Dropout Prevention Update
January 1, 2003- Volume 2- No. 7
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) and the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools are now operational.
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=20101

A new Internet-based campaign will strive to mobilize Americans concerned about a lack of highly qualified teachers in public schools to lobby their governors to take action.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=14pen.h22

Funding Sources

PLATO Learning Inc. will award a total of $3 million in matching grants to school districts affiliated with the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). Deadline: January 20, 2003.
http://www.plato.com/pdf/nabse_grant.pdf

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announces the availability of funds for community collaborations to prevent youth violence and promote youth development. Deadline January 22, 2003.
http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/content/2003/sm03005_youthviol.htm

The Toshiba America Foundation encourages projects that can improve classroom teaching and learning of science, math, and technology. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the foundation before or during the proposal preparation process. Deadline: February 1, 2003.
http://www.toshiba.com/about/taf.html

Policy Updates

The Department of Education has released final regulations for the "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001. http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=14ayp.h22
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=19673

A little-noticed provision in a new federal education law is requiring high schools to hand over to military recruiters some key information about its juniors and seniors: name, address and phone number. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=19780

International Notes

U.S. Secretary of Education Paige urges a new focus on international education.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=13paige.h22

Effective Strategies

Family Involvement

The National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) provides manuals, resources, evaluation opportunities, and on-going professional development for strengthening and maintaining programs of school, family, and community partnerships.
http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/nochild.htm

A *Child Trends* report shows that strong, positive parent/child relationships are key to the healthy development of adolescents. http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/K7Brief.pdf

Instructional Technologies
Students build and keep computers in Dell's TechKnow program.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4117

At least 14 states have a state-sanctioned, statewide virtual school either planned or in place, according to a recent report.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4112

Reading/Writing
In *Reading and Writing as Ways of Understanding in the Content Classroom*, Thomas shares ideas that can help content teachers "fully embrace" the teaching of reading and writing.
http://www.ascd.org/readingroom/classlead/0212/thomas.html

A small but growing number of studies suggest that systematically teaching handwriting and spelling might actually help some students write more and do it better.
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=19646

Systemic Renewal
According to Ron Wolk, it seems obvious that any serious restructuring of a school in need of improvement has to begin with substantial restructuring of the curriculum.
http://www.teachermagazine.org/tmstory.cfm?slug=04persp.h14

Tom Vander Ark outlines the strategic choices that district leaders must face as they attempt to steer their systems toward success. http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0212va1.htm

Violence Prevention/Conflict Resolution
Nancy Mullin-Rindler suggests that understanding bullies can lead to more effective programs.
http://www.middleweb.com/MGNEWS1/MGN1220.html#anchor5482945

Despite the presence of metal detectors and surveillance cameras in U.S. schools, many students are still fearful of violence because the problem of school bullying hasn't been adequately addressed. *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide.*
http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/Products/ActionGuide/#DOWNLOAD

Resources & Tools

A labor market economist at Northeastern University, Sum found that at the low end of the market, defined as young people between 16 and 24 without a high school education, 82% of immigrants have a job, but 63% of African Americans in this group are neither working nor in school. http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/344/business/Our_invisible_droputs+.shtml

Fox Lane Middle School in New York found that a representative council is the means for improving morale, instruction, and community.
http://www.principals.org/news/pl_createinstr_1102.html

A new survey challenges notions about African American and Hispanic students' achievement. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?sehn_id=929

The November issue of the American Educational Research Association's *ER Online* is dedicated to a discussion of research in education. http://www.aera.net/pubs/er/eronline.htm

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ED Week, ENC, eSn, JTO, Middle Web, PEN Weekly