Dropout Prevention Update
July 1, 2003- Volume 3- No. 1
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories
Every state has a federally approved plan for ensuring that all students are proficient in reading and mathematics by 2013-14. http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=41account.h22

Businesses offer cash prizes to market products inside schools, encouraging students to influence their parents' purchases. http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A60034-2003Jun14&notFound=true

Funding Sources
The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for grants to establish and operate Parental Information and Resource Centers. The competition is open to non-profit agencies, including faith-based organizations and community organizations, and consortia of non-profit agencies and school districts. Under the program's statute, school districts alone are not eligible to apply. Deadline: July 18, 2003. http://www.ed.gov/offices/OII/portfolio/pirc.html

Thirteen/WNET-TV New York and the American Library Association have announced a partnership project to support a total of 15 libraries as participating outreach sites for *Cyberchase*, PBS's popular daily children's animated math adventure TV/Web series set in cyberspace. Deadline: July 31, 2003.
http://www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Offices/Public_Programs_Office/Current_Programs/Cyberchase_Library_Workshops/applicationfinal.pdf

The Toshiba America Foundation funds teacher-planned and -led programs, projects, and activities that aim to improve science and mathematics teaching. Before submitting a completed proposal, teachers are encouraged to contact the foundation to discuss their ideas. Deadline: August, 1, 2003. http://www.toshiba.com/taf

Policy Updates
Proponents of virtual schools contend the programs open new doors for students, but skeptics say they siphon tax dollars away from public schools and into the hands of for-profit companies. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4419

University of Florida students who insist on taking courses that slow their path to graduation can be forced to change their majors, or even expelled, regardless of their grades. http://www.sptimes.com/2003/06/16/State/Your_four_years_of_co.shtml

International Notes
Charles Clarke, the Education Secretary, is facing a new headache after it emerged that £650m spent on initiatives to reduce the school truancy rate has had no impact. http://education.independent.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=410001

The role that religion will play in postwar Iraq is a potential political powder keg for U.S. companies and nonprofit organizations charged with remaking primary and secondary schools there. http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=40islam.h22&keywords=Iraq

Effective Strategies

Alternative Education
Educators in New Britain, CT, are launching an alternative high school program this fall to train students for careers in homeland security.
http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/0503/26homeland.html

Reformers around the country have found new ways to motivate teens and they're inspiring others to break the mold. http://www.msnbc.com/news/917933.asp#BODY

Community Collaboration
High School Issue Papers are designed to help parents, young people, teachers and community leaders in their efforts to transform high school education.
http://www.temple.edu/cpp/hs_issue_papers.htm

Community Action Guide to Teacher Quality helps communities better understand teachers and teaching, as well as the community's role in achieving high-quality teaching.
http://www.publiceducation.org/tqguide.asp

Instructional Technologies
The U.S. Department of Education seeks broad input for New National Education Technology Plan. http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/05-2003/05232003.html

Contrary to popular belief, online education does not cost less than traditional schooling.
http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4456

Service-Learning
AmeriCorps, the community service program President Bush has repeatedly praised and promised to expand, has been severely cutback. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A56976-2003Jun13.html

The International Center for Service-Learning and Teacher Education at Clemson University announced. The purpose of the Center is to foster service-learning in teacher preparation. Contact ICSLTE-L@clemson.edu for additional information.

Resources & Tools
Some states and school districts are trying innovative solutions that use technology and the internet to enhance teacher recruitment and retention, aid certification, and assist in professional development. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4455

The NCES report *Status and Trends in the Education of Hispanics* examines the current condition and recent trends in the educational status of Hispanics in the United States.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/hispanics/

The National Mentoring Center has released *Foundations of Successful Youth Mentoring: A Guidebook for Program Development*. http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/foundations.html

The *2002 Digest of Education Statistics* is available on the NCES website.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003060

Stand by Me, is one of the most comprehensive examinations to date of American teachers' views on unions, tenure, pay-for-performance, alternative certification and other issues.
http://www.publicagenda.org/PDFStore/PDFs/stand_by_me.pdf

Feedback
We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: Education News/Commentaries & Reports, ECS, EDWeek, ENC, eSn, NCES, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin