



# Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

April 2022

---

## School leader builds tech equity in the district, community

**Princeton City** has focused on technology by helping local apartment complexes and mobile home parks offer hot spots students can borrow; installing several wireless access points outside school buildings for parents and students to use 24/7; and adding 20 virtual reality goggles so students can take field trips from the classroom, Technology Director **Christopher Lockhart** says. The district also has a solar-powered mobile book center that features wireless access. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU770>.

---

## Ohio advocates promote the necessity of assistive tech

Advocates in Ohio are speaking out in favor of increased access to assistive technology for people with disabilities. These tools help users succeed in school and beyond by affording them greater independence. The Tech Ambassadors Network is kicking off a series of events promoting the benefits of technology, such as screen readers, amplifiers and magnification applications. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU771>.

---

## How will restricting content affect AP courses?

Efforts in states, including Ohio, to ban or restrict the teaching of certain topics related to racism, sexism and civil rights from the history and civics curriculum could affect the Advanced Placement (AP) designation of some school courses. The College Board, stating its support for independent thinking and evidence-based instruction, said if "a school bans required topics from their AP courses, the AP Program removes the AP designation from that course and its inclusion in the AP Course Ledger provided to colleges and universities." For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU772>.

---

## 'Minecraft' releases 'Active Citizen' educational game

"Minecraft" this month released "Active Citizen," in partnership with the Nobel Peace Center and Games for Change. The goal of the game is to help educate youth worldwide about Nobel Peace Prize laureates and about creating their own positive change in the world. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU773>.

---

## Data shows co-teaching collaborative is helping bridge COVID-19 learning loss

**Hamilton City** addressed the problem of learning lag by putting more than one teacher in the classroom. Sixty-three new teachers were hired for the initiative. Recent data shows this type of instruction is working. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU774>.

---

## Student achievement in-depth

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

### Could updated technology help recruit, retain teachers?

As schools report an uptick in teacher shortages, some education experts suggest that upgrading or replacing outdated technology could help. **Robert Duke**, chief operating officer at the Consortium for School Networking, says having upgraded technology would make schools more competitive when trying to recruit staff.

Fifty-five percent of educators are ready to leave the profession earlier than planned, according to a recent survey from the National Education Association. School leaders are struggling to recruit and retain teachers. The most common reasons for leaving were burnout, limited staffing, and, the pandemic.

“With school districts competing with one another for talent, teachers will look at a district’s technology infrastructure and support provided around this technology as a factor in making their decisions,” says Duke.

Technology increases K-12 educators’ flexibility in their roles, and experts say several key technologies have proved crucial in supporting teachers’ efforts in the classroom. These include robust laptops, learning management systems, Wi-Fi access points and interactive whiteboards. Teachers can use these devices to connect their students with authors, scientists and other classrooms in faraway locations. Teachers say they’ve appreciated the flexibility the boards offer, as they are better able to engage students.

**Bart Epstein**, president, and CEO of the EdTech Evidence Exchange warns that a failure to keep teacher tech current can directly impact staffing. “Technology has become so integrated into schools that being done properly can be the deciding factor when teachers are deciding where to work. When schools haven’t invested time, energy and resources into getting technology right, that’s often an indicator of institutional incompetence in other areas,” he says.

Districts looking to leverage technology in support of teacher recruiting and retention need to be strategic about their investments.

Duke emphasizes that it all starts with a technology plan linked to the school district’s strategic plan. The technology plan defines how technology will support the strategic plan goals over the next three to five years.

For more information and links to referenced surveys, read the full article in EdTech:  
<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU775>.

**Success**

**April 2022**

**Success** is published monthly as a member service by the Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 North High Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43235-6481, (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. Kim Miller-Smith, senior student achievement consultant, editor; Jeff Chambers, director of communication services, assistant editor. To download a PDF of this eNewsletter, go to <http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/Success>.