



# Success

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Timely tips for OSBA student achievement liaisons

March 2006

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## What do parents think?

Gov. Bob Taft's CORE 40 proposal to beef up math and science education has received lots of media coverage and sparked discussions among educators and policymakers. Did anyone ask parents and students themselves? Yes, the Public Agenda did. According to the organization's Reality Check initiative, parents and students think things are just fine in math and science education. Find out more information and download a free copy of the report at: [www.publicagenda.org/specials/realitycheck06/realitycheck06\\_main.htm](http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/realitycheck06/realitycheck06_main.htm).

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## ACT & SAT prep

School districts are often judged by their students' success on the ACT and SAT college entrance exams. Ask the high school guidance department share what steps it takes to prepare your students for these tests.

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## Education Vital Signs

Student achievement liaisons will find a copy of the *American School Board Journal's Education Vital Signs* with this issue of **Success**. This complimentary copy contains interesting information and statistics on academic achievement across the nation. You can see how your district compares to the national averages and share your success.

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## Student Achievement Fair application deadline looms

April 28 is the deadline to nominate one of your outstanding academic programs for the 2006 SALT Student Achievement Fair. The Nov. 14 fair showcases 100 creative, successful academic achievement programs from around Ohio. See the latest *Briefcase or Journal*, or visit [www.osba-ohio.org/Files/SAF06app.pdf](http://www.osba-ohio.org/Files/SAF06app.pdf) for an application form. If you have questions, contact Kathy LaSota, deputy director of search services and board development, at (614) 540-4000 or [k\\_lasota@osba-ohio.org](mailto:k_lasota@osba-ohio.org).

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## Performers needed

Also, OSBA is looking for outstanding student performing groups for the 2006 SALT Student Achievement Fair. Five groups will entertain for 20 minutes each during the afternoon of Nov. 14. To nominate a group, contact Al Meloy, deputy director of search services and board development, at (614) 540-4000 or [a\\_meloy@osba-ohio.org](mailto:a_meloy@osba-ohio.org).

## 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.

### Standards for student learning, part 2

Standards are a part of everyday life and come in many forms. It is important to understand however that school boards cannot establish a successful standards-based educational system without the support of all critical stakeholders. Mutually agreed upon standards define the desired expectations and set consistent levels of performance for all students. Standards, therefore, are the foundation of quality educational programs.

In last month's **Success**, we took a look at a brief self-assessment to help determine where your district needs to go regarding standards. In this issue, we will examine a number of questions that the school board should ask itself relative to district standards.

- What have we done as a board to promote involvement of the community — including business, political and higher education leaders — in setting standards for our students?
- How are standards clearly communicated to students, parents, teachers and other members of the community?
- How do we help parents and community members understand that standards should address both what students should know and what they should be able to do at key points in their schooling?
- Is the rigor of our standards consistent with parent and community expectations?
- What can the board do to foster and sustain public support for standards?
- How do we determine what policy bases and resources are needed for the superintendent and staff to implement standards-based instruction?
- What is the connection between our local standards and the state standards?
- What policies does the board need to adopt to enable successful implementation of standards?

For more information on this topic: *The Key Work of School Boards* or [www.nsba.org/keywork](http://www.nsba.org/keywork).

#### **Success**

March 2006

**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, and 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.