

Dropout Prevention Update
November 1, 2002- Volume 2- No. 5
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

Top Stories

Dropout Prevention Demonstration Grant Awardees announced.

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/DropoutProgram/>

Education Week has compiled a 36-state guide to this fall's gubernatorial races, including the candidate's education platforms. <http://edweek.org/ew/vol-22/08govsbox.htm>

U.S. Secretary of Education Paige announces 63 National Distinguished Elementary and Middle School Principals. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=18383

Funding Sources

Ventures in Leadership is funded by the Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds and is designed to support innovative ideas in education leadership from a wide range of communities, especially those in low-income neighborhoods. Deadline: December 1, 2002.

<http://www.wallacefunds.org/programs/ventures.cfm>

The Coca-Cola Foundation supports high-quality education and encourages new solutions to the problems that impede educational systems today. It also supports programs that have been proven to work. Deadline: December 1, 2002

http://www2.coca-cola.com/citizenship/foundation_guidelines.html

Lysol Brand and the National Science Teachers Association invite elementary teachers to submit innovative science projects for grants of \$1,500 to be used for professional development and classroom materials. Deadline: December 16, 2002. <http://www.nsta.org/lysol>

Policy Updates

In a complete turnaround of Federal policy under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the current administration is now tying education funding to the use of existing scientific, research-based reading programs. <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/REA/overview.html>

Teachers' unions try harder to shape education policy.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/ew_printstory.cfm?slug=09unions.h22

Effective Strategies

Career Education/Workforce Readiness

Jobs for the Future (JFF) has embarked upon a new strategic direction to accelerate advancement for low-income youth and adults. www.jff.org/jff/approaches/ia_newventures.html

Eastern Idaho Professional-Technical High School is a conglomeration of seven high schools in five school districts that offers students hands-on learning experience.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/News/Idaho/story.asp?ID=24042>

Early Childhood Education

Oakland's Safe Passages implements a comprehensive strategy to prevent young children exposed to violence from adopting violent behavior.

http://www.urbanhealth.org/print_friendly/oakland_preventviolence.htm

A new study released by St. Joseph College in West Hartford, CT, found that preschool children from disadvantaged homes learn better and faster when they are in classes with their more affluent peers. <http://www.ctnow.com/news/education/hc-preschool.artoct19.0.7740497.story?coll=hc%2Dheadlines%>

Family Involvement

Family Strengths: Often Overlooked, But Real, a Child Trends Research Brief.
<http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/FamilyStrengths.pdf>

In a new survey from Public Agenda, parents report that they often fall short in teaching essential values. Their fourth greatest concern is "low quality public schools."
<http://www.publicagenda.org/index.htm>

A new University of Illinois study indicates that children do better socially and academically in school when their fathers or father figures are actively involved at the school and in extracurricular activities. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=19060

Instructional Technologies

Apple Computer is giving away a free copy of its Mac OS X version 10.2 operating system, also known as "Jaguar," to every K-12 teacher in the country who requests one.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4023>

WebTV links migrant parents with schools. http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=19046

Reading/Writing

Friday, November 1 is National Family Literacy Day.
http://www.enc.org/redirect/ehn/?ehn_id=915

Television and literary character Arthur and his friends are inviting the nation's students to read, read, and read. Classroom projects start with an entry form, available on the Public Broadcasting System's website. www.pbskids.org/arthur/grownups/events/hundred_books.html

The Think Tank website helps students to refine their research topics, narrowing them down to something that's do-able. Useful from 3rd grade up to high school. <http://thinktank.4teachers.org/>

Resources & Tools

The MetLife 2002 Survey of the American Teacher found that 20% of students have thought of dropping out of school; 33% have skipped school due to family responsibilities
<http://www.metlife.com/WPSAssets/11738669411033654558V1FBook%20v.3.pdf>

A new Century Foundation report, *Divided We Fail: Coming Together through Public School Choice*, finds that schools are becoming increasingly segregated by economic status. <http://www.tcf.org/Publications/Education/dividedwefail.pdf>

A recent report from the Education Trust outlines the ways many states may be exacerbating the achievement gap by providing the least funding to the schools with the greatest numbers of poor students. <http://www.ascd.org/educationnews/kids/kids092002.html>

Most high school students do not believe their public schools are preparing them "extremely well" to know how to learn, get a good job or go to college.
<http://www.edweek.com/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=07survey.h22>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ED Week, ECS, ENC, eSn, JFF Wire, Middle Web, National Education Weekly, PEN Weekly, SMHP, Urban Health Initiative