



Success

Timely tips for OSBA student achievement liaisons

June 2007

Rewarding success

During commencement exercises, a speaker proudly announces the scholarships earned by those graduating that day. Many of those scholarships are from local businesses. A recent survey asked voters how important it is for local businesses to contribute to various groups in their community. Americans do want to see local businesses contribute to educational pursuits. Fifty-eight percent of those surveyed believe it is “very” important for businesses to give to educational scholarships for local students and 54% say the same for giving to local K-12 schools. Libraries and literacy programs are also popular recipients (49%). To view the entire survey, visit www.moore-info.com/polls_current.html.

Educating the newest Americans

Schools throughout Ohio are challenged with educating immigrant children. The Annenberg Institute for School Reform’s “Voices in Urban Education” looks into this issue and offers suggestions to assist districts in helping immigrant students succeed. To read the report, visit www.annenberginstitute.org/VUE/index.html.

Are we killing creativity?

Creativity expert Sir **Ken Robinson** feels schools are not nurturing creative minds. “We are educating people out of their creativity,” he says. “All kids have tremendous talents and we squander them.” To hear why he believes that creativity should be taught, as well as literacy, listen to him at www.ted.com/index.php/talks/view/id/66.

Share summer plans

From summer school to summer reading programs, your students are still learning. Ask your curriculum director or building principals to attend your next board meeting to share what district students are doing to improve their knowledge over the summer break.

Improving your board's success

You are continuously improving district operations and student achievement. But what are you doing to improve your effectiveness as a board? Summer is a great time for board retreats and self-evaluation. Contact OSBA for information on conducting such activities.

Student achievement research brief

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

Who are your partners in educating students?

In a national survey, school and district officials rank businesses as their most important community partners over parent organizations, booster clubs, foundations and others. This was just one of several findings published in “Community/School Partnerships: A National Survey” that examines the integral role businesses and others play in supporting K-12 education. The report is from DeHavilland Associates, a consulting/communications firm.

In this report, education officials also offered insights into how they establish and manage community/school partnerships, what types of relationships they’ve established with key partners and with which organizations they’d most like to work with in the future.

Following is a sample of key findings:

- The total value of partnerships over the previous 12 months was limited, with 43.6% reporting a value of \$25,000 or less, and the vast majority (83%) listing the value at less than \$200,000.
- There were clear differences in the responses of suburban, urban and rural school districts. Those in suburban areas note generally higher levels of support from community-based partners; those in urban areas receive greater support from institutional partners (nonprofits, foundations and postsecondary institutions); and those in rural areas record below-average levels of support from every partner, with the exception of booster clubs.
- Rankings of current partners reinforced the importance of local support, with regional/national foundations and nonprofits appearing at the bottom of the list (10 and 12 respectively). However, these organizations are seen as attractive future partners, with regional/national foundations listed third and regional/national nonprofits listed sixth on the ranking of partners with whom respondents would most like to develop a relationship.

To download a free copy of “Community/School Partnerships: A National Survey,” visit www.dehavillandassociates.com/resources.html.

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Success is distributed only to student achievement liaisons, so please share with fellow board members and district staff.