Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement   **September 2020**

Pandemic adds responsibility for some teens	The coronavirus pandemic has some teens juggling online classes, caring for younger family members and handling jobs, which are often in retail or other sectors considered essential. Some of these students say they are reconsidering college plans because of the situation. For more, go **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU652.**
Adapting outdoor, alternative education to remote learning	**Heather Whitaker**, Maine's 2020 teacher of the year, works with students in an alternative education setting where students typically manage a school garden and take regular hikes and field trips to ski resorts and a food pantry. Whitaker discusses the challenges the program faces during the coronavirus pandemic and strategies for adapting the program to address student needs and keep them engaged. For more, go to **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU653.**
How do students feel about the new school year?	Students nationwide are testifying before school boards and sharing their opinions with lawmakers about the upcoming school year. While students say they are eager to return to in-person learning, they are looking for mental health support and improvements to remote instruction. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU654.**
How teachers can create bonds with students online	Former middle-school administrator **Kimberly Hellerich** offers ideas for fostering student-teacher relationships and a sense of class community during remote learning. Suggestions include using Zoom and Kahoot for icebreaker games, having students set personal goals that can be discussed during individual online conferences and getting student input on class practices via email or virtual conversations. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU655.**
Could project-based learning become the new educational standard?	As schools prepare to resume in-person and remote learning, experts predict that project-based learning could be used more frequently in the coming year. Educators say the approach enhances learning and engages students, but it can be time-consuming and lead to burnout among teachers and students. For more, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU656.**

Student achievement in-depth

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

Research confirms most students respond positively to 10 core drivers of engagement

As schools plan for shifts among in-person, hybrid and remote schooling, leaders and educators must move forward with better, more authentic measures of engagement that reflect:

- the kinds of fluid learning environments students are now experiencing regularly;
- an accurate accounting of engagement that attends to each student's reasons for engaging *and* disengaging.

Recent events also have underscored the enduring need for education systems to promote racial equity and dismantle systemic structures of racism and exclusion for increased student engagement.

Whether learning occurs in brick-and-mortar schools or in virtual environments, student engagement drives an impressive array of student outcomes. Few would argue, however, that counting logins to devices, appearances on video and audio conferencing platforms or emailing back a worksheet constitutes valid and useful measures of genuine engagement in learning. While these approaches existed before COVID-19, the current pandemic has laid bare how poorly, if at all, we've been addressing and assessing student engagement.

Despite this observation, systems across the U.S. are still trying to capture and enhance student engagement by tracking these behaviors. To increase student engagement, it's important to focus on 10 core drivers of engagement:

- access and opportunity
- evidence of high expectations
- relevance and meaning
- autonomy, self-direction and ownership
- collaboration
- authenticity and responsiveness
- self-efficacy
- self-regulation
- relational connection
- fun

This report provides an overview of the research on engagement alongside actionable practices that are appropriate, effective and equitable. For more information on student engagement and the drivers of engagement, and for a link to the report, Motivation, Engagement and Student Voice, visit **http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU657.**