**Heads Up on Education Issues**

*December 2010*

*Heads Up* comes to you as a complimentary service from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Sometimes you’ll find that we produced a document, but we’ve also reviewed many other recent reports for you and selected these as relevant and reflective of information you can trust.

If there’s something you’d like to suggest for the next issue, please let us know. State reports often cover topics which would be of great interest to other states. Feel free to send information about such reports for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

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**CAN I GET A DRUM ROLL?**

Before we get into the latest research, congratulations are in order to LESN member Paula Dominguez (Director of Legislative Research in the Rhode Island General Assembly) for her selection by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education as Program Associate for 2010-11. The goal of the program is to engage emerging leaders in the examination of critical higher education policy performance. By the way, Paula is also a member of the LESN Steering Committee.

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**Charter Schools**


**Dropouts**

Civic Enterprises and America’s Promise Alliance joined forces to produce a report on ending the high school dropout epidemic.

**Earliest Learning—May Be Biggest Payoff**

Data are a vital resource in state efforts to reduce the school readiness gap. This Early Childhood Data Collaborative report discusses the next steps for states in Coordinated State Early Care and Education Data Systems.

**School Improvement**

The Center on Education Policy recently released a report of the number of schools and districts which have not made adequate yearly progress. Trends over four years are included.

In this report McKinsey and Company explore the question of how the world’s most improved school systems keep getting better. Here is the executive summary of the report.

**Standards**

Hot off the press from ACT is a look at the common core and student readiness for college or career.
Student Achievement

_Education Trust_ released an unsettling report on the number of graduated students seeking entry into the military who are judged unprepared for military service. Included in the report are state-by-state comparisons.

Special Education

_National Association of State Directors of Special Education_ reports on state-level efforts to recruit and retain qualified special education personnel.

You may have already seen these recent ECS publications:

Iowa’s approach to _professional development_ is distinctive because it is statewide and comprehensive.

Twenty years ago Kentucky was the first state to require the establishment of _Family Resource_ and Youth Services Centers. This StateNote provides details of the statewide model.

_State Kindergarten Statutes: State Profiles_

_Literacy Research Review_ is a compilation of research studies summarized in this document address reading and literacy in grades Pre-K-3rd.

If you have questions or comments about _Heads Up on Education Issues_ please contact _Melodye Bush at ECS_.

Contacts:

Melodye Bush  
Researcher/LESN Coordinator  
Education Commission of the States  
700 Broadway, Suite 810  
Denver, CO 80203  
Ph. (303) 299-3631  
mbush@ecs.org

Sara V. Shelton  
Policy Specialist, Education Program  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
7700 E. First Place  
Denver, CO 80230  
Ph. (303) 856-1647  
sara.shelton@ncsl.org