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Critical Languages: Languages critical to national security and the economy, most notably those spoken by the U.S. Department of Defense and other agencies. National Security Language Initiative is a program of the Secretary of Defense to strengthen the U.S. Department of State’s Foreign Language and Area Studies Program.

Full-Stop...Comma: An initiative of the Senate Committee on Appropriations to encourage the U.S. Department of Education and the National Security Language Initiative to focus on critical languages.

What academically rigorous courses are available for high school students?

Rigorous means something very challenging. It usually involves college-level work in math, reading, history, and science. These courses are meant for students who are interested in applying to college, especially to Ivy League or other top tier schools. They are usually part of the Advanced Placement (AP) program. An AP course is a college-level course that allows high school students to earn college credit or advanced standing. In addition, the AP exams are widely recognized by colleges as indicators of a student’s readiness for college-level work.

Millennium Development Goals:

The United Nations set out ambitious goals to help the world’s poorest people, called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals were established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly. The MDGs are a set of eight targets meant to reduce poverty and improve health, education, and other aspects of quality of life. The United Nations has set a series of actions and indicators to measure progress toward these goals.

International Volunteer Day:

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is a holiday celebrated every year to recognize the contributions of volunteers. It is observed on November 15 and is celebrated around the world, with events organized by various organizations and communities.

Funding Education Beyond High School

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis has released a comprehensive guide for students seeking to fund a college education. This guide covers a wide range of topics, including financial aid options, student loans, and work-study opportunities. It also includes information on state-specific financial aid programs and tips for applying to college.

The Achiever

November 18

White House Earth-Based Education Strategy

With the United States’ leadership in space, it is crucial that education prepare students for the world of tomorrow. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is working with the White House to develop an Earth-based education strategy for K-12 students. This strategy will focus on the educational benefits of using Earth observations and satellite data.

News Show Discusses Foreign Language Study

The percentage of college graduates deemed ready to understand narrative texts such as newspaper articles increased from 67 percent in 2001 to 78 percent in 2006. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released data on the percentage of students in grades 10, 12, and 17 who read English language newspapers. The results show that the percentage of students reading newspapers students increased from 67 percent in 2001 to 78 percent in 2006. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released data on the percentage of students in grades 10, 12, and 17 who read English language newspapers. The results show that the percentage of students reading newspapers students increased from 67 percent in 2001 to 78 percent in 2006.
Gonzales convened a conference on school safety at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The event brought together students and parents for a discussion on how to make college more affordable. The public high school in Philadelphia, the public high school

**ARROUND THE COUNTRY**

**Pennsylvania** — The Berks Montessori School of the Lehigh Valley will make national headlines after the school announced that it will offer a new academic program focused on teaching students to perform X-rays and construct mouth guards. The increasing demand to graduate students with high-level skills has led to the creation of new programs that will better prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing.

**Texas** — The Rice University's Institute of Technology has expanded its offerings to include a new program that will allow students to take rigorous course work that would be otherwise unavailable to them. This program will be open to students living outside of Texas who have demonstrated an interest in advanced manufacturing.

**Maryland** — The Yunesian Zhang, a member of the Maryland General Assembly, has introduced legislation that would require all students to take rigorous course work that would be otherwise unavailable to them. This program will be open to students living outside of Maryland who have demonstrated an interest in advanced manufacturing.

**New York** — The New York State Department of Education has announced that it will be offering a new academic program focused on teaching students to perform X-rays and construct mouth guards. This program will be open to students living outside of New York who have demonstrated an interest in advanced manufacturing.

**Conclusion** — The need to train students with the skills necessary to fill the open positions in advanced manufacturing is critical. It will be important to make sure that these programs are available to all students, regardless of their location.
AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pennsylvania—The First School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has started a partnership between the School District of Philadelphia and Montessori Independent School District to provide a Montessori education for students who are homeless. The partnership, which was announced in March, will provide a Montessori education for up to 12 students at a time, and is expected to serve 200 students in the next five years. The district is working with the Alliance for Children’s Rights to identify homeless students who might benefit from a Montessori education.

West Potomac High School

West Potomac High School is a public high school located in Washington, D.C. The school has a diverse student body, with students representing a wide range of cultural backgrounds. The school offers a variety of extracurricular activities, including sports, music, and academic clubs. The school's website can be found at http://www.westpotomachighschool.org.

Saftey

The school has a well-structured safety and security program in place to ensure the safety of all students and staff. The school has a dedicated security team, and all entrances are monitored by security officers. The school also has a comprehensive emergency response plan in place, and regular drills are held to ensure that all staff members are prepared to respond to any emergency.

West Potomac High School is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and staff. The school is proud of its strong safety record, and will continue to work to ensure the safety of all members of the school community.
O n Sept. 26, Secretary Spellings addressed the action plan for higher education at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. An excerpt from her speech below.

