

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**August 1, 2004- Volume 4- Number 2**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

**CONTENTS**

[Top Stories](#) | [Funding Sources](#) | [Policy Updates](#) | [International Notes](#) | [Students With Disabilities](#) | [Effective Strategies](#) | [Resources & Tools](#) | [Feedback](#)

**Top Stories**

Several states now place spending for correctional facilities at a higher priority than public and secondary education. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29806-2004Jul5.html>

The new high school equivalency examination, which demands more analysis and has fewer multiple-choice answers, drew fewer participants in its first year, but they passed at a slightly higher rate than in the past. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=43GED.h23>

**Funding Sources**

The Barbara Bush Foundation will offer grants of up to \$65,000 to schools and other nonprofits to fund the development and/or expansion of literacy programs designed to build families of readers. Deadline: September 10, 2004. <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>

The Classroom Technology Grant program supports the integration of media technologies throughout the K-12 school curriculum by giving the recipients \$1000 to buy media technologies used for teaching. Deadline: August 15, 2004. <http://www.ismf-forum.net/grants/about.php>

The SBC Excelerator grant funds may be used to connect the nation's neediest residents--including at-risk youth and underserved urban families--to important community resources. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Deadline: August 13, 2004. <http://www.sbc.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=58>

**Policy Updates**

Over half of the nation's school districts will receive fewer Title I dollars this coming school year than they did last year, even though the No Child Left Behind Act is demanding more of all school districts. [http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/Title1\\_Funds\\_15June2004/Title1\\_15June2004\\_Paper.htm](http://www.cep-dc.org/pubs/Title1_Funds_15June2004/Title1_15June2004_Paper.htm)

ECS's *Report to the Nation* provides a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of states' progress toward implementing the No Child Left Behind Act. <http://www.ecs.org/00CN2044>

**International Notes**

All countries have pledged to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005. More than 56% of the 104 million out of school children are girls and over two-thirds of the world's 860 million illiterates are women. [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=23023&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23023&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

Every secondary school has been told by the Government that it should have uniforms for its pupils and introduce the "house" system in the biggest shake-up of the education system in 60 years. <http://education.independent.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=539474>

**Students With Disabilities**

A new standard is expected to help students who are blind, print-disabled to gain improved access to learning. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/07/07272004.html>

*Helping Helpers* is a brochure for coaches, tutors, and other volunteers that has tips on how to work with children in their groups who may have a learning disability or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. <http://www.ldonline.org/article.php?id=0&loc=82>

**Effective Strategies**

**After-School Opportunities**

*After-School Programs: Expanding Access and Ensuring Quality*, examines the federal government's role in after-school programs, surveys current research on them, and offers recommendations to expand access and improve the quality of after-school programs.  
[http://www.ppionline.org/ppi\\_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=110&subsecID=900023&contentID=252753](http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=110&subsecID=900023&contentID=252753)

The latest issue of the Harvard Family Research Project's *Evaluation Exchange* examines how to assess and improve the quality of youth programs that take place outside traditional school hours.  
<http://www.ecs.org/00CN2016>

Experience Corps has released a resource guide designed to help community organizations develop and enhance meaningful roles for older adults in after-school programs.  
<http://www.experiencecorps.org/news/afterschoolreport/index.html>

### **Early Literacy**

By developing a computer model that mimics how children learn to read, two researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Stanford University track the development of a skilled reader, ultimately showing that phonics gives readers an edge, especially early on.  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=10401>

The Eric Carle web site. <http://www.eric-carle.com/>

Colorful program boosts Delaware reading test scores.  
<http://www.delawareonline.com/newsjournal/local/2004/06/29colorfulprogram.html>

### **Educational Technology**

A coalition of high-tech companies and nonprofit organizations has issued a series of free tools to help teachers, administrators, and lawmakers incorporate specific "21st-century skills" into the core curriculum to better prepare students for today's technology-infused workplace.  
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=5133>

Short video clips that reinforce key concepts are effective in increasing student achievement, according to a second research project. An earlier study found that video can improve learning in science and social studies. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=5134>

Jeff Cooper describes the growing use of TAPPED IN and other virtual learning communities (VLCs) to expand teaching and learning opportunities for students and educators.  
<http://www.netc.org/circuit/2004/spring/build.html>

### **Resources & Tools**

The statistics presented in *Locating the Dropout Crisis* are deeply troubling. In 2,000 high schools across the country, a typical freshman class shrinks by 40 % or more by the time students reach their senior year. [http://www.csos.jhu.edu/tdhs/rsch/Locating\\_Dropouts.pdf](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/tdhs/rsch/Locating_Dropouts.pdf)

What Works Clearinghouse released two reports: *Evidence of Effectiveness Provided for Middle School Math Curricula* and *Peer-Assisted Learning Interventions*.  
<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/07/07012004.html>

Cato Institute presents *A Lesson in Waste: Where Does All the Federal Education Money Go?*  
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-518es.html>

Almost one in 10 students is subject to sexual misconduct by school workers, according to *Educator Sexual Misconduct: A Synthesis of Existing Literature*.  
<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/misconductreview/>

**We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at [ndpc@clemsn.edu](mailto:ndpc@clemsn.edu)** Sources: Education News Reports, & Commentaries, EDWeek, ENC, eSn, Pen Weekly, Straight As