



# Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

July 2020

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## Educator sees school restart as opportunity for equity

Educators can find opportunity when schools reopen in the fall if they resist the urge to return schools to an inequitable status quo, Superintendent **Luvelle Brown** of Ithaca, N.Y., said. Reimagining attendance, grades and discipline, plus developing new processes instead of standardized assessments to gauge learning gaps, can help create equity among students, Brown asserts. For more, go <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU640>.

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## How should parents support remote education?

Some parents say they have become more involved in their children's education during recent remote instruction. National Board Certified Teacher **Aileen Gendrano Adao**, who also has children in school, says parents can take on the role of learning coach or tutor for their students. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU641>.

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## Is remote learning tailor-made for project-based learning?

Project-based learning received renewed interest during the recent remote-learning period due to COVID-19 building closures and continues as teachers consider engaging ways to reimagine education in the fall. The American Federation of Teachers posted its Culminating Capstone Projects on its Share My Lesson site, and the materials have been downloaded or viewed about 10,000 times. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU642>.

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## One-on-one chats build community and connection

Weekly one-on-one meetings with students during remote learning helped maintain the human connection and sense of community felt in the classroom, writes **Tom Whisinnand**, a fourth-grade teacher in Nebraska. Whisinnand describes in-person meetings that happened before his school closed and how they continued by video conference with a focus on students' social and emotional health. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU643>.

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## Teachers lead efforts to get students caught up

The coronavirus pandemic had a significant effect on teaching and learning, and teachers in a Louisiana district are working in committees on plans to help students get caught up from learning lost during school closures. **Kimmie Smith**, supervisor of pre-K through second-grade curriculum, says teachers will identify and blend material that students missed at the end of this year into next year's classes. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU644>.

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## Student achievement in-depth

Each month, **Success** brings you a research brief or in-depth article to discuss with board members and administrators.

### A guide to equity and anti-racism for educators

**Hedreich Nichols**, a black educator and mother, described her reaction to recent national events, claiming they have shaken her to her core. The nationwide protests over the killing of **George Floyd** suggests that people across the country are similarly shaken. These are dark times, but if there's anything that seems like a glimmer of light for Nichols is the fact that so many teachers are reflecting on how to fight racism:

- "I'm a white educator, where do I start?"
- "How can I help?"
- "What if I get it wrong?"

For Nichols, these questions stir hope. She writes, "Folks who don't look like me are embracing the idea that the fight for equity has to be everyone's fight. But fighting racism is a big job, and when the fires of outrage cool, we teachers will be confronted with the reality of planning deadlines, testing schedules and another hundred things that are all in a day's work. The difficult work of equity may become just another item on a desk crowded with to-do lists."

What can teachers do?

According to Nichols, the answer is an old joke: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, of course — and achieving equity is no different. Take small bites that can have big impact and don't worry about getting it wrong sometimes, as you inevitably will. If you keep going, you can do something that brings about change.

Teachers shaken by recent events and wondering how to work for change in our society and schools can start with these lesson plans, videos and other resources.

For more information and pertinent resources, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU645>.

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