Dropout Prevention Update
April 1, 2005- Volume 4- Number 10
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS
Top Stories | Funding Sources | Policy Updates | International Notes | Students With Disabilities |
Effective Strategies | Resources & Tools | Feedback

Nominations for the Crystal Star Awards are now open.
Effective Strategies Institute, May 1-3. http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm

Top Stories
Up to 40% of the students who do not graduate from high school can be identified as early as the
sixth grade. http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/education/11154763.htmdo

The U.S. Department of Education is restructuring.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/04/26eddept_web.h24.html

A new survey has found that nine of every ten principals consider education graduates
unprepared for what awaits them in the classroom. http://www.edschools.org/reports_leaders.htm

Funding Sources
CDW-G and Discovery are giving away three wireless computer labs plus 30 additional
technology prizes. Deadline: May 1, 2005. http://www.discoveryschool.com/cdwg

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program is designed to recognize classroom heroes who "take
teaching to new heights and make learning fun." Deadline: April 30, 2005.
http://ing.com/unsungheroes/

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching identifies outstanding
K-12 mathematics and science teachers in each state and the four U.S. jurisdictions. Deadline:
May 2, 2005. http://www.paemst.org

Policy Updates
NASSP has outlined legislative recommendations that focus resources on initiatives that are
needed in order for high schools to improve the academic outcomes of their students.
http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=29&DID=29

Assessing Patterns of Resource Distribution (APRD) is a free online tool that compares district
spending for schools with different students and programs, pinpointing possible inequities.
http://www.schoolcommunities.org/resources/APRD/welcome.php

International Notes
Australian Prime Minister suggests that students drop out and get a trade.
http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,12463667%255E601,00.html

In Jeddah, the Presidency of Girls Education has begun a program to educate girls.
http://www.arabnews.com/?page=7&section=0&article=60224&d=10&m=3&y=2005

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) will sponsor its annual Global Action Week April 24-
30. http://www.campaignforeducationusa.org/events_default.asp

Students With Disabilities
Under the No Child Left Behind Act, school systems across the country have been forced to
disclose the abysmally low academic test scores of students with disabilities.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/09/26hettleman.h24.html

The 2004 update of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) made several significant changes to the Individualized Education Program (IEP). http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=978

John H. Hager is the assistant secretary in charge of the U. S. Department Of Education Special Education Office. http://www.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/hager.html

Effective Strategies
Alternative schooling
More Iowa students graduate via alternative methods as schools change diploma requirements. http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050319/NEWS02/503190320/1004

Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) is a successful response to the problem of low achievement in inner city and rural public schools. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9576-2005Mar29.html

Early Literacy
Reading Rockets is a new resource for parents and classroom teachers that provides information about the different types of reading difficulties a child may experience. http://www.weta.org/static/pressroom/reading/ http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/

A new report from the Alliance for Excellent Education provides insights from a panel of education researchers on how to improve the reading proficiency of middle and high school students. http://www.all4ed.org/publications/ReadingNext/index.html

Educational Technology

Many school districts are using global-positioning-satellite and radio-frequency tracking systems to follow their buses. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/02/25gps.h24.html

Distance Education Courses for Public Elementary and Secondary School Students: 2002-03 is the first national survey to explore distance education courses for public elementary and secondary school students. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005010

Join thousands of teachers, students, and parents of fourth- and eighth-grade students on Technology Black Out Day, April 20. http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/

Resources & Tools
The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher initiative offers free online professional development opportunities. www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative

The full text of *Qualified Teachers for At-Risk Schools: A National Imperative* is available at http://www.ncrel.org/quality/partnership.htm.

Some districts now want to require their best teachers to teach in high-poverty schools. Is it ethical for teachers to refuse to teach in high-poverty schools? http://www.teacherleaders.org/misc/HTSethics.html

The nation's graduation rate is in steady decline, creating an urgent but neglected national education problem. http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2005_03/wheelock.htm

A Profile of the American High School Sophomore in 2002: Initial Results From the Base Year of the Longitudinals Study of 2002. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005338

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, EDWeek, GLEF Edutopia, NASSP Bulletin, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, TLN News