

## LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES

### The College Application Process

#### **Colleges that Change Lives** (<http://www.ctcl.org/>)

Colleges That Change Lives, Inc. (CTCL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process. CTCL supports the goal of each student finding a college that develops a lifelong love of learning and provides the foundation for a successful and fulfilling life beyond college.

**Education Conservancy** (<http://www.educationconservancy.org/>) The Education Conservancy (EC) is a non-profit organization committed to improving college admission processes for students, colleges and high schools. By harnessing the research, ideas, leadership and imagination of thoughtful educators, EC delivers appropriate advice, advocacy and services.

**FairTest** (<http://www.fairtest.org/>) FairTest works to end the misuses and flaws of standardized testing and to ensure that evaluation of students, teachers and schools is fair, open, valid and educationally beneficial. This organization lists colleges where the SAT is optional or accorded less weight in the admissions process.

**The National Survey of Student Engagement** (<http://nsse.iub.edu/>) The National Survey of Student Engagement gathers data about colleges and universities beyond the usual rankings. The organization examines student engagement, how students spend their time and what students perceive they gain from attending college.

### Health Information for Parents, Guardians, Educators and Youth

**Kids Health** (<http://kidshealth.org/>) Kids Health provides information about health, behavior and development from before birth through the teen years. It is sponsored by Nemours, one of the largest nonprofit organizations devoted to children's health.

**Mental Health America** (<http://www.nmha.org>) Mental Health America (formerly known as the National Mental Health Association) is a non-profit with 320 affiliates nationwide representing a growing movement of Americans who promote mental wellness for the health and well-being of the nation – everyday

and in times of crisis. Their website includes fact sheets for youth and families about topics such as back to school tips and your child's mental health. It also includes fact sheets about bullying, depression and suicide.

**Reach Out** (<http://us.reachout.com/>) The Inspire Foundation combines technology with direct involvement of young people to deliver innovative and practical online programs that prevent youth suicide and improve young people's mental health and well-being. The mission is to help millions of young people lead happier lives. The organization's work is backed by research and evaluation. Reach Out is its web-based initiative that offers information, support and resources to help young people improve their understanding of mental health issues, develop resilience and increase their coping skills and help-seeking behavior. The services provided are anonymous and help is available 24 hours a day.

### **Homework, Standardized Testing and Teaching the Whole Child**

**Alliance for Childhood** (<http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/>) The Alliance for Childhood promotes policies and practices that support children's healthy development, love of learning and joy in living. The organization's campaigns bring to light both the promise and the vulnerability of childhood.

**BAM Radio** ([www.bamradionetwork.com](http://www.bamradionetwork.com)) "BAM!" is an acronym for "body and mind" and was conceived in 2007 to draw attention to the need for a healthy mind and a healthy body for each developing child. BAM Radio is the largest education radio network in the world offering programming from the nations' top thinkers and leaders around education. It reaches out to parents, educators, and school directors to encourage looking at a holistic education approach.

**Challenge Success** (<http://www.challengesuccess.org>) Challenge Success endorses a vision of success that emphasizes character, health, independence, connection, creativity, enthusiasm *and* achievement. Its mission is to inform, inspire and equip youth, parents and schools to adopt practices that expand options for youth success.

**The Coalition for a Better Education** ([http://www.thecbe.org/Pages/opt\\_out.html](http://www.thecbe.org/Pages/opt_out.html)) The Coalition for a Better Education is a group of educators and parents in Colorado working to eliminate state-wide standardized testing in Colorado and certain aspects of No Child Left Behind.

**East Bay Homework Blog** (<http://eastbayhomework.blogspot.com>) The East Bay Homework Blog is the blog of Kerry Dickinson, a parent, teacher and advisor to the film. She writes on topics relating to education, parenting and homework.

**Edutopia** (<http://www.edutopia.org>) Edutopia was founded by the George Lucas Educational Foundation and is a place where children and parents, teachers and administrators, policy makers and the people they serve are empowered to change education for the better. Visit the site to discover the latest practical, hands-on advice and real world examples for developing lifelong learners and the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

**FairTest** (<http://www.fairtest.org/>) FairTest works to end the misuses and flaws of standardized testing and to ensure that evaluation of students, teachers and schools is fair, open, valid and educationally beneficial.

