

Dropout Prevention Update

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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The National GEAR UP initiative steers needy kids onto the college track with campus tours, tutoring, community support, and teacher training. The program has yet to prove itself on paper, but a close look at its beneficiaries suggests it is a necessity.

<http://www.edweek.com/tm/tmstory.cfm?slug=01gear.h13>

The Horatio Alger Association has just put its 2001 State of Our Nation's Youth online.

<http://www.horatioalger.com/>

The Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll for 2001 has been released online. Find it at this address.

<http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0109gal.htm>

Funding Sources

The U.S. Department of Education received 96 applications for funding for Dropout Prevention Demonstration Programs. The Department expects to make the announcement of successful applicants by the third week of September. In the meantime, review the web site for this program.

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/DropoutPrev/dropoutprogs.html>

School News Online is committed to providing the information and services necessary to help improve education and learning through the integration and application of technology. This web site always includes up-to-the-minute grant programs, funding sources, and technology funding.

<http://www.eschoolnews.org/funding/>

Philanthropy News Digest, an online information site about a wide variety of grants, is sponsored by the Foundations Center.

<http://fdncenter.org/pnd/current/index.html>

The Constitutional Rights Foundation's Robinson Mini-Grant Program honors the late Maurice R. Robinson, founder of Scholastic, Inc., champion of innovative education, and longtime supporter of effective citizenship education. CRF awards mini-grants for K-12 service learning projects designed to address serious community issues. The deadline for this year's grant application is October 15, 2001.

http://www.crf-usa.org/network/crf_robin.html

Policy Updates

Two states have enacted what are thought to be the nation's first laws to clarify that parents, not school districts, will have the final say on whether their children take drugs to control behavior.

<http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=43ritalin.h20>

Almost 500 students will enter the world of "half grades" under a St. Paul, Minnesota school plan to keep under performing students from advancing to the next grade.

<http://www.startribune.com:80/stOnLine/cgi-bin/article?thisSlug=EXC16&date=16-Aug-2001&word=grade&word=half&word=grades>

Effective Strategies

Mentoring:

Four service organizations (Kiwanis International, Optimist International, Lions Clubs International, and Rotary International) are working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America on an initiative to recruit one million mentors over the next five years.

<http://www.bbbsa.org>

Early Childhood Education:

Building Their Futures: How Early Head Start Programs Are Enhancing the Lives of Infants and Toddlers in Low-Income Families. (2001). Mathematica.

<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/PDFs/buildingvol1.pdf>

Resources & Tools

Preliminary findings from the 2000 Census are indicating some demographic changes that will have a profound effect on our public schools. Read more in The Changing Face of Public Schools.

<http://www.crosscity.org/pubs/flashfacts.htm>

The Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit think tank in Washington, DC, has launched a web guide to school information online, where parents can quickly locate resources by state that show how public and private schools stack up. Dropout rates for individual schools were found when we reviewed this site.

<http://www.heritage.org/reportcards/>

Feedback

"What a terrific resource!! Thank you so much. I have already been able to utilize some of the information you furnished." Josephina Ramos, Omaha, NE.

Interested in being part of an online discussion group on dropout prevention issues? Write us at ndpc@clermson.edu and ask to join Dropout Prevention Online. This ongoing group of Network members can be a great resource to you in your work; the listserve also provides a forum for discussions on current topics of interest.

Dropout Prevention Update is an online monthly publication of the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network. Comments from readers are welcome. Contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu.