Heads Up on Education Issues

June 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 recommend for the next issue, please let us know.

Charter Schools

"Ahead-of-the-Curve" highlights winning charter school policies.

CPRE has released the interim results from a study of the effectiveness of charter management organization (CMO).

Mathematica conducted research for a report just released by IES. The report found no clear edge for students attending charter middle schools.

College- and Career-Ready Standards

Is your state working to support career pathways (and career pathway bridges) for adults and out-of-school youth? Use this toolkit to help work across agencies to better identify and use federal resources.

Economic/Workforce Development

From the Center on Education and the Workforce, a projection of job and education requirements through 2018. Includes state profiles.

The Alliance for Excellent Education discusses the economic impact of dropouts for 45 metropolitan statistical areas. The findings are powerful reminders that entire communities are impacted by the educational outcomes of our youth.

Expanded Learning Time

This report from Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiative shows both promising practices and lessons learned.

Governance

View a presentation on the different models of state education governance initially made to the Nevada Legislative Commission's Committee to Study Governance and Oversight.

International

The Institute for Education Sciences has released a marvelous website for the International Activities Program of the National Center for Education Statistics. The site has been updated, reorganized and includes new tools and resources.

Migration Patterns

Forbes recently released a very interesting interactive map showing in- and out-immigration patterns for some of your favorite areas of the country or for your home town. Pause over a path and learn some amazing information.
Remediation

ECS’ *Getting Past Go* has released a policy framework challenging states to look more carefully at meeting the needs of remedial education students.

School Finance

Editorial Projects in Education Research Center and the Pew Center on the States have released a survey of *school finance policies and outcomes*.

Student Engagement

The latest *survey* of high school students (HSSSE) results show a familiar theme: *bored, disconnected students want more from schools*.

MDRC recently released a report on the effectiveness of New York City’s experiment with small high schools.

Student Health

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education has released a report showing a *current picture* of physical education in the U.S. education system.

Student Participation

The Pew Research Center recently released information showing an escalating college-going rate.

Teacher Compensation

The latest issue of *The Progress for Education Reform*, prepared by Michael Griffith, looks at the impact of various performance pay programs on student learning.

Teacher Employment

*New from ECS’ Research Studies Database, Do Principals Fire the Worst Teachers?*

Teacher Evaluation

Jennifer Dounay Zinth’s latest release looks at new approaches for effective *teacher evaluation*.

Video

If you have an interest in autism or in *smart geeky kids* you might find this 20 minute video fascinating and insightful.

Click here for state policies that have been added so far in 2010 to the ECS state policy database.

If you have questions or comments about “*Heads Up on Education Issues*” please contact Melodye Bush at ECS.

*ECS and NCSL are pleased to announce the winner of the 2010 LESN Recognition Award—Dr. Helen James has dedicated her professional life to the serve of the Tennessee General Assembly and to the Legislative Education Staff Network since 2002. Jacqueline Nash, one of Helen’s colleague, stated in her nomination of Helen…”Her finest hour, however, undoubtedly occurred this past January as she handled the extensive legal work for the General Assembly during the special session on education for a comprehensive overhaul of its education statutes, both K-12 and higher education, was a gargantuan challenge. Helen was up for the task as she led the legislative legal staff, overseeing all drafted legislation, drafting major amendments and assisting sponsoring legislators, Education Committee members and legislative staff. Her efforts helped the State of Tennessee make major changes in education policy in numerous areas,*
leading to an ambitious and innovative Race to the Top proposal that proved to be a winner, much like Helen James.” Good job, Helen!!

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