

Dropout Prevention Update
August 1, 2001- Volume 1- No.2
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
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Top Stories

Hopes that Congress will complete an overhaul of federal education legislation by summer's end appear to be waning. Read the story in Education Week by Lynn Olson and Erik W. Robelen.

<http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=42esea.h20>

Review the federal proposed legislation, No Child Left Behind or HR1, for yourself at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Funding Sources

Program for Gender Equity in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology

This program seeks to broaden the participation of girls and young women in all fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education by supporting research, demonstration, and dissemination projects that will lead to change in education policy and practice. Deadlines vary, starting at December 12, 2001.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2001/nsf01130/nsf01130.htm>

Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds available. Support is provided to nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations to enrich community life through support of education, arts, and culture. The sponsor usually solicits proposals through a screening process, therefore unsolicited proposals are rarely funded. Initial contact should be a brief letter of inquiry. If more information or a proposal is desired, the sponsor will request it within four weeks.

<http://www.wallacefunds.org/frames/framesetoverview.htm>

This announcement seeks a small business capable of performing a study to test the efficacy of a multi-component, mentor-implemented, violence prevention program directed at high-risk early adolescents.

http://www.infoed.org/new_spin/spin_prog.asp?62233

Policy Updates

Success4:

The Iowa initiative in school improvement is designed to address the developmental challenges of children and is called Success4. It is an integrated enterprise in the sense that all involved parties play active roles in addressing the four primary aspects of the child development process.

<http://www.state.ia.us/educate/programs/success4/>

Bullying Legislation Proposed in Michigan

Michigan state Representative Samuel Thomas introduced a bill (HB 4746) that would require school districts to have a specific policy and discipline code to address bullying. For more information on HB 4746, visit the Michigan Legislature at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org> and click on "Bill by Number. Search for HB 4746.

Effective Strategies

Class Size

Research, for the most part, seems to support the belief in the benefits of small classes. While not all studies on the subject have shown that students learn more in smaller settings, most studies have found benefits.

<http://www.edweek.org/context/topics/issuespage.cfm?id=44>

Mentoring

Learn more about mentoring at the National Mentoring Partnership web site.

<http://www.mentoring.org/index.adp>

Resources & Tools

"A Brief for Practitioners on Turning Around Low-Performing Schools: Implications at the School, District, and State Levels"

This new National Clearinghouse for Comprehensive School Reform (NCCSR) Issue Brief covers the highlights from the Regional Forum on Turning Around Low-Performing Schools sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) in November 2000.

<http://www.goodschools.gwu.edu/pubs/issue/ibapril01.pdf>

Schools More Separate: Consequences of a Decade of Resegregation
New Research Findings from The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/civilrights/publications/presseseg.html>

A new study from the Council of Great City Schools, "Beating the Odds," provides surprising evidence that improvements in student achievement are being made among urban students. The report summarizes the results of urban student performance on state assessments, and it shows these students are not only making significant academic progress, but in some cases are improving faster than the state average.

<http://www.negp.gov/issues/issu/monthly/0601.pdf>

Feedback

We appreciate the comments from our readers after the first issue of Update. Please keep writing (to ndpc@clemsun.edu) so we can do a better job of providing you with timely information that you can use.