

From: "ECS e-Clips" <eclips@ecs.org>
To: "Kelly Riley" <kriley@governor.state.ms.us>
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EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

ECS e-CLIPS
January 6, 2004

Giving you the day's top education news, as well as a link to EDUCATION WEEK's extensive daily news roundup.

Read these news stories:
<http://www.ecs.org/ecs/e-clips>

ARIZONA REPUBLIC
"Schools Chief Seeks Training, Arts Programs"
Arizona schools chief Tom Horne intends to provide more professional training for teachers and sharpen teaching skills at all levels. The state's superintendent also wants to provide more drama, dance and music for students. Horne is concerned that what is taught in Arizona classrooms is distorted by an emphasis on raising reading, writing and math test scores and that the arts are not being funded, encouraged or taught. He points to a federal study in Tucson that showed students who participated in a program that integrated the arts into daily courses outscored others in every academic area.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC
"Nearly Third of U.S. Kids Eat Fast Food Every Day"
Every day, nearly one-third of U.S. children ages 4 to 19 eat fast food, which likely packs on about 6 extra pounds per child per year and increases the risk of obesity, a new study found. The numbers, though alarming, are not surprising since billions of dollars are spent each year on fast-food advertising directed at kids, said the study's lead author. The highest levels of fast-food consumption were found in youngsters with higher household income levels, boys, older children, Blacks and children living in the South.

LOS ANGELES TIMES (free registration required)
"Teachers Support Governor's Plan to Cut Schools by \$2 Billion"
With the support of California's largest teacher's union, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to propose cutting at least \$2 billion in education spending when he presents his first state budget. The California Teacher's Association greed to back an assortment of temporary education cuts in return for Schwarzenegger's pledge not to tinker with Proposition 98, a constitutional amendment guaranteeing that K-12 schools and community colleges annually receive an increasing stream of

money from the state's general fund.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

"Pennsylvania Ranks 49th of 50 in Public School Aid"
Pennsylvania ranks next to last among the 50 states in a new national report card that rates how fairly state governments treat their local school districts. The annual report card from Education Week and the Pew Charitable Trusts gives Pennsylvania a "D--" in equity of education resources, just ahead of Illinois, which received the only failing grade. The grades were based in part on how much state governments contribute to local school district budgets -- and Pennsylvania also ranked next to last in its contribution to local school budgets.

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

"Bipartisan Education Law Now Splits Bush, Democrats"
Two years after President Bush and Senator Edward Kennedy joined forces to pass No Child Left Behind, the Massachusetts Democrat and others in his party are accusing Bush of turning his back on the legislation. While the president celebrated the second anniversary of the law, Democrats complained that he hasn't followed through with adequate funding for it. Legislation once hailed as a bipartisan achievement has become the subject of a bitter partisan dispute that's spilled into the presidential election campaign.

USA TODAY (free registration required)

"President Hits Road To Promote Education Initiative"
President Bush defended his education policy Monday against Democratic charges that his "No Child Left Behind" initiative is inflexible and American schools are being shortchanged.

WASHINGTON POST (free registration required)

"Invest in Educational Research" (Opinion/Editorial)
A National Academy of Sciences proposal to restructure and re-energize educational research, the Strategic Educational Research Partnership, faces an uphill funding battle. The federal government's investment in education research is less than one-tenth its investment in health research. Because education accounts for more than a third of all state expenditures, states have considerable reason to want more and better information for improving educational outcomes. If all states set aside a tiny fraction of their education budgets (one-quarter of 1%, for example) through a state compact, well over \$1 billion would become available.

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