



# Success

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Timely tips for OSBA student achievement liaisons

July 2007

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## Learning begins at home

According to Dr. **Dorothy Rich**, "The family, regardless of income and educational background, can use opportunities this summer to make a truly positive impact on children's attitudes and behaviors that determine school success." Why not ask a principal, teacher or curriculum director to write a story on how parents can use the summer months to keep their children learning? Rich's Web site offers parents steps to get started at: <http://drdorothy.blogspot.com/2007/05/morning-to-night-its-learning-time-your.html>

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## Summertime news

What is going on in your district this summer? Building maintenance and repairs, summer school, staff development, vacations, scheduling and hundreds of other activities are occurring throughout the district. Your school reporter will still be looking for stories to write, so encourage him or her to visit schools during this slow time.

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## Tight budget ahead

The state's biennium budget has been front-page news the past few weeks. How will it affect your academic programs? Have your treasurer and curriculum director report to the board and community what the district needs to do to maintain a balanced budget while striving for increased academic achievement.

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## High-quality education for all

The Getting It Right For Ohio's Future campaign will make public education a fundamental right and transfer a greater burden of funding public schools to the state. Visit the campaign's Web site ([www.rightforohio.org](http://www.rightforohio.org)) to learn more about how you can help the campaign.

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## Student Achievement Fair is all filled up

The ninth annual SALT Student Achievement Fair at the Capital Conference has become so popular with school districts that it is already full. One hundred booths are reserved for outstanding academic programs from across Ohio. The five performance groups also have been selected. Look for a mailing from OSBA with the list of districts chosen.

# Student achievement research brief

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief to share with fellow board members.

## Ensuring they will be ready

Across the nation, school districts are working to ensure that no child is left behind and that all children reach academic proficiency. However, many educators are discovering that reform efforts in the K-12 educational system are sometimes too little, too late. By the time some children reach kindergarten, they are already far behind their peers in skills and measures of school readiness. These educational gaps tend to be much more difficult to close as children advance through school.

With public schools facing heightened accountability requirements, prekindergarten has emerged as an important strategy to promote school readiness and achievement in elementary school and beyond. Research has shown that high-quality pre-K programs, particularly for economically disadvantaged children at risk for educational failure, produce both short- and long-term gains in children's cognitive and social development. Generally, children who participate in programs like these:

- are better prepared for school,
- perform better on standardized tests,
- are less frequently assigned to special education classes,
- are retained less frequently in later years,
- have better school attendance rates,
- are less likely to drop out of school,
- are more likely to go to college,
- will have higher employment rates and family income,
- are less likely to be a teen parent,
- have lower incidences of criminal activity.

Children do even better when pre-K standards are aligned to elementary school standards. Several national and state studies have found benefits for young children that extended well beyond kindergarten. In addition to producing educational gains, high-quality pre-K programs provide savings through reduced special education placements and remedial costs, which result in savings to our public school systems. Research also indicates that for every \$1 spent on quality pre-K programs, there could be a long-term payback of between \$2-\$4. Communities also benefit by better preparing young people for skilled jobs and increasing their economic productivity.

All children can benefit from a high-quality prekindergarten program. For many of them, pre-K can make the difference between struggling through school or doing well. For more information about pre-K, visit the Center for Public Education at [www.centerforpubliceducation.org](http://www.centerforpubliceducation.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 43235-6481, (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Scott Ebright, APR, deputy director of communication services, editor; Rob Delane, director of school board development, assistant editor. **Success** is distributed only to student achievement liaisons, so please share with fellow board members and district staff.