



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

July 2024

Student projects highlighted at History Day

More than 2,800 middle and high school students gathered recently at the University of Maryland-College Park for the National History Day finals. They were presenting research projects on the theme, Turning Points in History. National History Day teaches students to search for more information other than what is easily found on Google.

For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU955>.

Why new principals need mentors

New principals should meet with the previous principal to discuss transitioning into the role and find a mentor who can offer insights and guidance on challenges that arise, according to **Paul G. Young**, past president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. For more, go to

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU956>.

Strategies for encouraging dads' involvement in schools

Boosting dads' engagement in schools can improve student outcomes. A parenting coach shares strategies to involve fathers. For more, visit

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU957>.

Gen Z concerned about effects of AI

A survey by the National Society of High School Scholars reveals that 59% of Generation Z students believe artificial intelligence (AI) will negatively affect society, with 62% fearing job loss and 55% concerned about privacy. Despite these concerns, 64% actively use AI for tasks like brainstorming and proofreading.

For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU958>.

\$1 million loaned by middle schoolers to entrepreneurs

During the past 15 years, seventh-grade social studies students in Pennsylvania raised and loaned more than \$1 million to entrepreneurs in more than 77 countries through a microlending platform. The initiative allows students to choose loan recipients while learning about global poverty and the power of individuals to make a difference using a small amount of money.

Many loans are just \$25. For more, visit

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU959>.

Camp inspires high school students, prepares them for college

Butler University's BU: BeReal camp immerses Indiana high school students in college life, offering diverse subjects and skills to prepare them for higher education. The camp empowers future first-generation college students with scholarships and practical experiences.

For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU960>.

Student achievement in-depth

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

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results show creativity essential to global education

In its 2022 cycle, PISA measured 15-year-old students' creative thinking for the first time. Creative thinking is the capacity to produce diverse and original ideas and evaluate and improve upon others' ideas. In today's world, students need to be able to think creatively and adapt to new methods and perspectives to tackle emerging challenges. In the future, societies will increasingly depend on innovation and knowledge creation to address the issues they face.

A summary of findings include:

- Education systems that scored highly in creative thinking almost always performed highly in mathematics, reading and science. However, on average, about half of students who excelled in creative thinking did not excel in academic domains across countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- The results suggest that academic excellence is not a prerequisite for excellence in creative thinking. However, a minimal level of proficiency in one domain complements proficiency in the other.
- Girls are considerably stronger creative thinkers than boys, and their better reading skills only contribute to this. Girls have more positive beliefs about creativity in general and in their capacity to do creative work, and they feel more imaginative and open to perspective-taking. Those characteristics are associated with more robust creative thinking, curiosity, openness to intellect and persistence.
- Socioeconomically advantaged students outperformed their less advantaged peers, though the strength of the association between socioeconomic status and performance is weaker in creative thinking than for mathematics, reading and science.

High-performing systems in creative thinking have often implemented at least two of the following four approaches to support the development of creativity and creative thinking in education:

- embedding creative thinking throughout the curriculum, explicitly and with clear guidelines;
- supporting educators to recognize, develop and evaluate creative thinking by defining learning progression or rubrics;
- creating opportunities in the curriculum for students to engage in creative and/or interdisciplinary work;
- encouraging accountability through monitoring and evaluation.

For more information on this study, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU961>.

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Success is published monthly as a member service by the Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 North High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481, (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, editor; Jeff Chambers, director of communication services, assistant editor. To download a PDF of this eNewsletter, go to <http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/Success>.