



# Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

March 2020

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## 3D printing class focuses on learning from mistakes

**Paint Valley Local's (Ross)** Paint Valley High School has transformed its STEM offerings to place greater emphasis on teamwork and learning through inquiry. **Marc Miller**, who teaches a 3D printing and design class, says the approach is teaching students how to learn from their mistakes and work together to find solutions. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU614>.

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## Middle school students learn to recognize self-worth

**London City's** London Middle School is helping students discover their self-worth. **Adam Haman**, a health and physical education teacher, asked students to think about why they mattered to help them find their passion and increase their self-respect. Students made posters explaining what's important to them and how they affect their community and families. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU615>.

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## Students produce run of maple syrup

**Rolling Hills Local's (Guernsey)** Meadowbrook High School has produced a run of maple syrup as part of a cooperative project with the FFA, **Matt Wentworth's** natural resources class, **Zane Zehnder's** Survival 101 class and **Grant Gaydos'** technology class. The inaugural run of Meadowbrook FFA maple syrup was served at an educator appreciation breakfast during FFA week. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU616>.

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## Ohio to pay for workers to upgrade their tech skills

To encourage workers to keep up with the modern workforce, Ohio Gov. **Mike DeWine** signed a bill committing \$17.5 million per year to businesses that offer technical skill upgrades for their workers. Businesses that pay for workers to earn industry-recognized, technology-focused credentials will be reimbursed by up to \$2,000 per employee. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU617>.

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## Two big teachers unions call for rethinking student involvement in lockdown drills

About 95% of American public schools have adopted some form of active shooter drills. But there is little proof the drills are effective — and there's growing concern they can traumatize children. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU618>.

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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.

### Study looks at testing, why teachers leave profession

High-stakes testing, contrary to what some believe, does not cause teachers to leave education or switch schools or districts, according to **a new study** conducted by researchers at the University of Arkansas and Georgia State University.

In fact, the researchers found early-career teachers were more likely to leave the profession when testing was reduced. For teachers with zero to four years of experience, the likelihood of leaving dropped from 14% to 13% in grades one and two, and from 14% to 11% in grades six and seven.

Previous studies that have investigated links between testing and teacher turnover analyzed situations in which testing was instituted along with other changes to school accountability, the authors wrote.

However, teacher morale is causing concerns throughout education. Teachers report feeling less optimistic about their profession than they did a year ago, according to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's annual Educator Confidence Report.

In a survey of more than 1,300 educators, only about a third of teachers expressed optimism, compared with 50% in 2018, according to the report. Teacher confidence declined in many areas, such as building students' critical thinking skills, using data to inform instruction and applying instruction to the real world.

The teachers surveyed also said students need more social and emotional support.

Professional development (PD) offered through one-on-one mentoring programs is one way to boost the morale of new teachers, District Administration reported last year. The one-on-one PD model also can provide a reboot for veterans, said **Michelle Lemons**, coordinator for The Mentor Program, a partnership between Albuquerque Public Schools in New Mexico and the Albuquerque Teachers Federation.

"I think a lot of teachers reach a point where they want to give back — they want to make a deposit on their legacy. It also fills their cup back up. They really need to carve out some time to replenish their own learning and their own skills," said Lemons.

For more information and a link to the study, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU619>.

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