to the Dropout Crisis is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: What Does PBIS Have to Do With Prevention? Join Dr. George Sugai on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 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>

Change Student Attitudes and Get Results: Dr. Judy Willis on the Impact of Emotion on the Brain’s Direction of Academic, Social, and Emotional Success February 2, 2011, 3:00 p.m. ET

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars/judy-willis-brain-and-learning-webinars.aspx>

Media Literacy: The 21st Century Critical Thinking Skills All Students Need with Frank Baker, February 9, 3:00 p.m. ET

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/502680472>

**Videos**

Sir Ken Robinson links 3 troubling trends: rising drop-out rates, schools’ dwindling stake in the arts, and ADHD. An important, timely talk for parents and teachers. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U>

**Funding Sources**

Mentoring Grant (February 28) <http://www.ojdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2011/OJJD%20FY%2011%20Multi-StateMentoring.pdf>

The NABT Evolution Education Award recognizes innovative teaching and community educ. efforts to promote understanding biological evolution. (March 15). <http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/index.php?p=132#award2>

ING: Unsung Heroes Awards for effective projects that improve student learning at an accredited K-12 public or private school. ( April 30). <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>

Sodexo Youth Grants (February 25) YSA will award 100 Sodexo Youth Grants of \$500 each to support youth-led service projects that address the issue of childhood hunger. [www.YSA.org/grants/sodexoyouth](http://www.YSA.org/grants/sodexoyouth)

**Policy Updates**

The pros and cons of extended school days, years from ASCD

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/19/AR2011011907120.html>

Addressing Barriers to Learning: School Engagement, Disengagement, Learning Supports, & School Climate  
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/Newsletter/winter11.pdf>

When Superman gets a better gig: What happens when a "hero principal" abruptly leaves?  
[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/06/bostons\\_blackstone\\_school\\_faces\\_new\\_year\\_with\\_out\\_its\\_hero\\_principal/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/06/bostons_blackstone_school_faces_new_year_with_out_its_hero_principal/)

Lining up equity, transparency, and flexibility: This guide strives to help leaders make cuts with the least impact on the neediest students and schools [http://erstrategies.org/resources/details/school\\_funding\\_systems/](http://erstrategies.org/resources/details/school_funding_systems/)

### **International Notes**

Dr. Gillean McCluskey, of the University of Edinburgh and co-editor of The International Journal on School Disaffection, talks about restorative justice.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradiopod/ydopodcast/YD101227McCluskey.mp3>

### **Effective Strategies**

#### **School-Community Collaboration**

Two of the 2010 winners of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* have implemented programs and nurtured partnerships:

[Greater Green Bay Area, WI](#), engages the community through a Partners in Education program, uniting schools, businesses, local organizations, residents, and even the Packers

[Huntsville/Madison County, Ala.](#), places an emphasis on recruiting volunteers to staff the many programs directed toward at-risk youth in the community.

Many states and communities have multiple task forces, partnerships and councils working on overlapping youth issues, from bullying to pregnancy to dropouts. This policy brief calls attention to the problem of collaboration overload, and suggests ways to tackle it. <http://sparkaction.org/resources/49292>

The Maturing Mayor Role in Education, a research study summary describes the history and current state of mayoral involvement in public education. [http://www.ecs.org/rs/Studies/DetailStudy.aspx?study\\_ID=a0r700000008h7kAAA](http://www.ecs.org/rs/Studies/DetailStudy.aspx?study_ID=a0r700000008h7kAAA)

#### **Family Engagement**

The Dad's Breakfast is in its eighth year at Elmwood Elementary. The special Saturday breakfast involves kids and their dads, granddads, uncles, and others in do-it-yourself projects like building birdhouses, toolboxes, or stepstools. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_admin/partners/partners072.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/partners/partners072.shtml)

Family Engagement as a dropout prevention strategy. [http://www.pta.org/OC\\_Dec\\_2010\\_Jan\\_2011.asp](http://www.pta.org/OC_Dec_2010_Jan_2011.asp)

