

**Dropout Prevention Update**  
**March 1, 2006- Volume 5, Number 9**  
**National Dropout Prevention Center/Network**

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Crystal Star Award nominations are now open <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>

**Top Stories**

The What Works Clearinghouse now has an Evidence-Based Education Help Desk.  
<http://whatworkshelpdesk.ed.gov>

"The idea that there is a national shortage of qualified teachers is largely a myth," reports University of Missouri economist Michael Podgursky. <http://www.educationnext.org/20062/26.html>

Materials are available for National Youth Violence Prevention Week April 3-7.  
<http://www.violencepreventionweek.org/>

**Funding Sources**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals and the MetLife Foundation Bridge Builders Grant Program will award \$5,000 grants for special initiatives aimed at building better relationships among adults and students. Deadline: April 17, 2006.  
<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/pnd/10000543/principals>

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grants are open to LEAs in which at least 20% of the students served are from families with incomes below the poverty line. Deadline: April 11, 2006. <http://www.ed.gov/programs/isl/index.html>

The VSA arts Playwright Discovery Award invites middle and high school students with and without disabilities to submit an original one-act script that explores any aspect of disability. Winners receive \$1,000 and a trip to Washing, D.C. Deadline: April 14, 2006.  
<http://www.vsarts.org/x1548.xml>

**Policy Updates**

A North Carolina school offers students with perfect attendance for the school year a change to win a new car or truck. [http://www.educationnews.org/Gencomm/School\\_Attendance\\_A\\_Win-Win\\_Policy.htm](http://www.educationnews.org/Gencomm/School_Attendance_A_Win-Win_Policy.htm)

This article explores the growing debate about professional compensation tied to performance.  
<http://snipurl.com/EWpayperformance>

**International Notes**

A report by the Asia Society looks at the great strides China has made over the past 20 years in education. <http://www.internationaled.org/publications/ChinaDelegationReport120105b.pdf>

Under a new constitutional amendment, private schools, colleges, and professional training institutes must set aside more than one-fourth of their seats for students from socially and economically disadvantaged groups. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0213/p04s01-wosc.html>

**Students With Disabilities**

Partners for Youth with Disabilities has a new Center that provides a location to learn about best practices in the field and receive training and technical assistance. <http://www.pyd.org/national-center/>

The authors examine knowledge, skills, and dispositions as well as contextual factors that may lead to institutionalized practices that manifest themselves in disproportionate identification. .  
[http://www.nccrest.org/PDFs/core\\_principles\\_EPAA.pdf](http://www.nccrest.org/PDFs/core_principles_EPAA.pdf)

## **Effective Strategies**

### **Early Childhood Education**

A RAND report indicates that well-designed programs for disadvantaged children age 4 and younger can produce economic benefits ranging from \$1.26 to \$17 for each \$1 spent.  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND\\_MG341.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND_MG341.sum.pdf)

Important workforce traits such as adaptability and familiarity with new technologies go hand in hand with early childhood education, according to the Brookings Institute.  
<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/200601dickenssawhill.htm>

### **Educational Technology**

Recent research on the impact of one-to-one computing in schools, and lessons learned from student-laptop initiatives are presented. <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/67/10/6710.pdf>

Information-literacy instruction is one way schools are addressing concerns about use--and misuse--of Internet-accessible information.  
[http://production.edutopia.org/php/article.php?id=Art\\_833](http://production.edutopia.org/php/article.php?id=Art_833)

A group of educators is preparing to launch a new Internet-based television network--one that might transform how education and training is delivered.  
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleID=6131>

## **Family Engagement**

The Family Involvement Storybook Corner is a unique source for information on using children's storybooks with family involvement themes.  
<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/storybook/index.html>

"Focus on Families! How to Build and Support Family-Centered Practices in After School" is a critical resource for after school providers looking to create or expand an existing family engagement program. <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/families>

This paper offers suggestions for increasing the level of family and institutional supports within communities. [http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/documents/Brief6\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/documents/Brief6_FINAL.pdf)

## **Resources & Tools**

Check the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Web site for Ready Kids, a program designed to help teachers and parents prepare children in grades 4-8 for natural disasters and other emergencies. <http://www.ready.gov/>

Akey looks at the key factors that promote academic success among students whose demographic characteristics and school circumstances place them at high risk of failure. n.  
<http://www.mdr.org/publications/419/overview.html>

An ECS report on statewide data systems shows which states are doing.  
<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=913>

*Closing the Expectations Gap 2006: an annual 50-State Progress Report on the Alignment of High School Policies with the Demands of College and Work.*  
<http://www.achieve.org/achieve.nsf/StateProfiles-KeyResults?OpenForm>

**We appreciate comments from our readers.** Please contact us at [ndpc@clermson.edu](mailto:ndpc@clermson.edu) Sources: ECS, EducationNews.org, Edutopia, NCRESt, PEN Weekly rtcUpdates, SMHP