

# Preventing SCHOOL Failure

Alternative Education for Children and Youth

## A Letter From the Editors . . .

*Preventing School Failure* has a long history of publishing articles that examine pressing issues and present educational practices that are data driven and practical. The focus has always been on providing educators and parents with the very best information that is available.

Beginning with this issue, we expand the focus of *Preventing School Failure* to include an examination of alternative schooling. Over time, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of alternative schools. Alternative educational programs take many forms—charter schools, magnet schools, home schooling, day treatment and educational centers, residential schools, schools-without-walls, alternative learning centers, second chance schools, detention centers, and correctional facilities, to mention a few.

In addition, there are myriad alternative educational programs within schools designed to serve students who have unique educational needs and who do not quite fit into standard school programs. In some cases, students in these programs are considered to be at risk, but in many other cases, these students are simply those who have not responded to an increasingly homogenized educational curriculum.

The variety and nature of educational programs increases with the diversity of our population. As a result, *Preventing School Failure* is expanding to examine new trends while maintaining a commitment to present the best and most promising practices to the professional community. We at Heldref Publications are pleased to offer *Preventing School Failure* as a forum within which to examine critical issues, share new research and innovative practices, debate controversial subjects, advance the growth of quality programs and, in turn, improve the life changes of children and youth served in all educational settings.

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