

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Plan to attend this year's Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM! Come to Myrtle Beach, SC, February 17-20, 2008 for the best in professional development!

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm>

Top Stories

Excitement is mounting for the first-ever national (and international) radio Webcast focused solely on dropout prevention. Plan to participate in the first broadcast of **Solutions to the Dropout Crisis**, airing live on Tuesday, February 26, at 3:30 P.M. Eastern Time. Two weeks prior to the program, you can download resources and send in questions.

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast>

Video

At a multicultural high school in Ottawa, technology opens new worlds.

<http://www.edutopia.org/brookfield-multicultural-technology-video>

Funding Sources

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools is seeking applicants for its Grants To Reduce Alcohol Abuse Program in secondary schools.

Deadline: February 19, 2008.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2008-1/010308a.html>

The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) is seeking five school districts to receive an award of \$600,000 in direct funding and support services to implement the highly successful Toyota Family Literacy Program.

Deadline: February 15, 2008.

<http://www.familit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.3781979/>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') Administration for Children and Families is accepting applications for its Basic Center Program.

Deadline: February 19, 2008.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CY-0063.html>

Policy Updates

There have been numerous developments in early care and education at the state level during the past legislative session.

<http://www.preknowinfocenter.org/ct/edxgnS41DEzx/>

Many states have formed Children's Cabinets and Councils in an effort to meet the needs of their youngest constituents.

<http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2007/fb121407.htm>

International Notes

A National Science Foundation (NSF) study has found that middle school math teachers in the United States are not as well prepared as their peers in five other countries (South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Bulgaria and Mexico).

<http://usteds.msu.edu/MT21Report.pdf>

As the World Learns: Education as a Vital Global Marketplace Represents the Future. Explore the many ways students are taught around the world.

<http://www.edutopia.org/global-education-2008>

Students with Disabilities

Positive Behavior Support: A Potentially Important Strategy for Dropout Prevention. This article focuses on a promising link between positive behavior support (PBS) and dropout prevention.

http://www.apbs.org/newsletter/Files/APBSV5N4_webready.pdf

Effective Strategies

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The Association for Career and Technical Education has developed a series of state profiles that provide a comprehensive overview of career and technical education systems.

http://www.acteonline.org/resource_center/state_profiles.cfm

Family Engagement

Parents in Education: Lessons From Five Parental Information And Resource Centers explains "how to" strategies that the Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRCs) use to improve or expand their parental involvement programs in public schools.

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/comm/parents/parentinvolve/engagingparents.pdf>

Parental involvement is a crucial factor for student success, but reaching out to parents can be a challenge for busy service-learning educators. *What Is Service-Learning? A Guide for Parents* is available to help.

http://www.servicelearning.org/filemanager/download/What_is_service-learning_guide_for_parents_toread.pdf

Early Childhood Education

A new report from ZERO TO THREE and Pre-K Now offers tailored suggestions, strategies and guidelines for states to improve complex education systems to ensure they reach pre-kindergarteners, toddlers and even babies.

<http://www.zerotothree.org/commonvision>

To help better understand what comprises beneficial programs, the Foundation for Child Development has released a policy brief that examines the factors associated with expulsion from pre-kindergarten.

http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/ExpulsionBriefImplementingPolicies.pdf

Resources and Tools

The new National Middle School Association research summary *Characteristics of Exemplary Schools for Young Adolescents*.

http://www.nmsa.org/portals/0/pdf/research/Research_Summaries/Exemplary_Schools.pdf

Working Collaboratively: From School-Based Teams to School-Community-Higher Education Connections This revised packet provides some guidance for what makes such collaborative efforts successful and what gets in the way.

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

To Dream Again: The Continuing Challenge of Martin Luther King, Jr., a book written in 2004, is now being offered as a FREE download.

<http://www.todreamagain.com/images/ToDreamAgain.pdf>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. We invite new subscribers to receive the Dropout Prevention Update. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu.

Sources: National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, PEN Weekly Newsblast, School Mental Health Project, JUVJUST, MiddleWeb,