



Success

Timely tips to improve student achievement

March 2023

Jackson Local teacher creates popular elective on sports officiating

Jackson Local's (Stark) high school teacher, coach and certified official **Dan Rodriguez** created a class on sports officiating to address a decline in student interest in physical education. The course allows students the chance to earn money officiating games after school and on weekends. For more, go to <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU846>.

Kings Local offers employability elective

Kings Local's (Warren) high school offers a popular employability elective course that teaches students soft skills and introduces them to different career pathways. Teacher **Dustin Goldie** said that the course has grown to include eight classes and more than 160 students. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU847>.

Bay Village High School touted for diverse AP computer science class

Bay Village City's high school earned the 2022 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award from the College Board. Personalized learning and a drive for an inclusive curriculum helped the school increase female participation in its AP computer science classes by 39% since 2017. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU848>.

Khan examines state of math achievement

Learning losses, particularly in math, during the coronavirus pandemic have been staggering, but **Sal Khan**, founder of the nonprofit Khan Academy, says recovery does not mean a return to pre-pandemic norms. Khan considers the best approach going forward to include a combination of rote learning, fluency and higher-order learning. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU849>.

Students research, document history of Omaha

Omaha Public Schools' students and teachers have been researching the city to reveal invisible histories. **Kristine Gerber** says students are interviewing older residents to document what the city was like in the past so that information can be used in decisions about the future of Omaha. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU850>.

Young learners benefit from early career education

Integrating career education at the elementary school level gives students the opportunity to explore new areas of interest and begin building relevant skills exposing students to myriad career options. For more, visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU851>.

Student achievement in-depth

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

Sadness and hopelessness rise among teen girls

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey data provides key 2021 trend data on health behaviors and experiences among high school students in the United States. The data offers an important snapshot of adolescent health and well-being related to sexual behavior, substance use, experiences of violence, mental health, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors. This year's report also includes data on students' experiences of unstable housing, school connectedness and parental monitoring to build on our understanding of young people's environments and opportunities to improve them.

The survey data reveals that the percentage of teen girls experiencing persistent feelings of hopelessness or sadness increased from 36% in 2011 to 57% in 2021, almost double the rate of boys and the highest level reported in the past decade, the CDC said.

Girls fared worse than their male peers in 2021, with 30% saying they seriously considered attempting suicide, 18% reporting experiencing sexual violence in the last year and 14% reporting ever being forced to have sex — a statistic that Dr. **Kathleen Ethier** director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health, called "truly alarming."

Dr. **Debra Houry**, MPH, the CDC's chief medical officer and deputy director for program and science, said the data showed that children need "far more support to cope, hope, and thrive." Houry stated that "proven school prevention programs can offer teens a vital lifeline in these growing waves of trauma." Because schools play a critical role in shaping mental, physical, and social growth, the CDC created the "What Works in Schools" program. This program supports schools by assisting with the implementation of quality health education, connecting them to needed services and making school environments safer and more supportive, with a strong focus on improving school connectedness.

This CDC report contributed data regarding what the American Academy of Pediatrics and other groups declared in 2021 to be a national emergency in pediatric mental health.

Anna King, president of the National PTA, encouraged schools "to adopt practices and establish safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments for all of our students."

For more on this report, a link to the youth risk behavior survey and the CDC's "What Works in Schools" program, please visit <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/SU859>.

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