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AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM e-bulletin

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UPCOMING AYPF EVENTS

Mark your calendars – events you don't want to miss

June 27, 2008 -- Improving Long-Term Labor Market Prospects for Youth: Evidence from Career Academies - Career Academies are one of the most popular and lasting school-to-work transition and high school reform strategies. This forum will feature the release of a new report from MDRC which includes findings from eight years of post-high school data and should prompt a useful discussion of the findings' potential policy significance and implications for school reform and youth programming. Speakers will include James Kemple, Director of K-12 Education Policy at MDRC, J.D. Hoye, President, National Academy Foundation, and Charles Dayton, Director of the Career Academy Support Network.

*For more information about these events, visit <http://www.aypf.org/events/future.htm>
RSVPs are required to attend an event; to RSVP please send an email to aypf@aypf.org*

AYPF Web Highlights

After School/Out-of-School Time

In addition to supporting academic achievement through strong schools, many communities also provide developmental opportunities for children and youth during the hours when they would otherwise be without structure or supervision. During this out-of-school time, programs and activities are available to young people in various settings. While the specific activities and physical environments vary, developmentally focused experiences share a common goal. They create a variety of enriching experiences through which emerging interests and relationships can be nurtured, skills tested and perfected, teamwork and leadership learned, and decision making experienced. These competencies are critical investments for young people and their communities. AYPF has been conducting a number of activities on OST.

Check out the AYPF Web site for extensive readings on after school and out-of-school time articles, including Briefs, Trip Reports, and Publications.

Briefs and trip reports are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/events>.
Publications are available online at <http://www.aypf.org/publications>.

RECOMMENDED READING AND RESOURCES

Check these out – recommended reading from the AYPF staff

Putting Children Front and Center: Building Coherent Social Policy for America's Children (First Focus)

A new report calls for an end to the antiquated and often fragmented approach to federal policies affecting children traditionally taken by lawmakers, and instead calls for a comprehensive approach to addressing such issues. The report outlines the shortcomings of the current model of constructing effective policies for children, and recommends a new, all-inclusive approach that commits to children across developmental periods that transcends institutional boundaries, defining progress on an individual rather than a group level.

A Collective Responsibility, a Collective Work: Supporting the Path to Positive Life Outcomes for Youth in Economically Distressed Communities (CLASP)

This paper presents a picture of risk and challenge for youth in distressed communities and outlines how these communities can band together to create a continuum of supportive activities to bolster youth's success in school and life. As youth grow and develop, individualized support and exposure to new experiences has a significant impact on their life trajectory. Youth in economically distressed communities deserve to have access to these types of opportunities, which are much more readily available to their peers in other communities. This investment in youth can have a positive effect on academic success, future life earnings, family stability, and the livelihood of the community. This paper may be helpful in guiding a community's thinking about how to get started in creating a sustainable support system for all of its youth.

Reading First Impact Study Interim Report (Abt Associates and MDRC)

This report, published by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, finds that Reading First increased the amount of time that teachers spent on the five essential components of reading instruction, as defined by the National Reading Panel. While Reading First did not improve students' reading comprehension on average, there are some indications that some sites had impacts on both instruction and reading comprehension. An overview puts these interim findings in context.

Defining an Urban Principalsip to Drive Dramatic Academic Achievement Gains (New Leaders for New Schools)

This study concludes that high-quality school leaders are second only to high-quality teachers in determining the effectiveness of school reform. This research adds to the growing body of research that points to *people strategies* (as opposed to a narrow focus on improving programs) as the key to successful reform.

Allocation Anatomy: How District Policies That Deploy Resources Can Support (or Undermine) District Reform Strategies (School Finance Redesign Project at the Center on Reinventing Public Education)

This study demonstrates how a host of behaviors, actions, and organizational habits that take place at lower levels in the district can have a powerful impact on how resources are ultimately distributed across schools and student types. These lower-level allocation processes which do not register in the thick budget books that districts produce may shape, to a great degree, how

resources are allocated and ultimately affect everything from reading programs to social services.

Some Perspectives from Rural Districts on the No Child Left Behind Act (Center on Education Policy)

This report examines the impact of NCLB on student achievement and teacher quality in some rural districts and highlights the challenges those rural districts face in complying with the Act.

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The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, provides learning opportunities for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working on youth and education issues at the national, state, and local levels.

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To subscribe or unsubscribe, please e-mail aypf@aypf.org with your contact information.

American Youth Policy Forum
1836 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-775-9731 (phone) 202-775-9733 (fax)
www.aypf.org