

Looking At The ISSUES

June 29, 2007



Ohio Gains in On-Time High School Graduation

Approximately four of every 100 students who were enrolled in high school in October 2004 left school before October 2005 without completing a high school program. This represents a decrease in the event dropout rate¹ from 4.7 percent to 3.8 percent between 2004 and 2005. – NCES

There is good news for Ohio in a new report about high school dropouts issued Thursday by the U.S.

Department of Education. Ohio ranks third in the nation in terms of the greatest increase in the percentage of freshmen graduating high school on time.² The state's 3.8% increase from the 2001-2002 to 2003-2004 academic year ranks only behind South Dakota and Tennessee.

The report, *Dropout Rates in the United States 2005*³ was compiled by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Though there is improvement in most states across the nation, the report also tends to underscore the ongoing financial and social problems that dropouts often face.

While Blacks and Hispanics still drop out at higher rates than Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders, the general downward trend in event dropout rates from 1972 through 2005 was found in all sub-groups. Economic status is the most powerful indicator of who drops out. In 2005, the event dropout rate for students living in low-income families was approximately six times greater than the rate of their peers from high-income families.

¹The event dropout rate estimates the percentage of students who left high school between the beginning of one school year and the beginning of the next without earning a high school diploma or its equivalent

²The averaged freshman graduation rate estimates the proportion of public high school freshmen who graduate with a regular diploma 4 years after starting 9th grade. Thus, it provides a measure of the extent to which public high schools are graduating students within the expected period of 4 years.

³ Available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/dropout05/>

Looking At The Week

Adrienne O'Neill, Ed.D. spoke at the Goodyear Leadership Network for Education June design session meeting in Akron, Ohio on Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

Dr. Julie Schaid, Executive Director of the Partnership for Continued Education, was the guest of the Stark County P-16 on Thursday, June 28, 2007. Students from Early College High School, teachers from Canton City and Canton Local Schools, and Mel Lioi, Assistant Superintendent of the Stark County Educational Service Center, spoke with Dr. Schaid about some of the exciting strategies that are being utilized in Stark County to increase the high school graduation rate and the high school to college going rate.