Timely tips to improve student achievement | **November 2024**

Milford EV creates Portrait of a Staff Member to retain teachers	**Milford EV** Schools achieved a 92% teacher retention rate through its Portrait of a Staff Member initiative. Board President **Emily Chesnut** explains that the portrait emphasizes traits like kindness, empathy and flexibility to create a positive and supportive environment for students. For more, go to **https://osba.link/1124SU1**.
Students with vision disabilities solve fairy-tale problems	With challenges such as engineering an unbreakable chair for Goldilocks, a mobile science exploration lab is providing hands-on STEM activities with a storybook theme to students with vision disabilities. The lab's tools incorporate visual and tactile features that enable students to focus on the problem they're working to solve. For more, go to **https://osba.link/1124SU2**.
Boost student engagment as attention spans shrink	As attention spans decline, educators are exploring strategies to boost student engagement through a combination of behavioral, cognitive and emotional approaches. Teachers can employ techniques such as quick wins, integrating social and emotional learning into lessons and structured collaboration to maintain high levels of student involvement. For more, visit **https://osba.link/1124SU3**.
Promoting data literacy	Data literacy is a critical need that must be addressed in K-12 curriculums, according to **Kevin Dykema**, Michigan teacher and president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Introducing data science education early and into various subjects will help students learn how to analyze and use data, skills that are essential for future job opportunities and better engagement with the world. For more, visit **https://osba.link/1124SU4**.
ACT, SAT scores fall slightly in 2024	The class of 2024's average ACT score dropped to 19.4, with 57% meeting at least one College Readiness Benchmark, ACT Education reported. The average SAT score also declined to 1024, according to the College Board. Despite many colleges continuing test-optional policies, more students are participating in free school-day testing for both exams, with record-high participation in this option for both the ACT and SAT. For more, visit **https://osba.link/1124SU5**.

Student achievement in-depth

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

Survey says U.S. teacher colleges lag on training

A new report suggests U.S. schools have not kept pace with the rapid changes in artificial intelligence (AI). According to the report from the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE), a think tank at Arizona State University, only a handful of teacher training programs are moving quickly enough to equip new K-12 teachers with a grasp of AI fundamentals. Fewer programs are helping future teachers grapple with ethics issues and what students need to know to thrive in an economy dominated by the technology.

More than 500 leaders of U.S. education schools were asked how their faculty and preservice teachers are learning about AI. Through surveys and interviews, researchers found that just 1 in 4 institutions incorporates training on teaching methods that use AI. Most lack policies about using AI tools, suggesting that they may not be ready to teach future educators about the intricacies of the field anytime soon.

Steven Weiner, a CRPE senior research analyst, stated that most coverage of AI in education "has rightly focused on what are schools and districts doing to support teachers to get on board with AI?"

Here are four key takeaways from the findings:
1. Most teachers and college faculty are neither ready nor able to embrace AI.
2. Programs that integrate AI use it mostly to help teachers prevent plagiarism.
3. A few teacher training programs show promise in integrating AI into teacher prep.
4. Teacher colleges need systemic, strategic investments in AI education.

Weiner believes the challenge to new teachers will be to imagine how AI is going to force teacher pedagogy to evolve: "The work of being a teacher and the goals set for your kids is going to change, given what we understand about AI and the fact that it's going to be so disruptive to skills and the workforce."

Weiner said teacher colleges appear "systemically not suited to shift as quickly as they would need — and not just to embrace AI, but to really get teachers prepared for both the challenges with AI and also the opportunities with it: to help teachers be really well prepared."

For more information on this research and a link to the study, please visit **https://osba.link/1124SU6**.