



FROM THE field

A QUICK GLIMPSE AT RECENT RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ARTS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

"Designing the arts learning community: A handbook for K-12 professional development planners"

Los Angeles County Arts Commission, San Francisco Arts Commission, & Santa Clara County Office of Education, November 2008

Synthesizing extensive research of arts education practice across the United States, this online



handbook is a guide to designing arts education professional development for K-12 classroom teachers and provides a database of 50 arts learning communities. The handbook emphasizes a systemic, ongoing collaborative approach and demonstrates how to establish, grow, and sustain a learning community that comes together to improve arts instruction.

<http://handbook.laartsed.org/home/index.ashx>



HOW THE U.S. STACKS UP

"Comparative indicators of education in the United States and other G-8 countries: 2009"

Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, March 2009

This report describes how the education system in the United States compares with other nations that are among the world's most economically developed countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. Of particular interest for professional

development is Chapter 3: Context for Learning, which addresses such topics as teacher working time, professional development in mathematics and science, and principals' use of student achievement data.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009039>

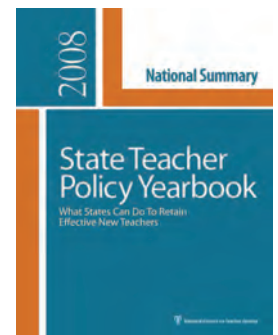
RETAINING NEW TEACHERS

"2008 state teacher policy yearbook: What states can do to retain effective new teachers"

National Council on Teacher Quality, January 2009

The third through fifth years of teaching represent a key period in a teacher's career. Many teachers leave during this time, just when they are becoming more consistently effective. This examination of state policies focuses on the retention of effective new teachers. The report details what each state is doing to identify teacher effectiveness, support the retention of valuable, early career teachers, and dismiss those found to be ineffective.

www.nctq.org/stpy08/



STIMULUS FUNDS FOR EDUCATION

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

U.S. Department of Education

Visit this web page for the latest updates on stimulus funds dedicated to education. Resources include fact sheets and guidance for grant programs as well as updates on disbursement of funds to states.

www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/



METLIFE SURVEY RESULTS

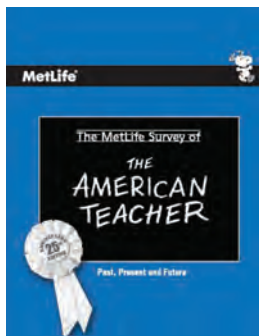
"MetLife survey of the American teacher: Past, present, and future"

MetLife Foundation, October 2008

Conducted by Harris Interactive, this 25th edition of the MetLife survey includes the views of teachers, principals, and students and looks back to the earliest MetLife surveys to examine how perspectives on teachers, teaching, and public education have changed. Similar to past surveys, this recent report documents current attitudes, examines trends, and considers future implications by addressing teacher satisfaction with careers; academic standards and curriculum; student success; professional relationships and communication; school conditions; parent and community relations; and challenges beyond the classroom.

www.metlife.com/assets/cao/contributions/citizenship/teacher-survey-25th-anniv-2008.pdf

The MetLife Foundation sponsored the May issues of NSDC's newsletters, all freely available online to members and the general public.



WORLD VIEW

"Short sighted: How America's lack of attention to international education studies impedes improvement"

Alliance for Excellent Education, March 2009

According to this policy brief, the U.S. is missing valuable opportunities to learn from the policies and practices of other nations by participating in international education studies at minimal levels. The brief describes the importance of full involvement in international comparative analyses and concludes with several recommendations for policy makers and education leaders.

www.all4ed.org/files/shortsighted.pdf

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

"From isolation to collaboration: Promoting teacher leadership through PLCs"

Center for Teaching Quality, October 2008

Through an online networking initiative led by about 100 teacher leaders and sponsored by the Wachovia

Foundation, the Center for Teaching Quality crafted this report of policies and practices for increasing teacher leadership through professional learning communities. In addition to recommending policies that support such communities, the report outlines effective strategies for establishing learning communities. The report is enhanced by links to podcasts from the practitioners involved about their experiences.

www.teachingquality.org/publications/



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

"Learning teams: Creating what's next"

National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, April 2009

According to this report, the nation stands to lose half of its teachers to retirement over the next decade. To avoid a potential school staffing crisis, the report recommends the creation of cross-generational learning teams, in which experienced veterans stay in teaching longer by working with new teachers, providing mentoring, coaching, and instructional assistance that will help to improve student performance and reduce attrition rates for new teachers.

www.nctaf.org/resources/research_and_reports/nctaf_research_reports/index.htm



MARYLAND'S LEARNING ROAD MAP

"Maryland teacher professional development planning and evaluation guide"

Harford County (Md.) Public Schools, October 2008

Researcher M. Bruce Haslam created this guide to help staff in school district central offices, schools, the Maryland State Department of Education, and other professional development providers work together to plan, conduct, and report on evaluations of teacher professional development. The guide was designed for use with the Maryland Teacher Professional Development Planning Guide, also available on the same web site.

snipurl.com/gdl0z