



Success

Timely tips for OSBA Student Achievement Liaisons

October 2003

What have you read lately? How much of your board meeting do you really spend discussing academics? Why not add a discussion item to your board agenda to set aside time to examine the latest developments in education? Ask each board member and key administrator to report on what he or she has read about education research and trends. Spending time focusing on improving student achievement is a good investment.

Highlighting achievement The upcoming OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show is chock full of student achievement programs. In addition to the instruction, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), student achievement and student issues learning tracks, there is a Pre-conference Workshop on NCLB accountability and a mini workshop on No Board Member Left Behind. Many of the nearly 500 vendors in the trade show offer products and services designed to help schools improve the learning environment. Visit OSBA's Web site (www.osba-ohio.org/CapitalConference/CC2003.html) to plan your conference now.

What was the reaction? What was your community's reaction to the new local school district report cards? At an October school board meeting, discuss the effect of releasing new indicators in the district and building report cards. What are the concerns of parents and nonparents, and what should the board, administration and teachers do to address those concerns?

Telling staff about NCLB Have you thoroughly prepared your administrators and staff on the finer points of NCLB? The accountability portion of the 1,000-plus page law hinges upon regular student achievement for all groups of students. Contact **Rachelle Bristol**, deputy director of legislative services, for information on how OSBA can help you explain NCLB to staff.

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.

Crossing the bridge to 21st century learning

An organization called Partnership for 21st Century Skills recently published Learning for the 21st Century. In this report, the group offers a guide for education reform it calls milestones for improving learning and education. The partnership focuses not only on what students are learning, but how they are learning.

The report, which claims to complement the No Child Left Behind Act, offers six key elements of learning:

- emphasize core subjects,
- emphasize learning skills,
- use 21st century tools to develop learning skills,
- teach and learn in a 21st century context,
- use 21st century assessments that measure 21 century skills.

To encourage school leaders to get started on developing 21st century schools, the authors offer a road map to build momentum and support for such reform:

- embrace a powerful vision of public education that includes 21st century skills;
- align leadership, management and resources with educational goals;
- use this tool to assess where schools are going;
- develop priorities for 21st century skills;
- develop a professional development plan for 21st century skills;
- make sure students have equitable access to a 21st century education;
- begin developing assessments to measure student progress in 21st century skills;
- collaborate with outside partners;
- plan collaboratively and strategically for the future.

Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills, www.21stcenturyskills.org/reports/default.asp

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