Dropout Prevention Update
October 1, 2006- Volume 6, Number 4
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Join in the 20th anniversary celebration of the National Dropout Prevention Center by registering for the Conference in San Antonio, Texas. http://www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpcdefault.htm

Top Stories
Karen Mathis, president of the American Bar Association, has announced an initiative intended to help at-risk youth. http://www.abanet.org/initiatives/youthatrisk/

The Institute of Education Sciences, has received mixed, but mostly positive, grades. http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2006/09/27/05ies.h26.html

The Month of the Young Adolescent materials are available. http://www.nmsa.org/moya/moya_2004/index.htm

Lights On Afterschool promotes the benefits of afterschool programs. http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/glance.cfm

Funding Sources
The National Gardening Association and Home Depot announce the 24th annual Youth Garden Grant Program. Deadline: November 1, 2006. http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp

YouthRising offers grants of $2,000 for organizations in the United States to engage high risk and/or gang-involved youth (ages 12-25) in volunteer service to their communities. Deadline: October 12, 2006. http://www.ysa.org/Awards/doc/final.youthrisingapplaandguidelines.doc

Target provides $1,000 for funding field trips. Deadline: October 15, 2006. http://www.target.com/teachers

The Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program funds school improvement projects initiated by parents. Deadline: October 15, 2006. http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/

Policy Updates
This paper from the Data Quality Campaign discusses the current status of P-16 data systems, progress in states and how policymakers can create an effective system. http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/files/Meetings-DQC_Quarterly_Issue_Brief_061306.pdf

This report calls for an education compact between America and its teachers. http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/press/teachers-and-uncertain-american-future.pdf

International Notes
For more than a quarter-century, Chile has operated a universal voucher system and produced research data. http://www.ncspe.org/publications_files/OP125.pdf

Testing is blamed for a rise in truancy rates in England. http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article1696146.ece

Students With Disabilities

Researchers examined Procedural Safeguards Notices from 49 states and the District of Columbia and found them lacking.
http://www.advocacyinstitute.org/advocacyinaction/Procedural_safeguards_Notice_Study.shtml

To help states collect data to meet Indicator 13, NSTTAC has developed a checklist.
http://www.nsttac.org/pdf/indicator13_checklist.pdf (Please copy and paste into your browser).

Effective Strategies
Educational Technology
Researchers seek a proven method of boosting the internet literacy skills of disadvantaged students. http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6578

Two reports from the Southern Education Regional Board lay out a set of standards for online teaching and offer guidelines on the costs of establishing state virtual schools.
http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/pubs/PDF/StandardsQualityOnlineTeaching.asp
http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/pubs/PDF/06T03_Virtual_School_Costs.pdf

Family Engagement
The *Family and Community Engagement Surv*ey covers student achievement, access and equity, organizational support, and quality of interaction. http://www.idra.org/images/stories/survey.pdf

Officials need to do a better job of abiding by the parental involvement sections of NCLB, according to a national report by Appleseed.
http://www.appleseeds.net/servlet/GetArticleFile?articleFileId=252

Language minority parents may face a number of challenges when trying to communicate or become involved with their child's school according to this NCES report.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006086

Systemic Renewal
School Restructuring Under No Child Left Behind: What Works When? A Guide for Education Leaders. http://www.centerforcsri.org/files/RestructuringGuide.pdf

Windows on Conversions: A Multi-Media Exploration of Redesign at Four Comprehensive High Schools is an examination of successful school redesign.
http://schoolredesign.net/srn/woc/woc_main.php

Resources & Tools
Authors share their expertise on what it will take to fulfill the promise of education reform for the nation's most vulnerable students. http://www.annenberginstitute.org/VUE/index.html

A new tool on the Alliance website allows users to compare the performance of high schools in their area with other high schools from around the state. http://www.all4ed.org/highschooldata/

Characteristics of the 100 Largest Public Elementary and Secondary School Districts in the United States: 2003-04. http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006329

Paying Double argues that too many high school students are not learning the basic skills needed to succeed in college or work. http://www.all4ed.org/publications/remediation.pdf

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: Annenberg Institute, CCSRI, ECS, Education Innovator, EducationNews.org, EDWeek, eSn, IDRA, JUVJUST, NCES, NSTTAC, Pen Weekly, RFP Bulletin, Straight A's