

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Don't forget to register for the Seventeenth Annual At-Risk Youth [National FORUM](#)

Top Stories

Louisiana could be the first state to offer a test that would tell high school dropouts how well they might do in a community college.

http://www.theadvocate.com/stories/012805/new_exam001.shtml

Margaret Spellings is confirmed as Education Secretary.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/01/01262005.html>

Funding Sources

Hewlett-Packard Co. will award grants totaling \$5 million in cash and HP equipment over two years to K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Deadline: February 15, 2005. <http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach>

Thomson Gale and School Library Journal have developed the annual Giant Step Award to recognize outstanding school and public libraries. Deadline: March 1, 2005.

http://www.gale.com/schools/giant_award/about_giant.htm

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers K-12 teachers the chance to participate in a series of Summer Seminars and Institutes on various topics in the humanities. Deadline: March 1, 2005. <http://www.neh.gov/projects/si-school.html>

Policy Updates

The Education Policy Studies Lab at Arizona State University provides a variety of resources on national education policy. <http://www.asu.edu/educ/eps/>

The Expectations Gap is a review of high school graduation requirements.

[http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/coursetaking/\\$file/coursetaking.pdf](http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/coursetaking/$file/coursetaking.pdf)

International Notes

Researchers say there is no evidence children in smaller primary classes do better in maths or English. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4146977.stm>

A group of labor unions and youth organizations will monitor the start of the new academic year in South African schools. http://www.mq.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national&articleid=195029

Students With Disabilities

Public meetings are being held to get input and suggestions for developing regulations based on IDEA 2004. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/idea/public-meetings.html>

Target the Problem, for parents and classroom teachers, provides information about the different types of reading difficulties a child may experience. <http://www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/>

Revised IDEA shifts control of special education research.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/01/26/20sped.h24.html#>

Effective Strategies

Career & Technical Education

In a proposal that some educators fear could be a disincentive to seeking high school diplomas, several states are developing a national "work readiness credential."

http://nasspcms.principals.org/s_nassp/sec_Illumen.asp?CID=391&DID=47311&XMLID=2&file=newsfeed20050111.xml

Mississippi Occupational Diploma allows students who have difficulty in typical classrooms to be prepared to go straight to work out of high school.

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050120/NEWS01/501200408/1002>

Early Childhood Education

Readiness: School, Family, and Community Connections describes 48 research studies on the contextual factors associated with children's readiness.

<http://www.sedl.org/connections/research-syntheses.html>

A report by the National Governors Association's Task Force on School Readiness outlines a series of recommendations for states to develop school readiness programs that focus on helping parents and families prepare children to start school.

http://www.nga.org/center/divisions/1_1188,C_ISSUE_BRIEF%5eD_7819,00.html

Educational Technology

The National Education Technology Plan, entitled *Toward a New Golden Age in American Education: How the Internet, the Law and Today's Students are Revolutionizing Expectations* is available. www.NationalEdTechPlan.org

She's Not Just a Pretty Face is a telecollaborative project that will join middle school girls from around the globe in a collaborative learning venture that will help these students learn about women who have made a significant mark in history. <http://www.masters.ab.ca/bdyck/face/>

Systemic Renewal

ECS provides a snapshot of five different approaches to school improvement developed by the National Forum on Accountability. <http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/issues.asp>

The Coalition for Essential Schools (CES) has a new Web site, ChangeLab, which offers real-world examples of what successful CES schools look like. <http://www.ceschangelab.org>

Resources & Tools

An Evaluation of Florida's Program to End Social Promotion makes a compelling case for the effectiveness of Florida's new retention policy. http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/ewp_07.pdf

A new report from the Education Trust, *Stalled in Secondary: A Look at Achievement Since the No Child Left Behind Act*, finds that student achievement in reading and math lags in the middle-and high-school grades. <http://www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/press+room/stalled+in+secondary>

This eclectic collection of education websites reviewed by *Education World* earned an A-Plus rating in 2004. http://www.educationworld.com/best_of/2004/reviews.shtml

Over the next two years, a national task force will research strategies for improving educational outcomes for Hispanic children from birth through 3rd grade, and develop recommendations for policymakers, teachers and parents. <http://www.ecehispanic.org/>

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemson.edu Sources: ECS, ENC, eSN, Education Gadfly, EducationNews, Commentaries, & Reports, EDWeek, Middle Web, PEN Weekly,