

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The 21 schools overhauled and given extra support by the Philadelphia district outscored both charter schools and those operated by private managers on state reading and math tests.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/news/local/6581701.htm>

A study by the Justice Policy Institute reports that too much money is spent on jails instead of schools, and that there is a racial gap in chances of incarceration.

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/education/bal-te.prison28aug28.0.7709289.story?coll=bal-education-top> <http://www.justicepolicy.org/article.php?list=type&type=52>

The U.S. Education Department and ABC Radio Networks have launched an education campaign to help close the achievement gap. <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/08-2003/08262003.html>

Funding Sources

Starbucks Foundation Youth Leadership Grant Program funds local programs that serve low-income, at-risk youth in two areas: Power of Literacy and Leaders in Diversity. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Deadline: October 1, 2003. <http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp>

The Southern Poverty Law Center provides Teaching Tolerance grants of up to \$2,000 to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance projects in schools and communities.

Deadline: Ongoing. <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/expand/gra/guide.jsp>

This article shares teacher experiences, how-to tips, sources, and a grant match rubric that can help determine how close a match various funders might be. Especially good if you're fairly new at the grant-seeking game. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev039.shtml

Policy Updates

Critics predict the 2002 No Child Left Behind Act could power a new wave of costly lawsuits against the states challenging the allocation of state education funds, and in turn by the states against the federal government.

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/EDUCATION/07/30/states.education.reut/index.html>

Passport to Teaching, a new Internet-based program, allows under qualified teachers, career changers and other professionals to bypass teacher colleges to become certified and meet the "highly qualified" requirements under No Child Left Behind.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=4583>

International Notes

This international study compares and contrasts teacher education and certification policies in the United States with those in Australia, England, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, and Singapore. <http://www.ets.org/research/pic/prepteach.pdf>

Doesn't everyone remember their first day of school? Over a hundred million children can't because they've never attended school. http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/about/film_s2_f8.html

Effective Strategies

Early Childhood Education

This brief provides key guidelines and advice for everyday people for educating and working with policymakers to support initiatives that promote the well-being of young children and their families. <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/LegislativeStrategies.pdf>

Studies show that 7% to 9 % of kindergartners are enrolled a year later than they are eligible, to give them an edge, a practice known as "academic red shirting."
<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/2787954p-2582338c.html>

Family Involvement

Parental involvement in schools will never happen unless and until school staff and parents bite the bullet and invest in some serious face-to-face time with each other.
http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo_20030824_edwatch24.49eb0.html

A great homework assignment for parents is tell about your child in a million words or less.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/pro_dev/profdev080.shtml

Instructional Technologies

Is technology usage in your school or classroom "more glitz than guts"? Brenda Dyck offers several project ideas that can keep technology from turning into "mind candy."
http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev004.shtml

The internet and its vast array of multimedia applications are fast becoming unparalleled classroom resources. Now, a new technology is emerging that would add touch.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4564>

Professional Development

The Annenberg Channel offers a continuous stream of free professional development workshops.
http://www.learner.org/about/news/news_profdev.html

The Alabama Best Practices Center has developed a professional development self-assessment rubric for schools. <http://www.bestpracticescenter.org/pdfs/wte3-3.pdf>

Resources & Tools

Dr. Karen Evans Stout's research reveals students in American schools are given less time to eat than prison inmates. Behavior may be affected, particularly in classes immediately following lunch period. <http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20030819.122329&time=13>

Icebreaker activities offer fun ways for teachers to get to know new students -- and for them to get to know one another. Twelve new icebreakers and links to an archive of more than 100!
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson317.shtml

A report from the Public Policy Institute of California found that switching elementary students from a low-performing peer group to a high-performing one results in 9% gains in math scores.
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=321>

Check out the new 50-state look at the NCLB indicators now included in reports to the public.
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/46/85/4685.htm>

The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies has created a free educational web site for students, educators, and families. <http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ECS, Education News, Commentaries, & Reports, eSN, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin

