

Dropout Prevention Update
March 1, 2004- Volume 3- Number 9
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Top Stories

Chicago Schools get "in your face" with dropouts. <http://www.suntimes.com/output/education/cst-nws-drop25.html>

Education chief's "terrorist" remark ignites fury; Paige's apology does little to mollify teachers' union. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/EDUCATION/02/24/paige.terrorist.nea/index.html>

Funding Sources

The purpose of the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) is to help migrant & seasonal farmworkers & their children obtain a general education diploma (GED) that meets the guidelines for high school equivalency. Deadline: April 5, 2004.

www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2004-1/020504e.html

Schools and districts in which 20% of the families have incomes below the poverty line can apply for their share of \$12.5 million offered through the U.S. Department of Education to improve literacy through school libraries. Deadline: March 29, 2004.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html>

The U. S. State Department is sponsoring the "Doors to Diplomacy" educational challenge to encourage middle and high school students around the world to produce web projects that teach others about the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. Deadline: March 20, 2004.

<http://globalschoolhouse.org/doors>

Policy Updates

The head of the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District, in California, would like to take a little money from the richer schools in his district and give it to the poorer ones.

http://www.smmirror.com/volume5/issue34/debate_over_gift.asp

After years of trying to fix troubled schools one at a time, a number of states are weighing stronger measures for intervening in low-performing school districts.

<http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=20Districts.h23>

International Notes

The British primary school "literacy hour" helps close the literacy gap between boys and girls, new research shows. <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,5500,1148865,00.html>

Education Assistant Minister Kilemi Mwiria analyzes the reasons why private schools produce such good results on the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education.

<http://www.nationaudio.com/News/DailyNation/21022004/Comment/Comment210220041.html>

Effective Strategies

New effective strategies book: Smink, J. & Schargel, F. P. (Eds.). (2004). *Helping students graduate: A strategic approach to dropout prevention*. Larchmont, NY: Eye on Education.

http://www.eyeoneducation.com/Merchant2/merchant.mv?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=st104&Product_Code=1-930556-75-6&Category_Code=AA

Early Childhood Education

Studies find that providing at-risk children with quality early childhood care and education significantly reduces the achievement gaps that otherwise plague them later in their school careers. <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36~75~1923451,00.html>
http://pace.berkeley.edu/Stanford_Child_Dev_findings.pdf

The State Preschool Yearbook has been developed by the national Institute for Early Education Research to provide information on state-funded pre-kindergarten programs.
<http://nieer.org/yearbook>.

Educational Technology

In an effort to help determine the effectiveness of educational technology for learning reading and math, the U.S. Department of Education will fund a study of 16 computer-based reading and math products. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/02/02132004.html>

In Chicago, 22 sixth-graders who never thought they'd have a computer of their own now do. They're among the 287 middle school students from 12 districts who earned a free Dell desktop computer they refurbished themselves by completing the Dell TechKnow program.
http://www.dell4k12.com/tpl_program.php?pr=28

Reading/Writing

The Partnership for Reading is offering free literacy resources for educators, teacher educators, administrators, policymakers, support agencies and families.
<http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading>.

Vocabulary club combines fun & learning.
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/160811_vocabulary16.html

Violence/Conflict Resolution

Thousands of middle schools will take part in "No Name-Calling Week" March 1 - 5, 2004, aimed at ending name-calling and verbal bullying of all kinds. <http://www.educationnews.org/no-name-calling-week-coalition.htm>

The National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign announces that Violence Prevention Week will take place March 29th-April 2nd. <http://www.violencepreventionweek.org/>

Resources & Tools

The newly released *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, 2003*, explores the attitudes and opinions of teachers, principals, parents and students regarding school leadership.
<http://www.metlife.com/WPSAssets/20781259951075837470V1F2003%20Survey.pdf>

Helping students finish school: Why students drop out and how to help them graduate analyzes the wide body of research and professional literature available to help answer some of the troubling questions about why students choose to leave school before earning a diploma.
<http://www.k12.wa.us/research/pubdocs/pdf/dropoutreport2003.pdf>

Anne Wheelock states that 9th grade is a pivotal year. <http://www.asbj.com/current/research.html>

Diversity: School, family, and community connections helps local school, community, and family leaders obtain useful research-based information about key educational issues.
<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/catalog/items/fam35.html>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsn.edu Sources: ECS, ENC, EDNews, Commentaries & Reports, eSn, NCPIE, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, rtcUpdates, SMHP

