

Dropout Prevention Update
June 1, 2003- Volume 2- No. 12
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Crystal Star Awards deadline is June 30, 2003.

Top Stories

A study that influenced President Bush to recommend a big cut in spending for a federally financed after-school program has serious flaws, according to a statement by seven members of the study's technical working group. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=37century.h22>

NEA study finds investment in U.S. public schools lagging as education needs rise
<http://www.nea.org/newsreleases/2003/nr030521.html>

Funding Sources

Jordan Fundamentals Grants gives up to 400 grants of \$2,500 each year to teachers or paraprofessionals who work with students in grades 6-12. Deadline: June 15, 2003.
http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/gc/ca/pdf/jf_application.pdf

The Braitmayer Foundation supports programs that enhance the education of K-12 students through curricular and school reform initiatives, professional development for teachers, and local community efforts. Deadline: June 30, 2003. <http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.htm>

The Staples Foundation for Learning provides funding to programs that support or provide job skills and education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Deadline: June 30, 2003. <http://staplesfoundation.org/>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service funds Mentoring for Children of Prisoners grants. Deadline July 15, 2003. <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/mcpcfund-anncmt.htm>

Policy Updates

Faced with high failure rates for at least some groups of students, several states are debating whether to delay or modify requirements that students pass state tests to earn diplomas.
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=36test.h22>

The way states calculate graduation rates could have a dramatic effect on the results and influence states' ability to meet the accountability provisions under the "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001, a study concludes. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=37grad.h22>

International Notes

When their schools were closed due to the spread of SARS, thousands of Asian students logged in to Web-based, virtual classrooms. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=37sars.h22>

It remains a daunting task to get schools ready to open in October, the start of the academic year in Iraq. Of 6 million school-aged children, 1 million are behind grade level or have dropped out.
http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/131/learning/Rebuilding_Iraqi_schools_lets_US_led_team_re_write_history+.shtml

Effective Strategies

Alternative Education

Four foundations are working together to support the creation of a nationwide network of alternative schools. <http://www.mott.org/news/detail.asp?newsid=185>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has released *High Time for High School Reform*.
http://www.gatesfoundation.org/nr/downloads/ed/smallschools/Small_schools_eval_ExecSumm_2003.pdf

Instructional Technologies

Technology Counts 2003: Tech's Answer to Testing.
<http://www.edweek.org/sreports/TC03/article.cfm?slug=35exec.h22>

Handhelds now seem to be grabbing more attention for two key reasons: cost and simplicity.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/reports/hhc/index.cfm>

Do you blog? Everything from gossip to homework shows up onscreen in these cyber diaries.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0513/p11s01-lecs.html>

Reading/Writing

The National Reading Panel gave too much credit to the importance of phonics instruction in teaching young children to read, argues a new study published in a peer-reviewed journal.
http://www.edweek.org/ew/ew_printstory.cfm?slug=37read.h22

TeachingBooks is "the ultimate children's literature portal -- indexing by author, title, subject and grade, all multimedia programs and resources about trade books that are currently freely available on the Web."
http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/living/columnists/joyce_kasman_valenza/5863031.htm

Research shows that children who don't connect with books over the summer will lose ground before entering the next grade level. Use these teacher-friendly tools to make sure that doesn't happen to your students! <http://k-6educators.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://teacher.scholastic.com/reading/litconnections/summerreading/index.htm>

Systemic Renewal

Education reform is another Vietnam, writes Rob Stein.
http://www.headfirstcolorado.org/adm/view_article.php?story_id=47

A new study from the Institute for Education and Social Policy examines the work of 66 community groups that are organizing to improve public education in low-performing schools and districts. http://www.nyu.edu/iesp/publications/cip/sum_orgschref.htm

Resources & Tools

The curriculum-mapping process supports teacher discussions about how to implement a curriculum aligned with standards and assessments.
<http://www.ncrel.org/info/notes/spring03/index.html>

Contrary to earlier fears, systems of goals, examinations, and incentives not only help students in general, but at-risk students in particular.
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=33walberg.h22>

Dropout Prevention Tools by Franklin P. Schargel presents resources and worksheets that demonstrate how to apply proven strategies that reduce school dropouts.
<http://www.eyoneducation.com/>

The Condition of Education 2003 summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clmson.edu Sources: ED Week, ENC, eSn, NEA, NCES, PEN Weekly, PND, rtc