From the OEP

This week, it’s been difficult to narrow down the education news. We’ve tried to hit the highlights here, but don’t forget you can always catch more K-12 news on our In the News section!

As we mentioned last week, we have recently posted a policy brief summarizing the views of Senator McCain and Senator Obama on key issues on education policy. Click here to view this handy two page guide!

News from Around the Natural State

Legislature Urged to Close Achievement Gap
The Joint Education Committee of the Arkansas Legislature heard from witnesses on Wednesday urging the state to implement research proven strategies to close the education achievement gap.
You can also view recent work from OEP on achievement gaps: Dollars for Sense Arkansas Education Report and our presentation at the state capitol.

8th Grade Algebra Teachers in Arkansas Need State Nod
Arkansas officials decided earlier this year to require all 8th grade teachers who want to teach Algebra I, one of the most fundamental and challenging courses on the way to more advanced math, to obtain that state’s credentials.

Residents Able to Earn GEDs from Home Next Year
Washington County residents will soon be able to earn their high school degree from the comfort of their own home.

News from Around the Nation
**The High School Dropout’s Economic Ripple Effect**
As the financial meltdown and economic slump hold the national spotlight, another potential crisis is on the horizon: a persistently high dropout rate that educators and mayors across the country say increases the threat to the country’s strength and prosperity.

**Dollars and Sense**
With the economy in a tailspin and budgets getting strangled, education-technology leaders are getting creative and saving thousands of dollars by employing tactics to cut IT costs and save programs.

**Site Seeing**
Chicago Public School students are getting paid for good grades – every five weeks students receive $50 for A’s, $35 for B’s, and $20 for C’s.

A recent study found that about one in 20 teachers is absent from school on any given day in the U.S., and sick days are most frequently taken on Mondays and Fridays.

**Mark Your Calendar**
On November 1st, there will be a Teach Arkansas information and recruitment event, from 9:00 – 3:00 in Little Rock, hosted by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The following events will be held on Thursday, November 6th:
- Arkansas Has it All, Health and PE, Little Rock
- EAST Vision Building Workshop, Texarkana
- Public School Segregation Lawsuit Resolution Task Force, State Capitol

Don’t forget to vote on November 4th!

For more details about these events and others coming up in Arkansas, visit the OEP calendar.

**Final Thoughts**
Education is a social process; education is growth; education is not a preparation for life but it is life itself. – John Dewey

Thanks for reading! See you next week!

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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.