



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

June 2024

Students test careers with job simulator

The career simulation program Forage allows students to try different careers by showing what it's like to work a specific job. Creator **Tom Brunskill** said the program allows students without robust job opportunities or networks to gain real-world experience while helping companies identify interested candidates. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU948>.

Preschool learning essential for young readers

According to professors **Susan Neuman** and **Lily Wong Fillmore**, preparing students for success in elementary school is aided by preschool curricula that incorporate texts from a variety of genres, focus on vocabulary words in read-aloud sessions, involve activities that tie in language and teach related words. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU949>.

Danville Local to ban cellphones during school hours

Danville Local (Knox) will ban students from using cellphones during school hours in the the 2024-25 academic year. The decision followed a survey of parents that indicated a majority supported the ban. Storage devices for phones will be provided by the district. Possible exceptions may be allowed if approved by the principal. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU950>.

Debate over determining algebra readiness

Guidance to help schools identify the right talent for advanced math without using subjective factors is being developed by NWEA. **Scott Peters**, the organization's director of research consulting partnerships, believes the best policy is automatically enrolling students with demonstrated aptitude but allowing them an opt-out option. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/edsurge/SU951>

Poetry can help teens struggling with mental health

Poetry can serve as a valuable outlet for teens struggling with complex issues, including mental health challenges, writes **Suma Karaman Rosen**, executive director of InsideOut Literary Arts. Rosen outlines how a poetry slam gives youth a valuable platform to connect with their communities and feelings. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU952>.

Boat race challenges students' STEM skills

Teams of Texas middle and high school students participated in an end-of-year boat race, which challenged them to construct a boat from cardboard and duct tape that supported the team's weight as they paddled the length of the school's pool. Math teacher **Guoxiang Wang** said students employed STEM concepts and life skills while participating in the contest. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU953>.

Student achievement in-depth

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief or in-depth article to discuss with board members and administrators.

CDC study indicates childhood ADHD rates on the rise

A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report calls attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) an "expanding public health concern," noting that more than 7 million students ages 3 to 17 were diagnosed in 2022. CDC statistician **Melissa Danielson** cites factors such as a growing awareness of how ADHD presents in children and increased mental health evaluations stemming from the stress of the pandemic as probable influences in the recent rise in diagnoses.

The increase in diagnoses also comes amid growing awareness of ADHD and the different ways that it can manifest in children. Danielson says that may help explain why girls are becoming more commonly diagnosed with ADHD compared to boys, as boys have long been diagnosed with ADHD at around two and a half times the rate of girls.

While the report found that the number of children diagnosed with ADHD had risen since 2016, only about half of them were taking medication to treat the condition, compared with two-thirds of children in 2016. Dr. **Max Wiznitzer**, a professor of pediatric neurology at Case Western Reserve University, says medication is important because it helps students focus by controlling symptoms of impulsivity, overactivity and inattention. ADHD treatment also requires therapy that teaches children — and their parents — behavioral and educational strategies to manage their condition.

Studies show that children with ADHD are at increased risk for other conditions, including depression, anxiety and substance abuse, and, if left untreated, ADHD can raise the risk of serious health concerns in adulthood, including a higher risk of diabetes, heart disease and shortened life span, Wiznitzer says, which is why increased awareness and diagnosis is important.

Parents can find information on treatment and services at Children And Adults with ADHD (CHADD), a nonprofit resources organization.

For more information and links to the study, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU954>.

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