

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

CONTENTS

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

Register today for the 19th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM, "Tools, Techniques, and Strategies That Encourage Students to Graduate" February 18-21, 2007 in Myrtle Beach, SC.
<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferen/conferen.htm> - efi

Top Stories

NASA to Focus on Educational Partnerships aiming to boost science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and better prepare students for the new global economy.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=6802>

Professor Linda Darling-Hammond offers a four-part Marshall Plan for Teaching which would reduce attrition and increase competence.
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2007/01/10/18hammond.h26.html>

Funding Sources

The American Library Association will award excellence in humanities programming in K-8 schools. Maximum award: \$4,000. Deadline: February 28, 2007.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/jaffarianaward.htm>

Target provides grants between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to nonprofit organizations for community projects in the arts, family violence prevention, and reading. Deadline: May 31, 2007.
<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001818>

Coca-Cola Foundation supports educational programs within three main areas: higher education, classroom teaching and learning, and international education. Funding is quarterly.
http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation_guidelines.html

Policy Updates

The reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 will face scrutiny by Congress due to investigations revealing that many students are being inappropriately identified as having a disability, based largely on race and ethnicity.
<http://www.asbj.com/2007/01/0107research.html>

States tackle global competitiveness. Many U.S. governors have proposed new education programs to raise high school graduation rates and ensure global competitiveness.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=6811>

International Notes

Curriki - A new online community has emerged that promises to give educators around the world an opportunity to collaborate and share curricula.
<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6787&page=1>

PEAKS (Participation, Education, and Knowledge Strengthening), a project of the Academy for Educational Development, a USAID-funded project, focuses on student-centered learning.
<http://aed.org/News/NewApproaches.cfm>

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences asks "What would it take to ensure that every child in the world receives an education of good quality?" This new book answers these questions.

http://www.amacad.org/publications/ubase_EducatingAllChildren.aspx

Students With Disabilities

A tutoring company uses people trained in a multisensory approach to help struggling readers and those with dyslexia.

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070125/NEWS01/701250327>

At Challenger K-8 school in Hernando County, Fla., counselor Monica Lovett brings her trained therapy dogs to school and students love it. She said the dogs, trained to be gentle, help calm nerves, reinforce positive behavior and teach responsibility.

http://www.sptimes.com/2007/01/25/Hernando/When_school_days_incl.shtml

Effective Strategies

Educational Technology

For some educators, computer games are serious business and momentum is growing for using computer games to help teach students basic curricular concepts in school

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showstoryts.cfm?Articleid=6799>

\$100 laptop used in the "One Laptop Per Child" program has built-in WiFi, a dirt- and water-resistant keyboard and spends about 2 watts of energy.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0129/p13s01-stct.html>

Personalized learning through technology is supported in the recent issue of *Threshold: Exploring the Future of Education*.

<http://www.ciconline.org/thresholdwinter07>

Systemic Renewal

A report recommends that state boards of education transform the culture of schools and re-emphasize civic education in the standards-based reform movement.

http://www.nasbe.org/publications/civic_ed/civic_ed1.html

The School Mental Health Project's latest report looks at school district infrastructure that interferes with addressing barriers to teaching and learning.

http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefs/toward_a_school_district_infrastructure.pdf

Resources & Tools

Quality Counts 2007: From Cradle to Career: Connecting American Education from Birth to Adulthood.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2007/01/04/index.html>

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation proposes a broader view of learning which incorporates all resources for learning throughout a community.

<http://www.edutopia.org/pdfs/ANewDayforLearning.pdf>

The National Council of La Raza has released *Hispanic Education in the United States*, identifying the key barriers facing Hispanic students.

<http://www.nclr.org/content/publications/download/43582>

An overview of *Learning to Finish: The School Dropout Crisis*, makes the case for a community-wide approach.

http://www.pew-partnership.org/pdf/dropout_overview.pdf

The National High School Alliance provides a new report, *Resource Guide for Action*, designed around six core principles.

http://hsalliance.org/call_action/index.asp

Child Trends offers Research Briefs on a variety of issues related to dropout prevention.
http://www.childtrends.org/_listRB.cfm?LID=5BF7135C-B59F-497E-89DFF3701EC20089

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clmson.edu
Sources: ASCD SmartBrief, CEC SmartBrief, ECS, e-School News, IES Newsflash, School Mental Health, MiddleWeb, PEN Weekly, Pew Partnership