

Dropout Prevention Update
December 1, 2003- Volume 3- Number 6
National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Top Stories

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$3.5 million five-year grant by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs to establish a National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities. The new Center will open January 1, 2004. Watch for exciting developments on our web site, or contact Mary Reimer reimer@clmson.edu for additional information.

Data from both federal and state education departments on the number of high school dropouts is highly misleading, experts say. <http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfld=1483698>

A new national survey of superintendents and principals shows widespread skepticism over the No Child Left Behind Act. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=12Agenda.h23>
<http://www.publicagenda.org/>

Some AskERIC services shift to Syracuse University.
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=13Eric.h23>

Funding Sources

The 21st Century Schools of Distinction allows schools to compete in 10 categories and win up to \$25,000. Deadline: December 31, 2003. <http://www.blueribbonsschools.com/award/>

TECH CORPS offers an opportunity for middle schools across the country to apply for a grant to receive a fully-funded Student TECH CORPS program. Deadline: December 15, 2003.
<http://www.studenttechcorps.org/grant>

The Best Buy's Children's Foundation is offering support to schools and educators who use technology "to make learning fun." Any K-12 public, private, or parochial school within twenty-five miles of a Best Buy store is eligible to apply. Deadline: December 31, 2003.
<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp>

Policy Updates

States are reporting widely varying starting points as they make public the percentage of classes taught by "highly qualified teachers," under No Child Left Behind.
<http://newsobserver.com/24hour/nation/story/1033119p-7252596c.htm>

As a way to help state leaders and educators obtain a picture of highly qualified teachers in their states, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) has released *Meeting NCLB Goals for Highly Qualified Teachers: Estimates by State from Survey Data*.
http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/new_publications/index.cfm

International Notes

The Netherlands is top of the class and the United States third from last among rich nations that help educate the world's poor, according to a report by the Global Campaign for Education.
http://www.campaignforeducation.org/_html/2003-news/11-rc-rept/frameset.shtml

China's one-child policy may have created a generation of little emperors, but the formal education system makes them well behaved and eager to learn.
[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/main.jhtml%3B\\$sessionId\\$MURTKZLS422CVQFIQMFCFF](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/main.jhtml%3B$sessionId$MURTKZLS422CVQFIQMFCFF)

[4AVCBQYIV0?xml=/education/2003/11/12/tefchina08.xml&sSheet=/education/2003/11/12/ixteleft.html](http://www.education/2003/11/12/tefchina08.xml&sSheet=/education/2003/11/12/ixteleft.html)

Effective Strategies

Community Collaboration

Making the Difference: Research and Practice in Community Schools, features 20 different community school models across the country that help improve student performance by mobilizing community resources in support of student learning.

<http://www.communityschools.org/mtdhomepage.html>

The Fall 2003 issue of *The Evaluation Exchange* addresses the evolving nature of evaluating community-based initiatives. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue23/index.html>

Family Involvement

Last spring, Armstrong Middle School in Starkville, Mississippi implemented a new parent program that provides a good model of how schools can involve parents in student learning.

http://www.takingaim.org/aboutaim/feature_parent_night.htm

Did you know that on average, parents and teachers spend only 15 minutes a year talking to each other? <http://www.educationnews.org/parents-and-teachers-who-work-to.htm>

Instructional Technologies

A growing number of school systems nationwide are tapping into voice-over-internet-protocol (VoIP) technology to reap substantial long-term savings on their telecommunications systems.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStorytw.cfm?ArticleID=4709>

An Innovation Odyssey continually posts ways teachers are using technology to support student learning. There's something for every subject, teaching style, and grade level.

<http://www97.intel.com/odyssey/index.asp>

New research provides substantial evidence connecting the use of technology to academic achievement. <http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/technology/foltos.htm>

Reading/Writing

The Partnership for Reading has two booklets that use findings from scientifically based research to suggest how parents can help their young children become strong readers.

<http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/earlychildhood.html>

http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/pdf/low_res_child_reader_K-3.pdf

Kids Are Authors is an annual competition sponsored by Scholastic, Inc. and open to students in grades K-8. <http://teacher.scholastic.com/fairs/kaa/>

Resources & Tools

Between the 1985-86 and 2002-03 school years, nearly 2 million students have been lost from public school enrollment costing the state of Texas nearly \$500 billion.

<http://www.idra.org/Newsltr/2003/Oct/Roy.htm#Art1>

Consultant Jane Bluestein, author of *21st Century Discipline*, draws distinctions between school and classroom "rules," and "boundaries." <http://www.janebluestein.com/Articles/Rules.html#>

This summary of research explores "the power of expectations to affect student outcomes."

<http://www.nwrel.org/scpd/sirs/4/cu7.html>

Feedback

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clermson.edu Sources: ECS, EducationNews & Reports, ENC, eSn, IDRA, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin