

**DROPOUT PREVENTION UPDATE**  
**August 2, 2011, Volume 11 Number 8**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**JOIN US IN CHICAGO!! October 9 - 12, 2011**, for the 23rd Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference: **"S.T.A.Y.: Systems Together Advancing Youth"**, **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!** [Click here](#)

**Top Stories**

With the retirement of longtime director, Dr. Jay Smink, NDPC welcomes its **new Executive Director, Dr. James Appleton.** [Click here](#)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published, "**Highlights of the 2009 National Youth Gang Survey**" [Click here](#)

The statistical methods used to calculate credit scores and car-insurance premiums are now being used to **predict which students are likely to drop out** and which teacher candidates are good fits for jobs. [Click here](#)

An article by the director of the Center for Leadership in Education addresses **How to use data analysis to improve classroom instruction** [Click here](#)

A U.S. Report finds **teen birth rate drops, but 8th-grade drug use rises** [Click here for article](#) [Click here for full report](#)

**Sound Connections**

**Free Online Institute. To respond to the increasing interest in learning more about developing a comprehensive system of learning**, Scholastic Inc. and its partners have created a free online Leadership Institute consisting of a series of six webinar sessions: (1) New directions for student and learning supports, (2) Framing a comprehensive intervention, (3) Reworking school and district operational infrastructure and policy, (4) Expanding professional development to include an enhanced understanding of intrinsic motivation, (5) School transformation in terms of systemic change phases and tasks, and (6) Planning and strategically pursuing implementation of a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports as an integrated part of school improvement. [Click here](#)

National Public Radio has produced an informative series on **America's Dropout Crisis.** [Click here](#)

**From Drug Dealing to Dropout: A Teen's Struggle** is a young man's story from drug dealing back to school. [Click here](#)

**Videos**

**How educational videos are changing classroom instruction.** Khan Academy -- which now houses more than 2,300 educational videos for teachers and students -- sees the mission of this organization as providing the tools and resources needed for a "world-class education." Salman Khan, founder, describes how teachers use these resources in the classroom and how videos can be used to flip the traditional instructional model. [Click here](#)

**Funding Sources**

- \* STEMester of **Service YSA Grants** \$5000 Deadline: August 8 [Click here](#)
- \* State Farm is committed to meeting the needs of communities by giving in three areas: **Safe Neighbors (safety), Strong Neighborhoods (community development), and Education** Deadline: October 31, 2011. [Click here](#)
- \* The Drug, Chemical & Assoc. Tech (DCAT) "**Making a Difference**" **Award for excellence in a science program developed and implemented by middle-level science teachers**, grades 6-8. Deadline: Nov. 30. [Click here](#)
- \* The National Council of the Teachers of Mathematics **Engaging Students in Learning Grants** given to incorporate middle school classroom materials Maximum \$3000 Deadline: November 11, 2011 [Click here](#)
- \* Health Care Service Corporation—**Healthy Kids, Healthy Families Grants**—a 3-yr initiative for IL, NM, OK, and TX. Deadline: August 15, 2011 [Click here](#)
- \* Sodexo **School Engagement Grant** Deadline: August 15 [Click here](#)
- \* Home Depot **Community Impact Grants Program** Deadline: October 31 [Click here](#)
- \* Sodexo **Youth Grants** Deadline: September 16 [Click here](#)

## [Policy Updates](#)

A new report from National Council on Teacher Quality, paid for largely by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, provides a **data-driven look at the state of teacher policies in the Los Angeles Unified School District** and explores LAUSD's teacher contract, as well as District practices and state laws that shape teachers' work rules. [Click here](#)

A growing number of educators and elected leaders are **scaling back discipline policies** that led to lengthy suspensions and ousters for such mistakes as carrying toy guns or Advil. [Click here](#)

States **Target Early Years to Reach 3rd Grade Reading Goals** [Click here](#)

## [International Notes](#)

Israeli report says **sports eases aggression in boys**. [Click here](#)

## [Effective Strategies](#)

### [Safe Learning Environments](#)

With specific respect to social or relational aggression and mean girls, the National Education Association provides a list of 'Resources for Empowering Girls and Combating Social Aggression' [Click here](#)

### [Early Childhood](#)

- \* New report says children who attend high-quality pre-kindergarten programs are more likely to graduate from high school. [Click here](#)
- \* What works for early language and literacy development. Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Intervention Strategies [Click here](#)

### [Literacy](#)

- \* Leveling the Playing Field: How to Make Standardized Test Preparation Accessible to All Students [Click here](#)
- \* What can you do with just 30 minutes of reading instruction a day? [Click here](#)

### [Family Engagement](#)

A new Child Trends brief finds that relationship quality between parents is consistently and positively associated with better outcomes for children and families. [Click here](#)

### [Service Learning](#)

A group of high-school students in Knox County, Tenn., have created the Citizens' Guide to Problem Solving, an online curriculum for teaching students how to solve problems in their communities. [Click here](#)

### [Alternative Schooling](#)

A growing number of programs around the country are helping at-risk students stay in school and understand the relevance of skills in reading, writing and math by teaching them entrepreneurship. [Click here](#)

### [Active Learning](#)

- \* 10 ideas for interactive teaching [Click here](#)
- \* Online teacher and education consultant Andrew Miller considers elements of the Common Core State Standards for math and how to best apply them in the classroom using project-based instruction. [Click here](#)

### [Educational Technology](#)

- \* Ideas for using digital cameras in classroom lessons. This article suggests 10 ways that educators can use visual media in classroom lessons. [Click here](#)
- \* PBS and its Boston affiliate have launched an online tool that provides curriculum supplements for students in pre-kindergarten to college. It will consist mainly of videos, but games, images and other activities also will be included. [Click here](#)
- \* Author of "The Tech Commandments," advises schools to make teacher training in technology a priority and to integrate technology throughout the curriculum rather than allow it to be confined to a computer lab. [Click here](#)
- \* How to use VoiceThread to engage students in lesson content  
Curriculum specialist and language-arts teacher Megan Palevich offers a tutorial in a blog post for educators on using the multimedia tool VoiceThread to enhance student lessons. [Click here](#)
- \* How technology initiative in Colorado's Boulder Valley School District helped schools transition to a digital content-delivery system. This article describes the process of implementing the initiative -- from seeking political buy-in and funding to rolling out the new system with the district's classroom teachers. [Click here](#)

## **Professional Development**

[Click here to register](#) for this free webinar.

Clearing the Hurdles: Helping Low Income Students Get Into College August 17, 2011 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT [Click here to register](#) for this free webinar.

## **Resources and Tools**

**Google's astounding array of web-based services have potential for classroom use.**

- \*Maximum PC's guide to 39 apps and services is a handy entry point. [Click here](#)
- \*Google Alerts is an easy-to-use service that pushes any sightings of information you define into your email inbox (provided you have no-cost gmail, of course)
- \*Take a look at SketchUp for free 3-D modeling. [Click here](#)
- \*You can also scour Google Books for free (if often musty) full-text tomes and excerpts from many others. [Click here](#)
- \*Google Scholar may come in handy as you do research. [Click here](#)
- \*The DIY Android App Inventor. [Click here](#)

Those helpful people at the **New York Times Learning Network** have organized last year's lesson plans into three big link collections based on content areas. [Click here](#)

**Sage Advice for New Principals** Novice teachers won't be the only educators entering into rookie territory this fall — the move into a schoolwide leadership role can be equally unsettling. Here's a popular article by the leader of a regional principals center, who asked an array of school stakeholders what new school leaders needed to know. "Their responses were strikingly similar," she says, "and might serve as a guide for those beginning their journeys." [Click here](#)

**Students should learn about infographics** -- a combination of text and visuals that help convey an idea -- before creating their own, according to Kathy Schrock, who suggests educators then have students brainstorm keywords and questions to be represented by an original infographic. [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@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu).

**Sources:** eClassroom News, PEN Weekly, ASCD, Education Week, UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools, Smartbrief on Ed Tech, Middle Web, NPR, Center for Leadership in Education,