



Success

Timely tips for OSBA Student Achievement Liaisons

January 2005

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 in your classrooms.

Let's talk about schools

Join in the discussion of how to boost student achievement in Ohio public schools. Visit OSBA's student achievement forum on the association's Web site at: www.osba-ohio.org/phpBB2/index.php. Be sure to register and check back frequently.

Teacher quality = student achievement

A study by **Linda Darling-Hammond** of Stanford University suggests that policies adopted by states regarding teacher education, licensing, hiring and professional development may make an important difference in the qualifications and capacities that teachers bring to their work. Invite your director of professional development to a board meeting to discuss what your district is doing to improve teacher quality. The study can be found at: <http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v8n1/>.

Helping students learn

The *American School Boards Journal* archives offer an online anthology on student achievement at www.asbj.com/achievement. This resource provides a solid foundation for school board members and administrators searching for effective ways to improve their students' academic success. Why not review one topic monthly as a board?

Making a difference for students

January is School Board Recognition Month in Ohio. It is a great opportunity to tell about the board's role in raising student achievement in your district. This year's theme, "Making a difference for students," gives you a vehicle to share the steps your board has taken to help students improve their academic performance in the classroom. List your accomplishments and plans for the future. Point to increases in proficiency test scores and other measures of student performance.

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.

What are kids doing when they're not in school?

A joint project of The Wallace Foundation and Public Agenda (founded by author **Daniel Yankelovich** and former U.S. Secretary of State **Cyrus Vance**) has released a study called "All Work and No Play? Listening to What Kids and Parents Really Want from Out-of-School Time." Views from both parents and students were recorded in June 2004 with surveys that were conducted with 1,003 parents and 609 middle and high school students at random throughout the nation. Most students, 9 in 10 (90%), participate in activities or programs in their non-school hours. Students enjoy sports activities (66%), school clubs (62%), volunteer work (60%), church youth groups (54%), extra academic preparation (30%) and belonging to outside organizations (19%).

What makes up a good after-school program?

- must be challenging,
- offers a healthy and safe environment,
- positive social environment,
- a good ratio of adults to children,
- a time to develop peer-to-peer relationships.

Most parents weren't looking for programs to improve their child's performance in school, but something that would give their child a well-rounded education. Almost half of parents wanted a program that would develop a child's hobbies and other interests. A third wanted programs to keep their kids off of the streets and out of trouble, and a small percentage said the main purpose of after-school programs should be just to have fun.

What do the kids want? They wanted programs that were structured, as well as the flexibility to choose the activity they participate in each day. The kids found it more interesting when they are led by younger, more enthusiastic leaders. And, children also thought it was valuable to have time to get to meet new friends, as well as spend quality time with current friends.

Both parents and children see the advantages of good after-school programs and the difference they can make in young people's lives. However, in one survey, 9 out of 10 children admitted that sometimes they needed a push from a parent to get involved.

For more information on the study visit: www.wallacefunds.org/WE

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