

Dropout Prevention Update
December 1, 2009 — Volume 9 Number 6
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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[Come to the 22nd Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM February 14 – 17, 2010, in Myrtle Beach, SC; “Empowering Students to Communicate, Accelerate, Participate and Graduate.”](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2010_AtRisk_Forum)
http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm#2010_AtRisk_Forum

Top Stories

Find out about PAR Advantage, a systemic renewal process geared towards turning around low-performing schools as well as improving graduation rates for all schools. Incorporating a Dropout Early Warning System that uses risk factors and predictive analytics to identify potential dropouts, and adding a qualitative assessment component, PAR Advantage will give you the answers you need!

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/par_advantage/default.htm

The 2009 Crystal Star Award winners were announced at the recent National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in San Antonio. Congratulations to all the winners!

http://www.dropoutprevention.org/about/crystal/recipients_2009.htm

Sound Connections

The next free radio webcast for *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* will focus on service-learning. Here is your special invitation to participate on Thursday, December 3rd, at 3:30 EST.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPC091203Promo.aspx>

And on Thursday, December 3rd, listen live to this webcast with noted service-learning author and trainer, Cathryn Berger Kaye.

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

Meet our new NDPC/N Affiliate partner, Ed Lambert from the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth, and find out about our joint initiatives.

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/psaradio/NDPCTLambert.aspx>

Videos

Visit the "servicerresources" channel and discover inspiring and informative videos on a broad array of topics related to national and community service, including social media webinars and training.

<http://www.youtube.com/servicerresources>

Funding Sources

The rules for Race to the Top Funds are finalized. Technical assistance calls will take place in December.

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>

Summer of Service Grants will support collaborative efforts to implement community-based service-learning projects during the summer months. Funding for 2010 is estimated to be \$1,000,000 for approximately 5-7 grants.

Deadline: December 10, 2009

http://www.learnandserve.gov/pdf/09_1026_nofa_lsa_summer.pdf

EPA Environmental Education Grants support environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. The EPA will distribute \$3 million through 95 grants.

Deadline: December 15, 2009

http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_apply.html

Policy Updates

Leaders and Laggards: A State-by-State Report Card on Educational Innovation looks at what states are doing today to prepare themselves for the challenges that lie ahead. A wealth of information is on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce site.

<http://www.uschamber.com/reportcard/default>

Full report: http://www.uschamber.com/assets/icw/09reportcard/09_leadersandlaggards.pdf

Success at Every Step, a publication from the American Youth Policy Forum, is an easy-to-read guide designed to help national, state, and local policymakers and practitioners better understand how to support college- and career-readiness for all students.

<http://www.aypf.org/publications/SuccessAtEveryStep.pdf>

International Notes

A New Brunswick Canadian school district is offering special language classes to English-speaking students and parents. The influx of these students may be in response to changes in the early French immersion program in recent years.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2009/11/30/nb-french-kindergarten-schools-601.html>

Students With Disabilities

Ensuring that students with disabilities are included in physical education and sports programs is receiving some high-level attention.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/11/23/13spced_ep.h29.html?tkn

“State Test Score Trends Through 2007-08: Has Progress Been Made in Raising Achievement for Student with Disabilities?” This report points out that the variety in assessments and variability in testing accommodations for students with disabilities makes determination of real progress “fuzzy.”

<http://www.edweek.org/media/studentswdisabilities.pdf>

Effective Strategies

Professional Development

Supporting Teaching Effectiveness: The View from Generation Y presents findings that consistently indicate that to retain more teachers of all generations, the most powerful thing that policymakers and others can do is to support teachers' abilities to be effective with their students.

<http://www.learningpt.org/expertise/educatorquality/genY/index.php>

This brief from the Alliance for Excellent Education lays out five critical areas where teachers must develop competency before entering the classroom.

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TeachingForANewWorld.pdf>

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

High School Career Academies: A 40-Year Proven Model for Improving College and Career Readiness. This publication provides an overview of career academies along with policy recommendations to expand the model.

<http://www.aypf.org/documents/092409CareerAcademiesPolicyPaper.pdf>

Early Childhood Education

Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma have developed innovative financing structures that

provide lessons for other states that want to support services for at-risk infants and toddlers.
http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Ounce_brief_Oct6B.pdf?docID=9642

Resources and Tools

A new report, *Paths to 21st Century Competencies Through Civic Education Classrooms*, points to the importance of civic education in the development of 21st century workforce skills.

http://www.abanet.org/publiced/pathways/CivicLearningResource_BOOKLET_lores.pdf

A Washington state school-based health interventions report summarizes what the research shows about academic achievement and health, so that administrators, teachers, school staff, and communities can make well-informed decisions about how to prioritize health interventions in their schools.

http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/research-review-school-based-health-interventions-and-academic-achievement/12_HealthAcademic_E09L.pdf

Reminder: The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network now has a Facebook page! Become a fan today and find out about the latest resources and tools in dropout prevention!

<http://www.facebook.com>

Feedback

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

Sources: Clemson Radio Productions, AYPF, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, PEN Weekly Newsblast, ECS, EdWeek, and Abanet.org