

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**July 1, 2007- Volume 7, Number 1**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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Registration now open for the National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, October 27-31, 2007!

[http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2007\\_Conf](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2007_Conf)

**Top Stories**

*Dropout Rates in the United States: 2005 Compendium Report* presents estimates of rates for 2005, and provides data about trends in dropout and completion rates from 1972-2005.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007059.pdf>

Newest edition of *Diplomas Count* - the essential guide for graduation policy and rates.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2006/06/22/index.html>

*Turning Around Low-Performing Schools and Districts* illuminates the conditions and strategies that enable schools to change from low- to high-performing

[http://www.wested.org/online\\_pubs/rd-07-01.pdf](http://www.wested.org/online_pubs/rd-07-01.pdf)

**Video**

NDPC assists the school and community dropout prevention committee in Fairbanks

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/effstrat/default.htm>

**Funding Sources**

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Grants to Help Children fund proposals that aim to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth. Maximum Award: \$70,000. Deadline: July 15, 2007.

<http://www.legion.org/cwf/docs/?section=grantseekers>

US Airways Education Foundation awarding grants to educational programs that respond to the special needs of disadvantaged or disabled individuals; teach or enhance social responsibility; facilitate parental and/or community involvement; and enhance academic achievement. Maximum Award: \$5,000.

Deadline: August 1, 2007.

<http://www.usairways.com/awa/content/aboutus/corporategiving/education.aspx>

**Policy Updates**

*Youth Risk Taking Behavior: The Role of Schools* covers what schools do with respect to risk taking behavior, concerns about current approaches, and what should school do including recommendations for school policy and planning.

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/policyissues/risktaking.pdf>

*What It Takes To Graduate for the Class of 2007* provides context for understanding high school graduation rates and the high school reform debate more generally.

<http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/dc/2007/40policy-1.pdf>

*The State Role in Accelerating Student Growth in Low-Performing High Schools* examines the research and makes suggestions for specific actions and provides examples of approaches that states have taken

to amend governance and organizational structures.  
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/74/66/7466.pdf>

## International Notes

Debates about improving student performance rarely take into consideration an important perspective of students, that is, how much they value an education and whether they see education as a path to success.

[http://www.educationsector.org/analysis/analysis\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=484263](http://www.educationsector.org/analysis/analysis_show.htm?doc_id=484263)

A British secondary school found that shortening the summer holiday to four weeks and offering four other two-week breaks throughout the year greatly improved test scores.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/news/article2611741.ece>

## Students With Disabilities

Four-fifths of the states are falling short of federal requirements for educating students with disabilities, the Education Department says.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/education/20070620-1439-specialedlaw.html>

Elementary students who could barely read are outperforming some of their peers after going through the Reading Achievement Program, a model to develop literacy in children with learning disabilities, limited English proficiency and other challenges.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/story/591754.html>

## Effective Strategies

### After-school Opportunities

*How Did You Spend Your Summer Vacation? What Public Policies Do (and Don't Do) To Support Summer Learning Opportunities for All Youth.*

<http://www.summerlearning.org/resourcesresearch/docs/HowDidYouSpendYourSummerVacation.pdf>

*What is Evidence Based Practices?* describes EBP for practitioners and provides valuable and easily accessible resources.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2007\\_06\\_04\\_RB\\_EBP1.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2007_06_04_RB_EBP1.pdf)

*A 10-Step Guide to Adopting and Sustaining EBP in Out-of-School Time Programs* provides program practitioners 10 concrete steps that programs can take to successfully adopt an evidence-based practice.

[http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2007\\_06\\_04\\_RB\\_EBP2.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2007_06_04_RB_EBP2.pdf)

### Early Literacy Development

*Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas: Getting to the Core of Middle and High School Improvement* indicate that students will need to develop the advanced literacy skills that are required to master more complex academic content. Only then can students be truly prepared for college, work, and citizenship.

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/LiteracyContent/LitCon.pdf>

*Language and Literacy Promotion in Early Childhood Settings: A Survey of Center-Based Practices* to assess the extent to which early childhood educators engage children in literacy-building activities.

<http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v8n1/green.html>

## Resources & Tools

*Mapping 2005 State Proficiency Standards onto the NAEP Scales* presents the results of applying a methodology for mapping state proficiency standards in reading and mathematics onto the appropriate NAEP scale, employing data from the 2004–05 academic year.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/studies/2007482.pdf>

*Reforming High Schools: Lessons Learned from the New Century School Initiative* summarizes outcomes, strategies, and lessons learned within the context of New York City's secondary school reform efforts.

[http://www.newvisions.org/schools/downloads/reforming\\_high\\_schools.pdf](http://www.newvisions.org/schools/downloads/reforming_high_schools.pdf)

*Campaign for High School Equity* outlined dozens of specific policy priorities, including providing rigor in core subjects and requiring states to report publicly on students' access to college-preparatory courses and course-taking patterns.

[http://www.highschoolequity.org/files/PlanforSuccess\\_0.pdf](http://www.highschoolequity.org/files/PlanforSuccess_0.pdf)

*Validity of High School Grades in Predicting the Success Beyond the Freshman Year*, a major study by the University of California suggests that high school grades may be good at predicting not only first-year college performance, but performance throughout four undergraduate years.

[http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/docs/ROPS.GEISER\\_SAT\\_6.12.07.pdf](http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/docs/ROPS.GEISER_SAT_6.12.07.pdf)

*Strengthening Afterschool for Older Youth through Policy and Practice: A Policy Brief*

<http://www.aypf.org/programs/briefs/AfterschoolPolicyBrief2007.pdf>

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsun.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsun.edu).

Sources: ASCD SmartBrief, AYP e-Bulletin, CEC SmartBrief, Child Trends, ECS, EdWeek, IES Newsflash, National Service Brief, PEN Weekly, School Mental Health Project, Straight A's.