**The Institute for Language and Education Policy** (<http://www.elladvocates.org>) The Institute for Language and Education Policy is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting research-based policies in serving English and heritage language learners. The Institute critiques misguided “accountability” measures, high-stakes testing, cutbacks in school funding and English-only activism.

**Stop Homework** ([www.stophomework.com](http://www.stophomework.com)) Stop Homework is a resource created by Sara Bennett, co-author of *The Case Against Homework: How Homework is Hurting our Children and What We Can Do About It*. Stop Homework provides homework news, opinion articles and guest editorials.

**Susan Ohanian** (<http://www.susanohanian.org>) Susan Ohanian, a longtime teacher, maintains this site reflecting the leadership role she has taken in opposing NCLB, high-stakes testing and the resulting test-driven curriculum.

**Whole Child Education** (<http://www.ascd.org>) ASCD works to bring parents, educators, policy makers and communities together to ensure children are prepared for adulthood. This group is advocating for development of children who are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. This is a wonderful resource for those interested in advocating for change in education that emphasizes the whole child.

## Progressive Education

**The Alternative Education Resource Organization** (AERO) (<http://www.education-revolution.org>) AERO's goal is to advance student-driven, learner-centered approaches to education. AERO makes connections with international educational alternatives including Montessori, Waldorf (Steiner), Public Choice and At-Risk, Democratic, Homeschool, Open, Charter, Free, Sudbury, Holistic, Virtual, Magnet, Early Childhood, Reggio Emilia, Indigo, Krishnamurti, Quaker, Libertarian, Independent, Progressive, Community, Cooperative and

Unschooling. One of AERO's areas of expertise is democratic process and democratic education.

**American Educational Research Association** (AERA) ([www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)) AERA is the most prominent international professional organization concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results with the primary goal of advancing educational research and its practical application. Its more than 25,000 members are educators, administrators, directors of research, persons working with testing or evaluation in federal, state and local agencies, counselors, evaluators, graduate students and behavioral scientists.

**Big Picture Learning** (<http://www.bigpicture.org>) Big Picture Learning's mission is to lead vital changes in education by generating and sustaining innovative, personalized schools that work in tandem with the real world of the greater community. Big Picture students work in their communities with volunteer mentors and are not evaluated solely on the basis of standardized tests. Students are assessed on their performance on exhibitions and demonstrations of achievement, on motivation and on the habits of mind, hand, heart, and behavior that they display.

**Center on Education Policy** ([www.cep-dc.org](http://www.cep-dc.org)) The Center on Education Policy is a national, independent advocate for public education and for more effective public schools. The Center helps Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy, the need to improve the academic quality of public schools, to make sense of the conflicting opinions and perceptions about public education, and create the conditions that will lead to better public schools.

**The Coalition of Essential Schools** (CES) (<http://www.essentialschools.org>) The CES network includes hundreds of schools and more than two-dozen Affiliate Centers. Diverse in size, population and programmatic emphasis, Essential Schools serve students from pre-kindergarten through high school in urban, suburban and rural communities, and they are characterized by personalization, democracy and equity, and intellectual vitality and excellence.

**The Independent Curriculum Group** (<http://www.independentcurriculum.org>) The Independent Curriculum Group is part of a growing movement of leading college preparatory schools that have de-emphasized curriculum driven by standardized testing.

**Pikler Institute** (<http://www.pikler.org/index.html>) The International Emmi Pikler Foundation at Loczy is guided by the mission of founder Dr. Emmi Pikler to offer aid in raising healthy, happy children. Established in 1946, this internationally recognized agency is dedicated to empowering children and families through outreach programs that serve the child, parent and caregiver.

**Teaching to Change L.A.** (<http://tcla.gseis.ucla.edu/voices/>) Teaching to Change L.A. is an online journal of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access. Here you will find the work and thought of educators, students, parents and activists who confront critical issues that schools and communities face across greater Los Angeles.

**IDEA** (<http://www.democraticeducation.org/>) The Institute for Democratic Education in America is an organization committed to bridging the disconnect between our democratic values and the way we educate and treat young people. IDEA advances democratic education, or "learning that matters," which supports self-initiative in learning and is directed toward social justice. IDEA showcases what's working in education and trains schools and organizations to model these best practices.