#### **Early Childhood**

Webinar: Dr. Tim Shanahan discusses: Developing Early Literacy: What Early Childhood Professionals Need to Know About The Report of the National Early Literacy Panel. Wed., Feb. 9, 2011 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/345158864>

Webinar: The Influences Changing Instruction in the PreKindergarten Classroom by Susan Gunnewig Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST Register at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/241458305>

#### **Literacy**

A literary website for teens called *Figment* went live Monday and provides an online venue for students to write, read and share original fiction they create <http://www.figment.com/>

An award-winning ninth-grade algebra teacher in Philadelphia says he works to engage his "learners" in lessons by helping them solve real-world problems  
[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20101206\\_Philadelphia\\_teacher\\_s\\_methods\\_make\\_math\\_add\\_up.html?cmpid=41144277](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20101206_Philadelphia_teacher_s_methods_make_math_add_up.html?cmpid=41144277)

*Success for All* is one of the nation's most extensively and successfully evaluated reading reform models. A new Child Trends brief, *Building an Evidence-Based Program to Improve Schools: The Story of Success for All*, summarizes the origins of Success for All, research of achievement outcomes, lessons learned from scaling up the program, & implications for policy. [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2010\\_12\\_16\\_RB\\_BuildingEVP.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2010_12_16_RB_BuildingEVP.pdf)

## **Alternative Schooling**

Program builds school supports for foster pupils. Shows potential for becoming a national model for keeping foster students on track to graduate. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/12/08/14i3foster.h30.html>

Engaging students whose visions of success seem outside the scope of academics  
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/newsletters/education-update/jan11/vol53/num01/Interpreting-Dreams.aspx>

Clearing the Path: Creating Innovation Space for Serving Over-Age, Under-Credited Students in Competency-Based Pathways by Chris Sturgis, Bob Rath, Ephraim Weisstein, and Susan Patrick, this paper provides guidance on creating competency-based approaches (CBAs) for students that have fallen off the track toward high school graduation. <http://www.opp.org/documents/ClearingthePathReportJan2011.pdf>

A newly entered research study: analyzes differences among dropouts, GEDs and high school graduates; discusses labor market performance and educational attainment of GEDs; and presents evidence on sources of growth in the GED program. [http://www.ecs.org/rs/Studies/DetailStudy.aspx?study\\_ID=a0r700000008hG3AAI](http://www.ecs.org/rs/Studies/DetailStudy.aspx?study_ID=a0r700000008hG3AAI)

## **Students with Disabilities**

Customizable and portable touch-screen devices, such as Apple's iPod Touch and iPad, are being used by parents and educators to help improve the lives of some individuals with autism.  
[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/01/apple\\_ipad\\_itouch\\_may\\_help\\_peo.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/01/apple_ipad_itouch_may_help_peo.html)

## **Resources and Tools**

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center has excellent resources on suicide among American Indians/Alaska Natives  
<http://www2.sprc.org/aian/index>.

Amazing useful tools and templates from *Education World*  
[http://www.educationworld.com/tools\\_templates/index.shtml#graphicOrganizers](http://www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/index.shtml#graphicOrganizers)

New high school embraces technology-based lessons <http://www.annarbor.com/news/ypsilanti/ypsilanti-new-tech-high-school-students-and-staff-adjust-to-changes-excited-about-new-direction/>

Social Media Aids Teachers, Students using educational social-media websites as instructional tools,  
<http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2010/06/16/03networking.h03.html>

Although some argue that young people already spend too much time using social media, other educators say it's time to embrace tools like Twitter and use them to expand communication with students and develop innovative lessons.  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech261.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech261.shtml)

Differentiating Instruction: Teaching Differently to Improve Student Outcomes  
<http://reg.accelacomm.com/servlet/Frs.FrsGetContent?id=51202997>

**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:** OJJDP, eSchool News, Education World, Tools for Schools, Education Week, Center for Metal Health in Schools, PEN, International Journal, PTA, JMH Education, America's Promise Alliance, Ed's Safe and Supportive Schools News, American Youth Policy Forum, International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) and Our Piece of the Pie, Inc. (OPP), United Nations Arts Initiative, Early Childhood Investigations. ECS e-Connection