



# Success

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Timely tips for OSBA Student Achievement Liaisons

January 2004

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## Share your *Success*

Since *Success* is only sent to student achievement liaisons, be sure to duplicate copies of this newsletter and distribute it at your next school board meeting so others can help you help your students achieve more success.

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## Plan now for the 2004 Student Achievement Fair

Share your success beyond your community. Plan now to showcase one of your outstanding programs at the 2004 OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show. The lineup for the Student Achievement Fair is now being assembled. Contact **Kathy LaSota**, OSBA deputy director of search services and board development, as soon as possible at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to learn more about this wonderful opportunity to highlight your district's academic achievement. The application and supplemental information can be found at [www.osba-ohio.org](http://www.osba-ohio.org).

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## SALT Symposium scheduled

Plan now to attend the free Student Achievement Leadership Team's annual SALT Symposium on Saturday, March 6, 2004. The main emphasis of the symposium will be value-added analysis, the statistical methodology that uses individual student achievement data to measure academic gain. Battelle for Kids Executive Director **Jim Mahoney** will be the featured speaker. The symposium will be conducted at Westerville South High School. More information will appear in upcoming *Success*, *Briefcase* and *Journal* issues.

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## School boards lead student achievement efforts

January is School Board Recognition Month in Ohio. It is a great opportunity to promote the board's role in raising student achievement in your district. Take time to share the steps your board has taken to help students in the classroom. List your accomplishments and plans for the future. Point to increases in proficiency test scores and other measures of student performance. For information on School Board Recognition Month, visit OSBA's Web site at: [www.osba-ohio.org/sbrm.html](http://www.osba-ohio.org/sbrm.html).

## Student achievement research brief

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief to share with fellow board members. Use it to generate discussion with the board and staff.

### Can involving students in school reform increase student achievement?

Adam Fletcher says, “yes,” in a 24-page booklet he wrote for the Freechild Project & HumanLinks Foundation. The booklet is designed to acquaint the reader with “Meaningful Student Involvement” (MSI). By engaging all students through MSI, educators and administrators can positively impact all students in a school, he says. It can change the very framework of schooling.

#### Benefits to students

MSI encourages every student’s personal responsibility and shared accountability with adults. Research demonstrates that students’ attitudes are most affected when students are engaged as contributors to learning communities. For the individual student, meaningful student involvement can:

- encourage motivation, commitment and connection with coursework;
- promote positive academic, social and cultural outcomes;
- develop strong connections to other students and educators;
- enhance lifelong critical-thinking and community-building skills.

#### Benefits to teachers, administrators and school staff

MSI can support teachers and administrators by building strong relationships and increasing their effectiveness with students. For adults in schools, it can:

- revitalize educators’ love of learning;
- increase educators’ commitment to their students and schools;
- invigorate personalized, effective approaches to school change;
- promote urgency and purpose for the work of teachers and administrators.

#### Benefits to schools

For the education system at large, engaging students is an invaluable component of the school improvement process. In schools around the nation, MSI can:

- bridge the academic achievement gap;
- develop connections between schools and communities;
- foster dynamic, supportive learning environments;
- engage increasingly diverse student bodies.

Source: *Meaningful Student Involvement: a Guide to Inclusive School Change* can be downloaded from the Freechild Project & HumanLinks Foundation Web site at: [www.soundout.org](http://www.soundout.org).

#### **Success**

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**Success** is published monthly for student achievement liaisons by the Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 North High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6482, (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Scott Ebright, APR, deputy director of communication services; editor.

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