## Resilience

**Raising Resilient Children Foundation** (<http://www.raisingresilientkids.com/>) Disseminates information to assist adults to raise, support and develop stress-hardy children.

**Resilience Research Centre** (RRC) (<http://www.resilienceproject.org/>) The Resilience Research Centre brings together leaders in the field of resilience research from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds. Their partners across six continents employ methodologically diverse approaches to the study of how children, youth and families cope with many different kinds of adversity.

**Resiliency in Action** (<http://www.resiliency.com/>) Resiliency in Action contains general information and research about resilience.

## Sports

**Positive Coaching Alliance** (PCA) (<http://www.positivecoach.org/>) Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) is transforming youth sports so sports can transform youth. Through partnership with more than 1,100 youth sports organizations, leagues, schools and cities nationwide, PCA has conducted 6,000-plus workshops for youth sports coaches, parents, organizational leaders and athletes.

## Stress Relief

**Just-In-Time Stress Relief** (<http://www.jitsr.com/>) JITSR, a product of Wellness Logic, LLC., started in 2005 to provide subscribers with low-cost access to an effective set of stress management methods and tools. Based on practices proven at The Stanford University School of Medicine, JITSR uses technology to help people develop stress management habits that automatically result in reduced stress and enhanced performance.

**Mindfulness in Education Network** (<http://www.mindfuled.org/>) The Mindfulness in Education Network was established in 2001 by a group of educators and students of Thich Nhat Hanh, Zen Master and peace activist nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Network sees mindfulness as an antidote to the growing stress, conflict and confusion in educational settings as well as an invaluable gift to give students. The network facilitates communication among all educators, parents, students and any others interested in promoting contemplative practice (mindfulness) in educational settings.

## Suicide Prevention

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (<http://www.afsp.org>) The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention includes a link to its Teen Suicide Prevention Campaign. It lists warning signs and actions that youth and adults can take to help prevent suicide.

**Help Guide** (<http://www.helpguide.org>) The Help Guide's goal is to provide information and encouragement for youth and adults to make healthy choices. Robert and Jeanne Segal spearheaded the founding of this project in 1999, following the suicide of their daughter, Morgan. They believe that Morgan's tragedy could have been avoided if she had had easy access to supportive health information. Their mission is to honor her memory and compassionate spirit by providing balanced, up-to-date, and motivating information about mental health and lifelong wellness.

**The Jed Foundation** (<http://www.jedfoundation.org>) The Jed Foundation works nationally to reduce the rate of suicide and the prevalence of emotional distress among college and university students. To achieve this end, the organization collaborates with the public and leaders in higher education, mental health, and research to produce and advance initiatives.

**National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center** (<http://www.safeyouth.gov>) The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center links to a fact sheet about youth suicide including risks and protective factors.

**The Trevor Project** (<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>) The Trevor Project is a National organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. It operates a nationwide, around-the-clock crisis and suicide prevention helpline for LGBTQ youth. The website includes prevention resources.

**Reach Out** (<http://us.reachout.com/>) The Inspire Foundation combines technology with direct involvement of young people to deliver innovative and practical online programs that prevent youth suicide and improve young people's mental health and well-being. The mission is to help millions of young people lead happier lives. The organization's work is backed by research and evaluation. Reach Out is their web-based initiative that offers information, support and resources to help young people improve their understanding of mental health issues, develop resilience and increase their coping skills and help-seeking behavior. The services provided are anonymous and help is available 24 hours a day.

### Facilitating Community Dialogue

**Everyday Democracy** (Formerly Study Circles) (<http://www.everyday-democracy.org>) Everyday Democracy is an organization whose mission is to help communities develop their own ability to solve problems by exploring ways for all kinds of people to think, talk and work together to create change.

**The Public Conversations Project** (<http://www.publicconversations.org>) The Public Conversations Project is an organization whose mission is to guide, train and inspire individuals, organizations and communities to constructively address conflicts relating to values and worldviews.

**Nanette Asimov**, "Students offer educators easy fixes for combating failure," *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 15, 2007. Article about Black and Latino students talking with educators about their views about the achievement gap. <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/11/15/BAC6TCFRK.DTL>