“I'm not the first to pursue it. … Action Three … Action Two … Action One … First: How do we make college more affordable? … the federal tax form! … Action Two: How do we make college more accessible? … Action Three: How do we make college more accountable? … the accrediting community this past spring. … The Brownsville Independent School District, for example, one of a variety of college-level and distance learning languages offers virtual courses. … the beginning of his career as a theater professor, Zhang prepared. … among foreign languages, physics, psychology, statistics and calculus, computer science, foreign languages offer virtual courses. … Z2 levels, the college gives students both high school and college credit for completing college-level work. The Brownsville Independent School District, for example, one of a variety of college-level and distance learning languages offers virtual courses. … the beginning of his career as a theater professor, Zhang prepared. … among foreign languages, physics, psychology, statistics and calculus, computer science, foreign languages offer virtual courses. … Z2 levels, the college gives students both high school and college credit for completing college-level work. The Brownsville Independent School District, for example, one of a variety of college-level and distance learning languages offers virtual courses. … the beginning of his career as a theater professor, Zhang prepared. … among foreign languages, physics, psychology, statistics and calculus, computer science, foreign languages offer virtual courses. … Z2 levels, the college gives students both high school and college credit for completing college-level work. The Brownsville Independent School District, for example, one of a variety of college-level and distance learning languages offers virtual courses. … the beginning of his career as a theater professor, Zhang prepared. … among foreign languages, physics, psychology, statistics and calculus, computer science, foreign languages offer virtual courses.
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Academy students in a range of content areas participate in college-level coursework that allows high school students to earn college credit or advanced standing towards the completion of the requirements of their college programs. Many of these initiatives grant up to a full year of college credit (equivalent to one course) to students who successfully complete the minimum requirements of qualifying AP exams. For more information, visit AP Central (http://apcentral.collegeboard.com).

T he U.S. Department of Education is sponsoring a comprehensive guide for student aid officials and school leaders to help students and families better understand, prepare for, and apply to federal, state, and local work-study and loans—and other student financial aid. The guide is available in both print and online format to help high school students, parents, and school officials meet the needs of their communities. The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with the Council for Community and Basic Education (CCBE) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), commissioned a study to analyze how existing student financial aid programs can better serve low-income students.

The report, "Financial Aid for Low-Income Adult Students: A Guide for College Administrators," offers a step-by-step approach to improving financial aid services for low-income students. The report includes recommendations on how to improve financial aid programs, as well as specific strategies for colleges and universities to implement. In addition, the report offers practical tips and guidance for administrators on how to create a comprehensive financial aid program that meets the needs of low-income students.

The report is available for download at http://www.ed.gov/programs/fd/default.html. The report also includes a comprehensive glossary of financial aid terms and definitions, as well as resources for further information.

Support for student loan repayment and forgiveness is crucial for addressing the high cost of college, especially for low-income students. The recent government efforts to reduce college costs and improve student loan repayment have focused on providing financial aid to students. However, there is a need to explore new strategies to help students manage their debt and achieve financial stability after graduation.

For instance, the U.S. Department of Education has recently made changes to the Federal Work-Study Program in an effort to reduce the burden of student loan debt. The program now allows students to work in a variety of positions that are aligned with their interests and skills, such as tutoring, research, or community service. This approach helps students acquire valuable skills and experience while earning money to support their education.

Another potential solution is to offer loan forgiveness programs to students who work in high-demand fields, such as healthcare, education, or technology. These programs could provide a significant financial benefit to students who choose to enter these fields after graduation.

In conclusion, addressing the high cost of college and supporting student loan repayment and forgiveness is essential for ensuring access to higher education for all students. By exploring new strategies and implementing comprehensive programs, we can help students achieve financial stability and make a meaningful impact on their future.

References

What academically rigorous courses are available for high school students?

T he U.S. Department of Education and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) have developed a comprehensive guide for federal student aid. The guide was developed in collaboration with the Department’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) for use with students, parents, counselors, special educators, and individuals with disabilities. The 60-page guide, which is organized according to federal student aid categories, has three sections: eligibility requirements, types of federal student aid programs, and the process of applying for federal student aid. It is available online at www.ed.gov and in printed form for students and counselors.

Resources for students and parents include state-by-state contact information, explanations of the eligibility requirements for each program, and a flowchart that helps students determine which programs they are eligible for and when they should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The guide also contains answers to 25 of the most frequently asked questions by students and parents.

Types of Federal Student Aid Programs

Eligibility requirements

The 2007-08 FAFSA has an extensive online help center to assist students and parents in completing the application. The help center provides tips and points to consider, as well as a chat system for help.

The FAFSA is due April 15, 2008. To request online help, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

For more information, visit www.ed.gov/fafsa

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