

## 255 Drop Out Each Minute, Says New Report

The Association for Scary Statistics (ASS) today released a study projecting that more than 16.5 million students -- about 255 per minute -- will drop out of high school this academic year. "That's based on a 180-day school year and a six hour school day," explained ASS spokesperson Roger Grant. Asked why ASS's estimate is significantly higher than any other seen to date, Grant said, "We started with the highest dropout rate estimate we could find, but we thought they looked a little too optimistic, so we adjusted for that, and then adjusted that result by the percentage decline in the S&P 500 since the end of the 2007-08 academic year."

Commenting on the study, Barry Jones of the Policy Institution of Economics pointed out that if 16.5 million students really did drop out each year, the nation's high schools would soon be completely empty. Replied Grant, "I'm afraid Barry is in denial about the magnitude of this crisis."

See *OR MAYBE IT'S 300* page 5

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## Gang Fight Sends Reading Specialists to Hospital

Law enforcement is continuing to investigate a gang fight between members of the Southside Phonics and the Outlaw Whole Language. Sheriff Dibels said they hadn't yet decoded the series of events leading up to the fight, but residents of nearby buildings reported hearing shouts back and forth that sounded like, "Emphasize meaning, motherf\*\*kers!" and "Emphasize code, bitches!" Dibels also noted that the tensions between these rival gangs go back so far that nobody remembers the original cause of hostilities.

See also *HOW GANG SIGNS  
ARE BEST TAUGHT* page 7

## Bold New "Fund the Child" School Finance Proposal

The Association for Consumer Rights in Decision-making (ACRID) released on Monday their long-awaited and bold new proposal for a market-based solution to all our educational ills.

ACRID's president, Peter Knoll, explained, "We currently spend about \$10,000 per year on each child. We propose spending \$5,000 instead, and we propose to give that money to the child -- not some school bureaucrat." Knoll said that each child each day for 180 days would be given about \$28 in cash before leaving home. Children could then choose where to buy their education that day -- from any number of unregulated service providers.

"Let's say a kid starts his day with his \$28 and decides to buy some language instruction in the morning and math in the afternoon, but has \$6 left over after that. The kid can use that however he or she wants to. That there is what we call a clear incentive to spend wisely!" Among other options, children could choose to spend some of their allotment on after-school snacks or investment in hedge funds. "Schools are just going to have to make themselves more attractive and compete," said Knoll. "That's how markets work."



Artist's rendition of SouPho - OWLs gang fight