

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**April 1, 2004- Volume 3- Number 10**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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**Nomination forms for the Crystal Star Awards are now available on our web site.**

**Top Stories**

U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$34.6 million contract to develop and operate ERIC. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03182004.html>

For too many graduates, the American high school diploma signifies only a broken promise. *Ready or Not: Creating a High School Diploma That Counts* suggests ways to restore its value. <http://www.achieve.org/achieve.nsf/AmericanDiplomaProject?OpenForm>

**Funding Sources**

Target has grants available in the area of arts, early childhood reading and family violence prevention. Grants range from \$1,000-3,000. Deadline: May 31, 2004. [http://target.com/target\\_group/community\\_giving/index.jhtml](http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/index.jhtml)

State Farm Insurance Companies, in collaboration with the National Service-Learning Partnership, seek proposals from K-12 school districts for a three-year initiative to increase and sustain service-learning practice by creating partnerships among schools, businesses and communities. Deadline: April 16, 2004. [http://service-learningpartnership.org/service\\_learning/SF\\_GoodNeighborInitiative.cfm](http://service-learningpartnership.org/service_learning/SF_GoodNeighborInitiative.cfm)

NASSP is inviting proposals from public middle level and high schools serving large numbers of low-income students and underrepresented minorities to apply for a \$3,000 mini-grant to implement a school-developed initiative aimed at strengthening ties between the grant recipients' schools and their students' neighborhoods and communities. Deadline: April 16, 2004. [http://www.principals.org/awards/bridgebuilders\\_grant.cfm](http://www.principals.org/awards/bridgebuilders_grant.cfm)

**Policy Updates**

Secretary Paige issues new policy for calculating participation rates under No Child Left Behind. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03292004.html>

Mostly rural school systems in at least 12 states are experimenting with a shorter week. <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2004/0323/p03s01-ussc.html>

**International Notes**

Education secretary launches plans to create an electronic file on every child in England. <http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/story/0,1074,1161932,00.html>

Sex discrimination laws will be amended to allow Australian schools to offer male-only teaching scholarships to redress "gender imbalance." [http://theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,8923387%255E601,00.html](http://theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,8923387%255E601,00.html)

**Students With Disabilities**

The PACER Center has just released a new curriculum on bullying which targets intervention strategies for parents of children with disabilities. <http://www.pacer.org/publications/BullyingFlyer.pdf>

The Council of the Great City Schools has prepared the fourth edition of "Beating the Odds" to give the nation another look at how inner-city schools are performing on the academic goals and standards set by the states. [http://www.cgcs.org/reports/beat\\_the\\_oddsIV.html](http://www.cgcs.org/reports/beat_the_oddsIV.html)

Research-proven instructional practices, materials, and supports and accommodations can help students with disabilities effectively engage in learning general education curriculum content. [http://208.246.68.104/training\\_resources/documents/Research-ProvenStrategiesfinal1.doc](http://208.246.68.104/training_resources/documents/Research-ProvenStrategiesfinal1.doc)

### **Effective Strategies**

**The 15 Effective Strategies have been revised and updated. Please visit our web site ([www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)) to view the changes.**

### **Career and Technical Education**

Vocational ed evolves to meet 21st Century career demands.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/technology/chi-0403060308mar07,1,1467999.story>

High school students who attend career academies earn higher incomes on average than their peers in other high schools, a new national study reports.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/366/overview.html>

### **Educational Technology**

Studies validate laptop programs in U.S. and Canada.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4910>

Schools haven't mastered state-of-art technology; some equipment becomes outdated before teachers can learn to use it. <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/local/8247085.htm>

A new self-assessment tool from the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) aims to help educators determine their progress toward creating a data-rich school district.

<http://3d2know.cosn.org/assessment/survey.cfm>

### **Family Engagement**

To download a copy of *The Case for Parent Leadership* and view many other parent resources, please visit <http://www.ksaplus.com/ksa/framesplpubs.html>

Parents often miss warning signs that their teenagers are at risk to drop out of high school, educators warn. <http://desmoinesregister.com/news/stories/c4780927/23672253.html>

This useful article that may help parents alleviate students' test anxiety.

[http://cresst.org/resources/justforparents/HelpYourChildonTests\\_010804.doc](http://cresst.org/resources/justforparents/HelpYourChildonTests_010804.doc)

### **Resources & Tools**

*Focus on the Wonder Years - Challenges Facing the American Middle School* questions the value of middle schools. <http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG139/>

A new study by Brigham Young University suggests that summer school has lasting effects for younger elementary students. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,595050657,00.html>

This is an excellent article on the impact of immigration on schools and students.

[http://www.principals.org/publications/pl/pl\\_world\\_immigrant\\_students\\_0304.cfm](http://www.principals.org/publications/pl/pl_world_immigrant_students_0304.cfm)

**We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsn.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsn.edu)** Sources: Access Center, ECS, EDNews, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, eSn, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, SMHP

