

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

Growing numbers of academically weak students are being pushed out of New York City's school system. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/31/nyregion/31PUSH.html?hp>

Although dropout rates for black students are falling, incarceration rates may account for some of the decline. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0701/p13s01-lepr.html>
<http://www.weeklydig.com/dig/content/3765.aspx>

Funding Sources

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy is accepting applications. In order to be considered eligible for a grant, an organization must have an instructional literacy program that has operated for at least two years. Deadline: September 5, 2003.
<http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>

Oracle Corp.'s Help Us Help Foundation assists K-12 public schools and youth organizations in economically challenged communities through grants of computer equipment and software. Oracle requires that schools send their most recent test scores. Deadline: August 31, 2003.
<http://www.helpushelp.org/index.html>

3Com plans to give free TeacherPrep scholarships to 100 school districts for technology training that will take place between Nov. 3 and Nov. 14, 2003. Applicants must submit an online form. Entries will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
<http://www.evistaconsulting.com/tprepfme.asp>

Staples Recycle for Education today, a new program that makes it easy to raise funds for educators by recycling used inkjet and laser toner cartridges. Staples will donate \$1.00 for every eligible cartridge recycled in its stores. http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/030708/85436_1.html

Policy Updates

Secretary Paige announced a series of initiatives designed to assist states and educators in meeting the highly qualified teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.
<http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/07-2003/07152003.html>

Interest in the topic of unequal funding for public schools is widespread in America. This report answers key questions about school funding. <http://www.wested.org/cs/wew/view/rs/694>

International Notes

'Back to School' is emerging as a model in Romania for giving dropouts another chance.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0703/p08s01-woeu.html>

Students in Finland are among the world's best in terms of reading literacy, while students in Japan, Hong Kong-China and Korea lead in mathematics and science, according to a newly published survey of 15-year-olds in 43 countries.
http://www.oecd.org/cument/48/0%2C2340%2Cen_2649_201185_2969008_1_1_1_1%2C00.html

Effective Strategies

Community Collaboration

Technology companies can make great partners for school districts—not just providers. Here are numerous tips on how to create and maintain collaborations that produce long-term benefits for all. <http://www.districtadministration.com/page.cfm?id=433>

A new report from the Kettering Foundation contains three in-depth case studies of organizations that connect with schools and a survey of eight additional organizations doing this work. The report analyzes how these organizations identify pressing issues, translate their beliefs into action, and structure successful interventions.

<http://www.publicengagement.com/newrelationshipsummary.html>

Instructional Technologies

Jefferson County Kentucky e-school widens its reach

<http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2003/07/01ky/wir-front-eschool0701-12292.html>

The Boston Public Schools have received seven unique wearable mobile computers co-developed by IBM and Xybernaut Corp.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/partners/showrelease.cfm?ReleaseID=362>

Oracle Corp. offers a free online learning community for students ages 7-14, called Think.com, which provides students and teachers with their own web sites, spam-free eMail accounts, and discussion tools. <http://www.think.com/>

Mentoring

Foundations of successful youth mentoring: A guidebook for program development includes checklists to gauge the strength of your efforts, and a timeline for setting up new programs.

<http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/foundations.html>

The Research Corner of the National Mentoring Partnerships reviews some of the published studies conducted from 2000-2002 and discusses their application to mentoring relationships and programs. http://www.mentoring.org/research_corner/research_corner.adp?Entry=whatsnew

Resources & Tools

The negative effects of extended summer vacations on student achievement are discussed in these two articles. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/researchbrief/volume1/v1n14.html>

<http://www.youthtoday.org/youthtoday/quinn.html>

While educators have always known that teachers are the key factor in how well students perform in school, there is a woeful lack of adequate research on what it takes to make a good teacher, according to a report issued by the Education Commission of the States.

<http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/educationIssues/teachingquality/tpreport/index.asp>

NCES released findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress for the first Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), conducted in reading and writing in 2002. Five districts participated in the 2002 TUDA in reading and writing: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and New York. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/results2002/districtresults.asp>

The National Staff Development Council is seeking 12 schools to participate in a network called “Twelve under Twelve” to demonstrate that high-quality staff development, in combination with other reforms, can help all students become academically proficient.

http://www.middleweb.com/mw/images/12_under_12.pdf

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: Charity Channel, Education Commentaries, NCES, News & Reports, ENC, ECS, eSn, Guidance Channel, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, rtcupdates