

DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE
April 3, 2011, Volume 11 Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Hold the date of October 9 - 12, 2011, for the 23rd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: “**S.T.A.Y.: Systems Together Advancing Youth**”, in Schaumburg, IL. [Click here](#)

Call for presenters: [Click here to submit your proposal](#)

Top Stories

Meeting the Challenge: Fiscal Implications of Dropout Prevention in Massachusetts, on dropouts in 5 districts in Massachusetts. [Click here](#).

New research released at summit shows decline in dropout factories. A report released by America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises and Johns Hopkins University's Everyone Graduates Center shows the nation continues to make progress in its efforts to keep students in school. [Click here](#).

Sound Connections

Join the NDPC Webinar with Dr. Cindy Johnson-Taylor and Jen Morrison of Newberry College discussing *Dropout Prevention Through Data Assessment* on Tuesday, April 12, at 3:30 to 4:30 pm EST. No fees or pre-registration are necessary. [Click here](#)

Linda Shirley shares some of her memories of coordinating NDPC/N Conferences and Events over the years prior to her recent retirement. We will miss you, Linda! [Click here](#).

Gayle McGrane, author of *Building Authentic Relationships With Youth At Risk*, discusses a different way to successfully connect with all students, especially the hard-to-reach. [Click here](#).

Videos

A campaign by State Farm, "*26 Seconds*," uses interests – i.e. music, sports and video – to engage youth. It provides an online venue for youth to express feelings on the issue and creatively share thoughts and talents – encouraging them and their peers to make graduation a priority so they become more than a statistic. [Click here](#).

Funding Sources

ING Unsung Heroes Grants. Are you an educator with a class project that is short on funding but long on potential?

Deadline: April 30 [Click here](#).

Target: [Early Childhood Reading Grants](#) Deadline: April 30

Target: [Arts and Culture in Schools Grants](#) Deadline: April 30

Dominion Foundation: [Education Partnership Grants](#) Deadline: May 1

Bring your classroom together to brainstorm BIG Ideas on how to Be Big in Your Community every day! Deadline: June 17, 2011 [Click here](#).

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) and the HISTORY channel are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War by inviting all U.S. high school students to participate in a national trivia contest—challenge begins April 7, 2011. [Click here](#).

Policy Updates

Governors' Role in Education - A summary of recent state action giving governors a greater role in education policymaking, and a discussion on the political and education policy impacts such changes may have. [Click here](#).

New Report on Effectiveness of School Discipline Policies *Limited Evidence that Zero Tolerance is Effective; Nonpunitive Alternatives Show Promise* [Click here](#).

International Notes

Mossbourne Academy: Britain's worst-performing school becomes one of the best. [Click here.](#)

Effective Strategies

Systemic Renewal

A five-year evaluation ranks Communities in Schools (CIS) as highly effective at dropout prevention [Click here.](#)

Professional Learning Communities Can Build School Culture from the Ground Up [Click here.](#)

Immigrant Children and Youth: Enabling Their Success at School [Click here.](#)

Literacy

The National Parent Teachers' Association has released guides on the Common Core State Standards to empower parents to work with state and district leaders to ensure that the Common Core State Standards are implemented effectively in schools across the country. [Click here.](#)

Mentoring-Tutoring

The Research Alliance that MENTOR, The National Mentoring Partnership and the University of Massachusetts Boston announced this past January, has now launched a website for The Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring [Click here.](#)

Professional Development

Teacher and Leader Effectiveness in High Performing Education Systems, a report on lessons learned from Finland, Ontario, and Singapore. [Click here.](#)

Five Musts for Turnaround Schools [Click here.](#)

Active Learning

How should learning be assessed in project-based lessons? A new classroom guide developed by Edutopia offers tips and resources for assessing learning at each stage of a project-based lesson, from project planning to a culminating event when students present their conclusions. [Click here.](#)

Educational Technology

Videoconferencing is being used increasingly as a classroom tool to provide opportunities in distance learning, virtual field trips and to connect students with their peers around the world. (Lots of great links here.) [Click here.](#)

Students with Disabilities

Beers Elementary in D.C. uses the Schoolwide Applications Model (SAM), an inclusive program that engages the entire staff to achieve a safe and orderly learning environment where all students receive the supports they need. Video included. [Click here.](#) Direct access to the Sam model: [Click here.](#)

Resources and Tools

Springtime Lesson Planning Links from American Montessori Consulting [Click here.](#)

The weekly Lesson Planning Newsletter offers links to all new lesson plan content posted to the Education World Web site in the previous week. To subscribe: [Click here.](#)

The Education World Administrator's Desk Newsletter is published on a bi-weekly basis. Written for superintendents, principals, and other school administrators, this newsletter includes articles on leadership, setting goals, funding, parental involvement, technology, the current education news, interviews with senior-ranking education officials, and much more. [Click here.](#)

Qwizdom has developed a free online learning platform for students in grades K-8, called Qtopia, with thousands of ready to use practice materials [Click here.](#)

NoDropouts.org website stirs interactive dialogue on dropout prevention [Click here.](#)

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." [Click here.](#)

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the *Dropout Prevention Update*. Please

contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu.

Sources: ECS e-Connection, America's Promise Alliance, eClassroom News, State Farm, American Family Insurance, Education World, ASCD SmartBrief, UCLA